

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

SPS DESISTOR NETWORK LAUNCH



On 15 April, SPS and their community partners officially launched the Desistor Network to support ex-offenders' desistance and aid their successful reintegration into the community. More than 200 guests from various community partners were present and the event was graced by MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim.

SPS recognises the importance of creating a strong network where member agencies tap on each other to expand the range of support activities for ex-offenders.

This allows more ex-offenders and desistors to walk together, within a circle of support from the network, on the path to longer-term desistance.



"The Desistor Network is a symbol of the collective effort by the Government and the community, in reducing the longer-term five-year recidivism rate and promoting long-term desistance."

– MOS Faishal Ibrahim

>> [Read MOS' Speech Here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE APPOINTMENT CEREMONY



Congratulations to the 85 Justices of the Peace (JPs) appointed at this year's appointment ceremony. JPs are outstanding Singaporeans who have made significant contributions in their professions, the public service, social services and the community at large. As JPs, they will serve as Visiting Justices to prisons, Court Volunteer Mediators, or marriage solemnisers in the Registry of Marriages.



ADDENDUM TO THE PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

MHA’s Addendum outlined plans to address significant and emerging threats such as terrorism, online scams and cybercrimes, psychoactive substances and more liberal attitudes internationally towards drug use.

>> [Read the full addendum](#)

Strengthening Our Capabilities Against Emerging and Evolving Security Threats

- Update laws to better protect Singaporeans
 - Introduce new legislation to better protect Singaporeans from online criminal activity, strengthen laws to deal with scams, and introduce the Maintenance of Racial Harmony Act to encourage tolerance among racial groups
- Enhance the Home Team’s operational effectiveness through leveraging technology, and training and developing officers
- Build a vigilant public and further tap on community partners and volunteers to counter the threats of terrorism, scams and drug abuse, and to better support the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders

CORRUPTION, DRUG TRAFFICKING AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES (CONFISCATION OF BENEFITS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The **Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) (Amendment) Bill** and the **Computer Misuse (Amendment) Bill** were introduced for First Reading in Parliament on 18 April. The amendments **will strengthen our collective defence against scams.**

Key Provisions of the CDSA Bill

New offences of rash and negligent money laundering to supplement the existing money laundering offence.

A person can be liable for a money laundering offence if:

- a. the value of the property he dealt with is disproportionate to his known sources of income;
- b. he allowed other persons to access, operate or control his account and did not find out the purpose of this arrangement;
- c. he received or transferred money in his account and did not find out the source or destination of the money; or
- d. he received money from or transferred money to another person(s), and did not find out that person’s identity and

Key Provisions of the CDSA Bill

Owners of payment accounts, including bank accounts, must use their accounts responsibly. They will be held accountable for any transaction that takes place through their accounts.

Penalties

- **Rash Money Laundering**
Maximum fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.
- **Negligent Money Laundering**
Fine of up to \$150,000 or imprisonment of up to three years, or both.
- **Assisting Another to Retain Benefits From Criminal Conduct**
Maximum fine of up to \$50,000 or imprisonment of up three years, or both.

The amendments **promote public vigilance and responsible behaviour in the use of payment and Singpass accounts.** The amendments also empower the Police to **better act against money mules, and those who abuse Singpass to perpetrate crimes.**

>> [Read the press release](#)

HOME TEAM UPDATES

HARI RAYA FESTIVE VISITS

Our frontliners work 24/7 to ensure our safety and security. To thank them for their dedication and hard work, MIN K Shanmugam, 2MIN Josephine Teo, MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim and MOS Sun Xueling visited various HTDs on the first day of Hari Raya.



MIN K Shanmugam with SPF Officers at J Division.



2MIN Josephine Teo with SPF Officers at F Division.



MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim with SCDF Officers.



MOS Sun Xueling with ICA Officers.

SINGAPORE DRUG LAWS A STRONG DETERRENCE: MIN

In an interview with the South China Morning Post, MIN K Shanmugam reiterated Singapore's tough stance against drugs, as he spoke on diverse topics ranging from the Ukraine War, Asia's economic developments and 4G succession in Singapore.

MIN stressed that Singapore's approach, which includes both enforcement and education, has been effective in keeping the society largely drug-free.

He explained that our laws differentiate abusers from traffickers – pure abusers in Singapore are not treated as criminals and are given treatment and support to ensure smooth reintegration into society.



“A lot of state resources are focused on every single abuser, as long as he’s just abused and didn’t commit any other criminal act. And when they come out, they are given help, and there’s no criminal record.”

– MIN K Shanmugam

>> [Read MIN's Facebook post](#)

CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S LIFESAVERS



The **SCDF Garden Reception** (previously known as “SCDF Dining-In”) was held on 14 April to **commemorate SCDF Day and to celebrate the significant milestones achieved in SCDF's transformation journey.**

Guest-Of-Honour **President Halimah Yacob** thanked **SCDF officers for their commitment and service,** and interacted with volunteers and SCDF's strategic partners. Minister K Shanmugam presented **awards to SCDF personnel who exemplified SCDF's core values and gone beyond the call of duty.**



>> [Read Minister's speech](#)

SEXUAL CRIME AWARENESS SEMINAR

SPF held the Sexual Crime Awareness Seminar 2023 on 14 April, in conjunction with the international Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The seminar sought **to raise awareness of the impact of sexual crime on victims, and deepen partnerships and collaboration amongst partners and stakeholders in sexual crime management** – Government agencies and community partners alike – to better protect and support sexual crime victims. About 400 SPF officers and external stakeholders attended the seminar.

In his opening address, Minister K Shanmugam highlighted initiatives that the Police implemented in the past year, such as the **formation of the Sexual Crime and Family Violence Command for centralised oversight of sexual crime and family violence investigations and policies**. He also shared about upcoming efforts to support sexual crime victims, such as **expanding the eligibility criteria for multi-disciplinary interviews**.



>> [Read Minister's speech](#)

SINGAPORE ELECTED TO THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

On 5 April, **Singapore was elected to the United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for the term 2024-2027**. This is the first time Singapore sought membership for the primary drug policy-making body of the United Nations. We are one of seven countries from the Asia-Pacific region elected to the CND this term (the others being China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Qatar). Singapore attaches great importance to CND's work. We are also concerned about the shift towards liberal drug control approaches. As a CND member, we will **contribute to drug-related policy discussions and safeguard Singapore's policy space**. We will also contribute to CND's work by **organising more joint training initiatives and capacity building projects on drug identification and scheduling**.

>> [Read 2MIN's Facebook Post](#)

SCAM ADVISORY: BEWARE OF MALWARE

Your **internet banking and/or credit card details** are being targeted in the **latest tactics used in e-commerce scams**.

Scammers' tactics:

1. Victim comes across **advertisements for home services or the sale of food** appear online (eg Facebook, Instagram)
2. Scammers contact victims via social media or WhatsApp. Victims are asked to **download an application from a URL to book services or buy food, and make payments**.
3. Victims enter i-banking and/or credit card details on **fake banking login sites within the application**. The application has malware that redirects credentials and OTPs to scammers.

ACT Now:

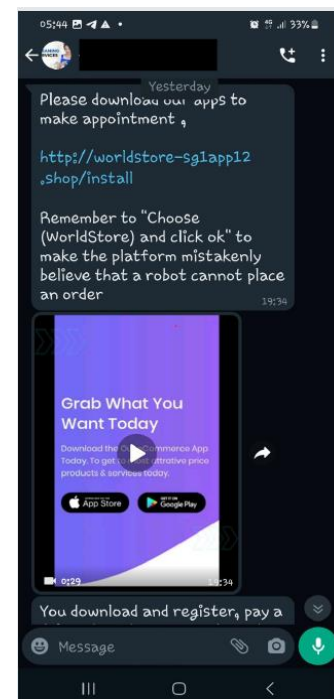
Add ScamShield app and set security features

- Update the anti-virus/anti-malware applications on your device
- Update your devices' operating systems and applications
- Disable "Install Unknown App" or "Unknown Sources" in your Android phone settings.

Check for scam signs

- Only download and install applications from official app stores.
- Check the developer information on the application listing and the number of downloads and user reviews to ensure it is a reputable and legitimate application.
- Exercise caution when clicking on advertisements embedded within applications that lead to a third-party website that prompts you to download files.
- Do not grant permission to persistent pop-ups that request access to your device's hardware or data.

Tell authorities, family, and friends about scams. Report any fraudulent transactions to your bank immediately.



LIFE AFTER RELEASE



Tian Boon Keng from the “Inside Maximum Security” series shares his progress with his Reintegration Officer:

>> go.gov.sg/sps-230323

LOOKING COOL JUST COMES NATURALLY



An entertaining take on the fulfilling career that our #GuardiansofOurBorders have:

>> go.gov.sg/ica-110423

SELAMAT HARI RAYA!



Wishing all our Muslim Home Team Volunteers Selamat Hari Raya!

GOT A MINUTE?
Thank you for reading our HT Connects newsletter! 😊

Any feedback on this month's HT Connects issue? Let us know by scanning the QR Code or email us at MHA_HTVOLUNTEERS@mha.gov.sg



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure

