

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

HOME TEAM VOLUNTEER NETWORK 10TH ANNIVERSARY

To mark its 10th year, the Home Team Volunteer Network (HTVN) celebrated with an event on 28 October, with MIN K Shanmugam as the Guest of Honour and HTVN Co-Chairmen MOS Desmond Tan and Assoc Prof Ho Peng Kee in attendance.

Over 700 volunteers came together to celebrate the spirit of volunteering. At the event, MIN Shanmugam launched the inaugural Outstanding Volunteer Award to recognise volunteers who have taken up leadership roles and demonstrated strong commitment and active participation. Four volunteers clinched the Outstanding Volunteer Award while 16 volunteers received the Commendation Award for their exemplary service.

- #HTVNWebinar
- #OrdinaryPeopleExtraordinaryMission
- #HomeTeamVolunteerNetwork
- #HTVNTurns10



“With HTVN, volunteers from various Home Team agencies can now connect with volunteers from other schemes, and it allows them to better understand the work done by other Home Team Departments and their respective volunteers. So, it is not just about being a Police volunteer, but a Police volunteer who understands the work of SCDF, Prisons, CNB, and advocates for their mission.” – MIN K Shanmugam on how HTVN enhances the public’s understanding of the Home Team’s vital role

[>> Read MIN K Shanmugam’s Opening Address](#)

MEET THE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Celebrating our Home Team Volunteer Network Award recipients for 2021!

go.gov.sg/mha-htvn10-1
3-MIN READ



Celebrating our Home Team Volunteer Network Award recipients for 2021!

go.gov.sg/mha-htvn10-2
3-MIN READ

First Reading of the Prisons (Amendment) Bill

The Prisons (Amendment) Bill 2021 was introduced for First Reading in Parliament. The Bill proposes amendments to the Prisons Act to (a) enhance community corrections; and (b) facilitate the Singapore Prison Service's (SPS) operations and administration. These amendments strive to improve inmates' rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes, and enable SPS to carry out its functions more effectively.

[>> Read the Press Release](#)

PRISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Key amendments will enhance community corrections, and facilitate the Singapore Prison Service's (SPS) operations and administration.



▶ Enhance Community Corrections

To improve inmates' rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Introduce the Employment Preparation Scheme (EmPS) so that inmates can undergo skills training and education, in addition to working, outside prison.

▶ Facilitate SPS' Operations and Administration

To enable SPS to carry out its functions more effectively.



- 1** Provide alternative means to notify supervisees of changes to community-based programme conditions, by way of SMS or messaging apps.
- 2** Provide SPS officers with powers to obtain documents or information for inquiries into breaches by supervisees placed on community-based programmes.
- 3** Increase the deferment period of an inmate's release to up to 21 days to carry out any outstanding Court-ordered punishment.
- 4** Allow the Minister for Home Affairs to make regulations related to inmates' communication to maintain prison security and ensure the safe and secure custody of inmates.
- 5** Protect SPS officers and auxiliary police officers from liability for acts and omissions done in good faith and with reasonable care under the Prisons Act, in line with what is provided for SPF officers in the Police Force Act and SCDF officers in the Civil Defence Act.



THREE BILLS WERE PASSED IN PARLIAMENT



Three Bills were passed in Parliament:

1. Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Bill

This Bill will strengthen our ability to prevent, detect and disrupt foreign interference in our domestic politics conducted through hostile information campaigns and the use of local proxies.

- >> [Second Reading Speech by MIN K Shanmugam](#)
- >> [Second Reading Speech by MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim](#)
- >> [Second Reading Speech by MOS Desmond Tan](#)
- >> [Wrap-up Speech by MIN K Shanmugam](#)

2. Private Security Industry (Amendment) Bill

This Bill will enhance protection for security officers and remove persons who only provide security consultancy services from regulation under the Private Security Industry Act.

- >> [Second Reading Speech by MOS Desmond Tan](#)
- >> [Wrap-up Speech by MOS Desmond Tan](#)

3. Sedition (Repeal) Bill

This Bill will repeal the Sedition Act and make related amendments to other Acts.

- >> [Second Reading Speech by MIN K Shanmugam](#)
- >> [Wrap-up Speech by MIN K Shanmugam](#)

Understanding Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act (FICA)

FICA deals with attempts by foreign actors to manipulate our domestic politics and disrupt social cohesion. Our politics are for Singaporeans to decide and foreigners should not be allowed to interfere.

Let's clear up some misunderstanding about the Bill.

<h3>Will FICA restrict Singaporeans from discussing politics?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Singaporeans have the right to express their own views about politics. FICA does not prohibit this. 	<h3>Does this mean foreigners and foreign publications cannot write about Singapore's affairs?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Foreign individuals or publications can report or comment on Singapore politics in an open, and transparent manner. 
<h3>Why is FICA tabled in Parliament within a short time, with no public discussion?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Foreign interference has been discussed extensively in recent years, during the Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods, in Parliament, and in the media. There were also consultations with major internet companies and platforms. 	<h3>Why is FICA worded broadly?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There are clear conditions to be met, before FICA can be used. FICA must be able to deal effectively with an evolving and wide range of foreign interference tactics. 
<h3>Why is there a need for FICA when there is Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA)?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Foreign interference may go beyond using fake news, such as using local proxies and bots. 	<h3>Does FICA grant excessive powers to the Minister for Home Affairs?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There are clear conditions to be met, before FICA can be used - e.g. the Minister can only issue a direction to stop hostile information campaigns if he thinks there is foreign involvement, and it is in the public interest to do so. 
<h3>Are there checks and balances against FICA?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Appeals can be made. There will be an independent tribunal headed by a Supreme Court judge to hear appeals against HIC directions. Appeals on designations of "Politically Significant Persons" can also be made to the Minister. 	<h3>Why is there no judicial review?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FICA decisions could involve sensitive information. A court hearing could undermine national interests and security, and bilateral relations. 

>> [Infographic: Examples of Foreign Interference](#)

>> [Infographic: Countering Hostile Information Campaigns Effectively](#)

>> [Article: FICA: Safeguarding Singapore from Foreign Interference](#)

>> [MHA webpage on FICA](#)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT |

MIN K Shanmugam gave a Ministerial Statement to address MP Raeesah Khan's allegation of SPF mishandling a sexual assault case. Here are MIN's closing remarks:

MIN K Shanmugam: Sir, we have checked our records. We have no such case that fits in with the description that has been given by the Member. I wanted to give her the option of giving us the best information she has, that she confirms that such an incident happened, that she accompanied the victim to the Police station, and that she does not wish to divulge the information only because of confidentiality. Speaker and Members will know that confidentiality doesn't extend to not telling us which Police station.

And Sir, I will leave it here for now, but that does not mean the matter rests. The Police will investigate this very serious matter further. The officers in charge in the Police will interview Ms Khan, and any allegations of misconduct concerning specific officers will be referred to SPF's Internal Affairs Office for further investigation. Because I will say to Ms Khan, through you, Sir, that at the very least, she must remember which Police station, which year this happened in which month, and some details of the number and the ages and races of the Police officers who she says, and she has confirmed for us that she did see them. Thank you, Sir.

>> [Read the full Ministerial Statement](#)

HOME TEAM ROUND-UP

7th ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DRUG MATTERS

On 14 October, the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) was held via videoconference. The AMMD is held every two years and provides a platform for ASEAN leaders to discuss and shape ASEAN's response to regional drug challenges. MOS Desmond Tan led Singapore's delegation, which comprised officers from CNB and ICPD/MHQ.



In presenting Singapore's country statement at AMMD, MOS Desmond highlighted the worsening regional drug situation amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for law enforcement efforts to evolve and stay ahead of the threat posed by drugs. He also shared Singapore's comprehensive anti-drug strategy, which encompasses upstream preventive drug education; tough laws and rigorous enforcement; and effective rehabilitation.

"As a bloc, it is vital for ASEAN to stand together and united to uphold the vision of a drug-free ASEAN and maintain our zero-tolerance stance."
– MOS Desmond Tan

MOS Desmond also announced that Singapore will be running for membership at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for the term 2024 to 2027 and sought the support of ASEAN Member States. Singapore's membership at the CND, together with Thailand and Indonesia (the other contenders), will give ASEAN a stronger voice at international fora, especially in the face of calls to liberalise international drug control policies.

– BY ICPD/MHQ

>> [Read Singapore's country statement at AMMD, delivered by MOS Desmond](#)

HOME TEAM UPDATES

GRADUATION HONOURS

28 inmates graduated after completing a series of media courses for Specialist Diplomas. Of the cohort, 15 inmates graduated with a Specialist Diploma in Social Media Marketing and Online Content Creation (SMMOCC) programme, while 13 inmates graduated with a Diploma in Media (Content Production and Management) – Assistant Director (DMAD). Their graduation ceremony, which was held virtually, was attended by media representatives and potential employers.

The two diploma programmes are the result of a collaboration between YRSG and Mediacorp that saw the establishment of a media training academy inside prison. The four-month SMMOCC programme and 10-month DMAD programme started in November 2020. Through three cohorts per year, YRSG expects to train about 60 inmates.

[#BeyondSecondChances](#) [#SG4SecondChances](#)



“When ex-offenders are gainfully employed, it gives them a sense of personal fulfilment to be able to contribute to their families’ well-being. I’m grateful that employers continue to hire ex-offenders and extend second chances to them during this difficult period.”

– Mr Matthew Wee, CEO, YRSG

SECURING OUR BORDERS

Find out how ICA has safeguarded public health through its enforcement of the Stay-Home-Notice Regime and by ensuring that travellers abide by the necessary health requirements before entering Singapore.

>> go.gov.sg/ica-shn-250921



CORRECTIONS PIONEER

A Prison officer for 38 years, Mr Muthucumarasamy Arumugan worked to transform the lives of inmates through new rehabilitative practices. Check out his story here!

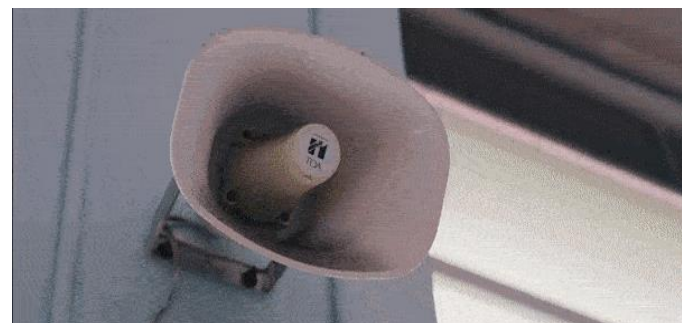
>> go.gov.sg/sps-75-pioneer



YES MA'AM!

LTA Gangadevi is a Rota Commander at Alexandra Fire Station. Check this video out to see how the mother of two shoulders her many responsibilities!

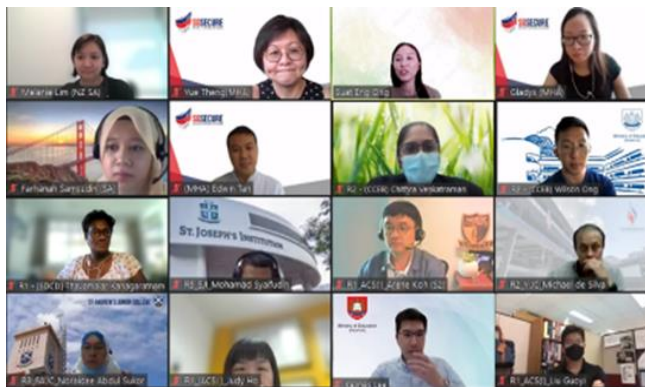
>> go.gov.sg/mha-yes-maam-scdf



SGSECURE - MHA-MOE COUNTER-TERRORISM WORKSHOPS

As part of MOE's Community Engagement Programme, the SGSecure Programme Office (SSPO) together with ISD organised two virtual workshops for 79 Junior College school leaders.

During the **SGSecure: Community Response to Terrorism** workshops, ISD provided an overview of the terrorism threats facing Singapore (in particular online radicalisation) and stressed the need for early reporting. SSPO's DIR Edwin Tan also fielded candid questions from the participants during the Q&A segment.



These workshops are part of MHA's efforts to engage educators and students to raise awareness of the SGSecure movement and the terrorist threat, so as to build a more prepared and resilient community. Together, we make SGSecure! – BY SSPO/MHQ



SPF embarked on the islandwide implementation of PolCam in 2012. Learn how PolCam has been a game-changer in deterring and solving crime in our neighbourhoods! BY CHLOE LOW



"PolCams have been effective in helping us to solve cases. We can catch suspects more quickly now."
- INSP Zaidi Salim, Senior IO,
Bedok Police Division, SPF

go.gov.sg/spf-polcam2021
3-MIN READ



MINISTER'S AWARDS

PRESENTATION CEREMONY

To recognise the efforts behind the Home Team's operational efficiency, innovations and service excellence, the Minister's Award Presentation Ceremony was held virtually on 28 October, with 194 awards presented across four categories:

- Six projects clinched the **Minister for Home Affairs Home Team Achievement Award** for achieving exceptional outcomes through inter-agency cooperation
- 96 projects received the **Minister for Home Affairs Operational Excellence Award** for outstanding competency in major operations and cases
- 73 officers won the **Star Service Award** for outstanding service and exceeding customers' expectations
- 19 projects won the **Home Team Innovation Award** for their exceptional innovations

"Your excellent performance and initiatives have helped to keep public confidence high in the Home Team. We have to strive to keep up to this. And, to all Home Team officers, thank you for your tireless contributions in a challenging year. Let us continue to work together to keep our country safe and secure." – MIN K Shanmugam

In his speech to award recipients, MIN K Shanmugam also encouraged officers to continue leveraging technology as a key enabler and to build partnerships internally as well as across Government agencies. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

>> [Read MIN K Shanmugam's Speech](#)

>> [Read MOS Faishal's Congratulatory Remarks](#)

>> [Read MOS Desmond's Congratulatory Remarks](#)

UPDATE ON COVID-19



The Multi-Ministry Task Force announced new measures as Singapore moves towards becoming a COVID-19-resilient nation. Here are four things you should know about the new measures!

1. From 1 January 2022 onwards, only fully vaccinated or individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 within the past 270 days can return to their workplaces.
2. Unvaccinated employees will only be able to return on the condition that they test negative for COVID-19. The cost of these tests are to be borne by the employees.
3. The Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine will be included in the national vaccination programme. The full regime comprises three doses due to its lower efficacy.
4. Individuals who are certified medically ineligible for all vaccines under the national vaccination programme will be exempted from the vaccination-differentiated measures. This means that they can enter premises such as shopping malls and hawker centres, and participate in some activities.

>> [Visit this MOH webpage for more info](#)



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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

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