

Annex E- Government Efforts to Enhance Counter-Terrorism Capabilities

- In response to the security threats, the government has taken steps to enhance our counter-terrorism capabilities.
- The Police have enhanced their response capabilities with the launch of the Police Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) and Rapid Deployment Troops (RDTs). The ERTs patrol public places such as malls and stadiums, and are trained to respond swiftly to neutralise threats. RDTs are equipped with tactical response motorcycles which will allow them to respond to incidents swiftly, and cut through traffic gridlock.
- Police are also training and equipping frontline officers with pistols, which provide added firepower compared to the existing revolvers.
- We have sharpened our operational preparedness with major public exercises. In October 2016, MHA and SAF conducted the largest counter-terrorism exercise to date, involving more than 3,200 participants. It tested the island-wide response of Home Team and SAF officers to terror threats.
- The security agencies have also stepped up vigilance at key locations across the island, and in our waters. Increased patrols and other visible deterrence measures have been introduced at the checkpoints and along the coastline.
- The Police have enhanced Police camera coverage. They have completed the installation of Police cameras in all 10,000 HDB blocks and Multi-Storey Carparks under “PolCam 1.0”. Police have started installing cameras in public areas, town and neighbourhood centres, and hawker centres, under “PolCam 2.0”.
- On the legislative front, the Public Order Act was amended in April 2017 to require organisers of events that attract large crowds, or are of higher-risk, to put in place necessary security measures.
- Later in 2017, MHA will also introduce a new Infrastructure Protection Act. This will require new, large-scale developments to incorporate security measures when they are being designed. The Act may also require owners of premises to adopt additional protective measures, such as bag or vehicle checks, in the event of a heightened security climate.