

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

THIS IS WHAT A HOME TEAM VOLUNTEER LOOKS LIKE

Ordinary citizens with an extraordinary mission: working together with the Home Team to serve the community.

THIS IS WHAT A HOME TEAM VOLUNTEER LOOKS LIKE

BY PHYLICIA POON

4-MIN READ
go.gov.sg/htvn-six

INITIATIVE TO CURB FAMILY VIOLENCE

LAUNCH OF INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Reducing crime and family violence through early intervention and social support.

4-MIN READ
go.gov.sg/spf-home-team-cares



>> **Watch 2MIN's interview with Hello! Singapore:** go.gov.sg/2min-hellosg (from 00:24)

On 2 March, 2MIN Josephine Teo appeared on Channel 8's 'Hello! Singapore' programme to share on the following:

At the forefront of COVID-19: SPF officers work closely with MOH on contact tracing efforts while SCDF personnel help to conduct screening of incoming travellers at the airport. ICA officers are also taking on additional responsibilities to detect and prevent possible imported cases.

Leveraging S&T to ensure safety and security: When the COVID-19 genome sequence was known, HTX quickly designed a test kit to screen for and detect the virus. CCTVs equipped with video analytics and motion sensors are also in place at Government Quarantine Facilities to help SPF officers ensure security at these sites.

Raising the retirement age: The retirement age for officers on the Home Affairs Uniformed Services Scheme will be gradually increased from 55 to 58 years by 2030.



>> **Listen to SPS Sun's interview with Capital 95.8:** go.gov.sg/sps-sun-958 (from the two-hour mark)

On 3 March, SPS Sun Xueling went on air with Capital 95.8 to share more about the Government's efforts to combat online scams, address unsolicited phone calls and text messages, and enhance public emergency response services.

Curbing online scams: An inter-ministry anti-scam committee will be established to coordinate and execute a comprehensive strategy to combat scams.

Unsolicited communications from unlicensed moneylenders: The authorities will be studying other countries' efforts to reduce unsolicited telecommunications from unlicensed moneylenders. Public agencies such as GovTech and IMDA will also work closely with telecommunications companies on these efforts.

Emergency medical services: SCDF receives 190,000 emergency calls annually, of which 10% are considered non-urgent. Even though every request is assessed, not all may require an emergency response. The public can play a part through the Save-A-Life initiative by volunteering to be a Community First Responder.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GAMBLING REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND REVIEW OF GAMBLING LAWS

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will expand the mandate of the Casino Regulatory Authority (CRA), by reconstituting the Statutory Board to establish the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) by 2021. GRA will be a Statutory Board, with the mandate to regulate the entire gambling landscape in Singapore.
2. To ensure that our laws and regulatory approach towards gambling keep pace with the evolving gambling landscape and remain effective, MHA will be reviewing and amending gambling-related legislation by 2021.

Background

3. Gambling regulation in Singapore is currently overseen by various Government agencies. CRA regulates the casinos, while the Gambling Regulatory Unit in MHA regulates remote gambling services and fruit machines. The Singapore Totalisator Board governs terrestrial gambling services operated by the Singapore Pools. The Singapore Police Force (SPF) takes enforcement action against illegal gambling activities. In addition, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) is responsible for social safeguards to address the harms of gambling, and also regulates the advertising and promotion of gambling, as well as the Responsible Gambling Programmes of regulated entities.
4. Overall, our gambling regulatory framework has delivered good outcomes. Gambling-related crimes remains low in number, and problem gambling is under control. Casino crimes contributed to fewer than one per cent of overall crime, and the number of people arrested for illegal gambling has decreased by 28 per cent from 2011 to 2019. Probable pathological and problem gambling rates have remained relatively stable, at less than one per cent over the past five years.
5. However, there are emerging trends that can have a significant impact on the gambling landscape. For example, technology has changed the way people gamble and made it more accessible. Business models have evolved to suit changing customer preferences by introducing gambling elements in products that are traditionally not seen as gambling.

Establishment of the Gambling Regulatory Authority

6. GRA will be established by 2021 and will consolidate and optimise gambling regulatory resources within a single agency. This will allow GRA to stay even more effectively abreast of technological and global trends, respond faster to emerging products in particular those that cut across different domains, and take a more holistic approach to gambling policies and issues.
7. GRA will work with partners such as MSF and the National Council on Problem Gambling to ensure that the harms of gambling continue to be adequately addressed. SPF will continue to enforce the laws against illegal gambling activities.

Review of Gambling Legislation

8. The Government has enacted different laws that govern various gambling products, including lotteries, gaming houses, casinos, and remote gambling. These laws address risks specific to a distinct mode of gambling, and in a particular setting. For example, the Private Lotteries Act only regulates terrestrial private lotteries, which are physical gambling operations such as fruit machine rooms, while the Remote Gambling Act only regulates gambling activities conducted via remote communications (for e.g. the Internet and telephone). [1]
9. MHA will review and amend all gambling legislation by 2021 to ensure that our regulatory mechanisms can effectively address evolving gambling products and business models. For example, we will study the need to regulate products such as “mystery boxes”. [2] We will also review the penalties for offences to ensure consistency across remote and terrestrial gambling.

10. Even as we update our laws, MHA will retain a generally prohibitive stance towards gambling, and continue to maintain a risk-based regulatory approach towards existing gambling operators.

Stakeholder Engagement

11. As part of the upcoming transformation in the gambling regulatory landscape, MHA will engage key stakeholders to take on board their views in the coming year. These include gambling operators, religious organisations, social service agencies, and members of the public.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

3 APRIL 2020

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[1] According to the Remote Gambling Act, remote gambling means gambling in which a person participates by the use of remote communications. Remote communications means communication done through the internet, telephone, television, radio or any other kind of electronic or other technology for facilitating communication.

[2] Mystery boxes refers to games of chance, whether offered via remote or terrestrial means, in which users purchase a box of item(s), and the item(s) within are unknown or of unknown value.

ENFORCEMENT OF STAY HOME NOTICES (SHN)

- Stay-Home Notices (SHN) are issued to persons who have returned from overseas.
- From 23 March, all Singaporeans, Permanent Residents and Long-Term pass holders returning to Singapore will be placed under SHN.
- Those under SHN have to remain in their place of residence at all times during a 14-day period.
- SHN requirements are strictly enforced to reduce the risk of community transmission from imported cases, using a combination of mobile applications, phone surveillance and house visits.

The number of officers conducting such checks will be increased substantially to tighten enforcement efforts.

“The Government has put in place strict regulations and a strong enforcement framework, but regulation and strong enforcement are not going to be enough on their own if people continue to insist on being irresponsible. All Singaporeans have to do our part – **exercise social responsibility, protect ourselves, friends, family and fellow citizens.**”
– **MIN K Shanmugam**

Don't Anyhow Believe; Must Fact-check
REFER TO OFFICIAL SOURCES FOR THE FACTS:

>> **MOH website:** www.moh.gov.sg

>> **Factually website:** www.gov.sg/factually

>> **Gov.sg on WhatsApp:** www.go.gov.sg/whatsapp

>> **Read [MIN K Shanmugam's statement on the enforcement of SHNs](#)**

What is TraceTogether?

A community-driven contact tracing app to help stop the spread of COVID-19



Get notified quickly by contact tracers if you had been in close proximity with a COVID-19 case!



Everyone can play a part to combat the spread of COVID-19



Earlier notification means better protection for those around us



TraceTogether

For more details, visit tracetgether.gov.sg



Download the app, enable Bluetooth®, and protect your loved ones and yourself.

Jointly developed by:



MINISTRY OF HEALTH SINGAPORE

In support of:



TraceTogether does not track your actual location. Instead, we ask for location permissions to estimate your proximity to other phones. Your data will never be shared with contact tracers, unless you had close contact with a COVID-19 case.

COOL CONTENTS



The National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA)'s latest media campaign features *HIGH*, Singapore's first interactive film.

In it, you, the viewer will be able to follow the story of Nick, who is invited into the world of drugs and partying by Sienna, a woman he meets on a dating app.

Viewers make choices on behalf of Nick, to uncover where his decisions would lead him.



This campaign aims to spark conversations and spread awareness of the destructive nature of drug abuse, especially among youths.

NCADA invites viewers to explore the challenges relating to drug abuse that youths may encounter and the importance of making informed choices.

HIGH.sg also features a variety of activities, such as a character quiz, real accounts from former drug abusers and a chat-format FAQ session.

**"Every *HIGH* ends in a low"
What would you choose?"**



Seen

Cool content from the Home Team and beyond!



LIM XIUAN PIN
TEAM LEADER, ICA

ASP Lim Xiuan Pin (ICA) ICA FB

ASP Lim Xiuan Pin demonstrates the grit, passion and tenacity the various ICA roles demand, being entrusted with the vital role of safeguarding and securing the nation.
go.gov.sg/ica-xiuanpin



ASP Thng Zhan Yang (SPF) MHA FB

ASP Thng Zhan Yang (SPF) from Yishun South NPC delves into his experience as a contact tracer: his optimism pushing through despite the daunting challenges of fighting COVID-19.
go.gov.sg/spf-zhanyang



COL (Dr) Shalini (SCDF) MHA FB

Chief Medical Officer COL (Dr) Shalini shares her role in rallying her team to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak together.
go.gov.sg/scdf-shalini



SGT Khoo Wei Ren (ICA) MHA FB

ICA officer SGT Khoo Wei Ren talks about the part he played in safeguarding Singapore's borders from the COVID-19 threat.
go.gov.sg/ica-wei-ren

Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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

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