

# Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



## MHA IN PARLIAMENT

### Committee of Supply (COS) Debate 2022

At the COS Debate in Parliament on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, MIN K Shanmugam, 2MIN Josephine Teo, MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim and MOS Desmond Tan outlined key initiatives undertaken by the Home Team to keep Singapore safe and secure. Here's an overview of the issues that were raised.

**MIN K Shanmugam**

### Singapore's Approach to Criminal Justice

>> [Read the Speech by MIN K Shanmugam](#)

*Minister Shanmugam started his speech by addressing Mr Derrick Goh's question on the recent Court of Appeal Judgement on the constitutional challenge to Section 377A of the Penal Code. MIN said the Government's stand has not changed and for such deeply divisive issues, we adopt a live and let live approach.*

#### JUDGEMENT ON S377A CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE

Our emphases on gradual evolution and on traditional families remain constant. However, since this issue was last discussed in Parliament in 2007, social attitudes towards homosexuality have gradually shifted. One of the things that upsets the LGBT+ community is that many feel that their experience of being hurt or rejected by their families, friends, schools, companies – is not recognised, indeed often denied.

At the same time, a large majority want to preserve the overall tone of our society, in particular, the traditional view of marriage as being between a man and a woman, and that children should be raised within such a family structure.

Their concern is not s377A per se, but the broader issues of marriage and family. Many among this group, also support decriminalising homosexual sex between men. Both these viewpoints are valid and important.

Policies need to evolve to keep abreast of such changes in views. And legislation needs to evolve to support updated policies. The Government is considering the best way forward.

*MIN Shanmugam concluded his speech by replying to Mr Leon Perera's suggestion about setting up an ombudsman to provide independent oversight of senior Government officials in respect to foreign interference. MIN said that to replicate an independent investigative mechanism will not solve the problem of checking the checkers.*

#### ON SUGGESTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT OMBUDSMAN FOR FICA

If there is wrongdoing by anyone, whether a Minister or civil servant or private sector person, there will be investigations. Very few people doubt that. And over the years, we added on the checks. This Government has added on checks on itself, which are very rare elsewhere.

We institutionalised it such that the CPIB can go straight to the Prime Minister. But where the Prime Minister himself is the possible subject of investigations, or if the Prime Minister doesn't want to do something, the CPIB can go to the President. Not many countries have done this.

If there is any wrongdoing or suspected wrongdoing known to anyone, including suspicion of foreign interference or influence, you can let CPIB know. CPIB has the resources to carry out the investigations and it has the ability to tap on other agencies for the appropriate additional help or work that needs to be done, and FICA put in place a framework where interactions will cross the line and you become the subject of foreign influence. So, there's a legal basis to that. If you take the senior appointments, including the Chief of CPIB, Chief Justice, Attorney-General, all these, there are carefully

We must respect the different viewpoints, consider them carefully, talk to the different groups.  
 If and when we decide to move, we will do so in a way that continues to balance these different viewpoints, and avoids causing a sudden, destabilising change in social norms or public expectations.

constructed structures on these appointments. I would say, look at all that first, and look at the ground situation before we start talking about replicating more and more institutions outside.



MHA COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY DEBATE 2022



# Death Penalty

In Singapore, the death penalty is used only against the most serious crimes that cause grave harm to others and to society.

Mandatory Death Penalty				Discretionary Death Penalty	
INTENTIONAL MURDER	TERRORIST BOMBING	USE OF FIREARMS	TRAFFICKING SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF DRUGS	NON-INTENTIONAL MURDER	KIDNAPPING

## The death penalty has been effective in deterring the most serious offences.

Kidnapping	Use of Firearms	Opium Trafficking
<p>29 (1958-1960) → 3 (1961-1963)</p> <p>90% reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The death penalty was introduced in 1961.</li> <li>In the three years before introduction, there was an average of 29 cases per year. In the three years after, this has dropped to an average of 1 case per year.</li> <li>It has remained low since then.</li> </ul>	<p>174 (1973) → 106 (1974)</p> <p>39% reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The death penalty was introduced in 1973.</li> <li>Number of firearms offences dropped by 39%, from 174 cases in 1973 to 106 cases in 1974.</li> <li>Firearms offences are rare today.</li> </ul>	<p>40.7kg (1990) → 13.7kg (1994)</p> <p>66% reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The death penalty was introduced in 1990.</li> <li>Compared to the four-year period prior to introduction, there was a 66% reduction in the average net weight of opium trafficked into Singapore in the four-year period after introduction.</li> </ul>

## Singapore Residents' Attitudes Towards the Death Penalty

An MHA survey commissioned in 2019 showed that majority of the respondents agreed with the use of the death penalty. Preliminary results from a 2021 study showed similar agreement that the death penalty should be used for the most serious crimes, and also that it deterred serious crimes.



Sources: Study on Attitudes Towards the Death Penalty in Singapore, Institute of Policy Studies, 2020; and Survey on Singapore Residents' Attitudes Towards the Death Penalty, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2021.



# Death Penalty

Drug traffickers, and the drugs they traffic, cause immense harm to drug abusers, their families, and the society. Our robust law enforcement and tough stance against drugs have kept Singapore largely free from drugs and crime.

## Impact of Deterrence on Behaviour of Drug Traffickers

A study by MHA in 2018 showed that convicted drug traffickers who were more aware of the death penalty trafficked below the threshold that attracted the death penalty than those who were not.

“Because for what I know, I take this size, 50g, just go [to jail] for trafficking not go to hang. For what I know, if 250g or 500g or 1 to 2 kilo, that one hang one.”

- Convicted Drug Trafficker



## Perception of Residents in Regional Countries on Singapore's Crime Situation, Law and Safety

Residents in regional countries feel that our laws are effective and the strict punishments deter serious offences.



**82%**

believed the death penalty deters others from committing serious crimes in Singapore.



**69%**

believed the death penalty is more effective in discouraging people from committing serious crimes, as compared to life imprisonment.



**83%**

believed that the death penalty makes people not want to traffic substantial amounts of drugs into Singapore.

Sources: Impact of Deterrence on the Decision-Making Process of Convicted Drug Traffickers, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2019; and Opinions of Residents in Regional Countries on Singapore's Crime Situation, Law and Safety, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2021.

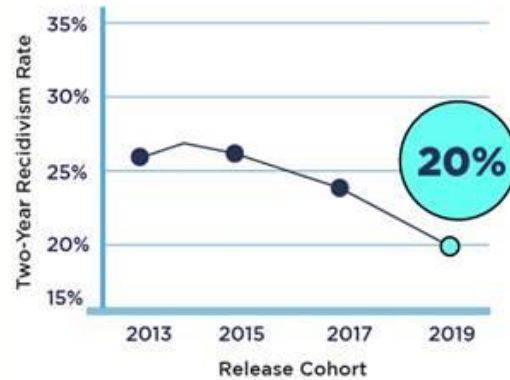




# Rehabilitation

## Recidivism Rate

- Reflects how successfully an ex-offender has reintegrated into society.
- Two-year recidivism rate is currently at its lowest, at 20.0%.
- Continued efforts to bring down five-year recidivism rate, with initiatives both in and outside of prison.



## Initiatives in Prisons

Upon admission to prison, inmates will have their risks and needs identified, and undergo appropriate programmes to address them.



### Psychology-based Correctional Programmes

Customised programmes provided by rehabilitation specialists and psychologists for offenders with rehabilitation needs such as substance abuse.



### Family Programmes

Social Skills Training Programme and Family Reintegration Programme to build skills and strengthen bonds with loved ones.



### Skills Training & Employment Assistance

TAP (Train and Place) & Grow - an initiative set up in partnership with various sectors, to facilitate career advancements into relevant industries after release.



### Community Corrections

Rehabilitation in prison is complemented by community-based programmes to lower risk of reoffending.

## Enabling Home Team Transformation Through Technology

>> [Read the Speech by 2MIN Josephine Teo](#)



### 1 Build New Capabilities for Greater Operational Effectiveness

- Expand network of Police cameras to keep our public housing estates and public spaces safe.
- Implement real-time 24/7 nationwide sensor grid to allow SCDF to detect hazardous materials early.
- Enhance SPF and SCDF operation centres with Video Extension for Emergency Numbers system to view and respond faster to incidents.
- Provide SCDF paramedics with access to patients' medical data on the go to make better interventions.

### 2 Make Processes More Efficient and Seamless

- Apply and access ICA documents digitally, such as birth and death certificates, long-term visit and student's passes.
- Make more eServices available on MyICA Mobile App.
- Continue digitalisation efforts in Prisons to facilitate rehabilitation such as videoconferencing with loved ones and use of tablets for learning.



### 3 Upskill Our Officers

- Use of new technology to make training safer and more realistic for officers, such as Live Instrumentation Training System and Mobile TASER Training Target system.



## Combating Drugs and Securing Singapore

>> [Read the Speech by MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim](#)



### 1 Upstream Measures for Prevention and Rehabilitation

- In 2018, the National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism was set up to oversee national efforts to prevent offending and re-offending, and enhance the rehabilitation of offenders.
- Sustained engagement of youths through meaningful anti-crime activities such as Delta League, a youth outreach programme to instill teamwork, discipline and social responsibility.
- Number of youth offenders dropped by 28% over the past decade.

### 2 Reintegration Efforts

- Inmates are provided with job placement support prior to release.
- Career coaches work with ex-offenders and their employers to facilitate their transition from prison back to the workforce.
- A Community Action Masterplan maps out opportunities for the community to be involved, and better harness the strengths and aspirations of volunteers.
- Volunteers connect inmates to communities of support during and after incarceration.

### 3 Strengthening Approach to Combat Drug Abuse

- Amend Misuse of Drugs Act to introduce a new framework to regulate New Psychoactive Substances.
- Expand preventive drug education efforts to strengthen the resilience of youths and forge a strong national consensus of zero tolerance towards drugs.
- Enhance drug supervision scheme by rolling out the Community Supervision Skills sessions fully in 2023.





# Safeguarding Singapore, Together

>> [Read the Speech by MOS Desmond Tan](#)



## 1 Community Partnership for Crime Prevention

- Build a wider network of Police's Community Watch Scheme to safeguard Singapore.
- New debt collection regulatory framework to address public disorder and disamenities by errant debt collectors.

## 2 Combatting Scams and Cheating

**Public Education**

- Work with industry partners and e-commerce platforms to strengthen public education efforts against scams.
- Introduce E-Commerce Marketplace Transaction Safety Ratings to help consumers make an informed choice when shopping online.

**Legislative Amendments and Framework**

- Develop a framework to tackle scams and a broader range of online criminal activities, such as child pornography and terrorism.
- Amend the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act to allow money laundering offences to be made out at lower levels of culpability.



## 3 Countering Terrorism

- Ramp up our community response and mobilisation capabilities to terror attacks through the SGSecure Movement.
- Work with organisations to maximise the chances of rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalised individuals.
- From July 2023, all security officers are required to complete the "Recognise Terrorist Threats" training before deployment.



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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

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