

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

25 YEARS AS A HOME TEAM VOLUNTEER

Dr Prem Kumar Nair, a Home Team Volunteer, shares why he's devoted to the Home Team's mission.

As the saying goes, "volunteers may not necessarily have time, but they have heart." Dr Prem Kumar Nair is the Chief Executive Officer of IHH Healthcare Singapore - IHH Healthcare. He's also the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Visitors (Community Rehabilitation Centre) and a Committee Member of the Singapore After-Care Association. In 2020, he was appointed as a Justice of the Peace, and this year, he received the Long Service Award (25 Years) from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for his distinguished contributions to the Home Team. He explains what he loves about being a volunteer.



"I feel happy to contribute in any way I can to the Home Team cause. Despite volunteering for 25 years, I'm still very motivated and encouraged to serve the community."

– Dr Prem Kumar Nair, recipient of the Long Service Award (25 Years)

#OrdinaryPeopleExtraordinaryMission
#HTVolunteers

>> [Check out MHA's post to read more](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

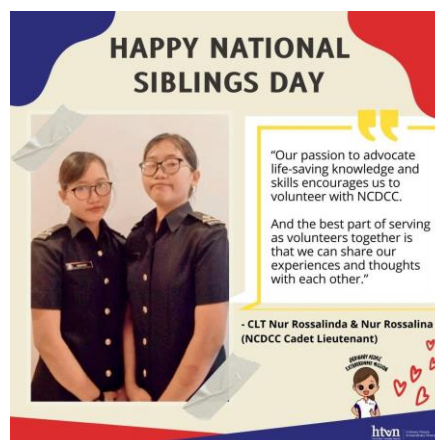
NATIONAL SIBLINGS DAY

As Cadet Lieutenants in National Civil Defence Cadet Corps, twin sisters Nur Rossalina and Nur Rossalinda fuel their passion through their shared experiences and memories.

"We usually do everything together and I am glad that we can learn, lead and serve together too!," said Rossalina.

"It is also because of the experiences and memorable memories we had as cadets in the CCA that drives us to continue as volunteers with NCDCC," added Rossalinda.

To a bond that began at birth and can never be broken, we welcome all siblings to volunteer for the Home Team Volunteer Network.



#OrdinaryPeopleExtraordinaryMission
#HomeTeamVolunteerNetwork
#OneHomeTeam

>> [Check out HTVN's FB Post](#)

>> [Check out HTVN's TikTok Video](#)

At the Committee of Supply Debate (COS) in Parliament, MIN K Shanmugam, 2MIN Josephine Teo, MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim and MOS Desmond Tan outlined key initiatives taken by the Home Team to keep Singapore safe and secure.



>> [Visit the MHA COS 2022 microsite to learn more](#)

Singapore's Approach to Criminal Justice

MIN K Shanmugam explained that the criminal justice system was based on our needs, values and societal context. He focused on two issues: the death penalty and our approach to rehabilitation. MIN explaining why the death penalty, a key component of our criminal justice system, works for Singapore and how it has been effective in deterring the most serious offences. He also shared how MHA has invested significant resources in the rehabilitation of offenders, both in and outside of prison.

Addressing the recent judgement on the constitutional challenge to Section 377A of the Penal Code, MIN Shanmugam noted that Singapore's approach accommodates divergent interests, avoids polarisation and facilitates incremental change.

On the subject of having an independent ombudsman to check senior Government officials for foreign influence, he explained that the current processes work and that replicating an investigative mechanism would be costly and would not address the fundamental question of "who guards the guards?"

>> [Read MIN Shanmugam's COS speech](#)

>> [Highlights from the speech](#)

Combating Drugs and Securing Singapore

MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim spoke on rehabilitation and combating drug abuse. He shared how rolling out Community Supervision Skills sessions will better support the reintegration of former drug abusers. The Home Team will also enhance its Preventive Drug Education efforts to strengthen the resilience of youths to lead drug-free lifestyles and forge a strong national consensus of zero tolerance in the fight against drugs.

>> [Read MOS Faishal's COS speech](#)

>> [Highlights from the speech](#)

Enabling Home Team

Transformation through Technology

2MIN Josephine Teo shared about the Home Team's transformation efforts through technology. She detailed how the Home Team will be leveraging technology to improve our capabilities for greater operational effectiveness, serve the public more efficiently and effectively, and upskill our officers to deal with evolving threats.

>> [Read 2MIN Josephine Teo's COS speech](#)

>> [Highlights from the speech](#)



Safeguarding Singapore, Together

MOS Desmond Tan shared about partnering the community in the areas of crime prevention, anti-terrorism and combating scams. He noted that the upcoming amendments to the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act will help to curb "money mule" schemes. He also explained that in order to enhance public security, all security officers will be required to complete the "Recognise Terrorist Threats" course before they can be deployed at any site.

>> [Read MOS Desmond Tan's COS speech](#)

>> [Highlights from the speech](#)

THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

LESSONS FOR THE HOME TEAM

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, Singapore has joined many other countries in condemning the attack.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Vivian Balakrishnan delivered a Ministerial Statement stating Singapore's position on 28 February, and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong similarly called for the sovereignty of all countries to be respected.

These are the lessons that the Russia-Ukraine conflict holds for Home Team officers:

1. The invasion of Ukraine shows how quickly a small country can be overrun. We must never lose the capability to defend ourselves.
2. It is vital to maintain domestic unity and cohesion. Internal divisions can be exploited by adversaries. Home Team officers need to be vigilant against attempts by hostile foreign entities to interfere in domestic politics.
3. Our sanctions and measures against Russia will come at some cost. However, Singapore must stand up for principles that are the foundation for the independence and sovereignty of smaller nations, so that our own right to exist and prosper as a nation may never be called into question.



“We have been lucky to enjoy peace and stability now for more than 50 years. Russia’s attack on Ukraine reminds us how precious this is, and how important it is for all of us who call Singapore home to work together to preserve this happy state of affairs.”

– Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

>> To learn more about the situation in Ukraine, visit: go.gov.sg/insights1-22



PM Lee Hsien Loong reiterated Singapore's strong stand against Russia's invasion of Ukraine at the sidelines of his visit to the United States last week. This position is a key principle that aligns with our long-term national interest, which is to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, said PM Lee.

Why It Matters to Us

Russia's unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine violates a key principle of international law. **It is unacceptable for any nation to violate another's sovereignty, political independence or territorial integrity.** Our ability to survive, exist and prosper as a sovereign nation rests on this principle.

What is the Impact on Us?

- Supply Chain Disruption
- Cybersecurity Threats
- Disinformation
- Disruptions to Organised Events and Businesses

What Can Singaporeans Do?

1. With energy costs rising, save and conserve energy where possible. Adopt energy-saving habits or choose energy-efficient appliances.
2. Keep updated on the latest news. Ensure that the news sources are verified. Think twice before sharing to avoid spreading misinformation.
3. Donate to Singapore Red Cross' Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Response.

What Can We as Home Team Officers Do?

1. Clarify misconceptions on Singapore's response when opportunities arise in engaging the public.
2. Build Home Team capabilities to restore normalcy during a national crisis, and educate and empower the public to help one another when in need.

Resources:

- Nexus Insights
- LEARN App

“ Unless we [...] stand up for the principles that are the very foundation for the independence and sovereignty of smaller nations, our own right to exist and prosper as a nation may similarly be called into question one day. - MIN Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan

GAMBLING REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND GAMBLING CONTROL BILLS

The Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) Bill and the Gambling Control (GC) Bill were passed, reconstituting the Casino Regulatory Authority into GRA, and introducing new laws that aim to maintain law and order as the gambling landscape evolves. Here are three things you should know about the changes:

#1. Expansion of CRA into GRA | GRA will be the single regulator to oversee all gambling related issues, pooling resources from CRA, MHQ GRU, SPF, MSF and the Tote Board.

#2. Social Gambling | Gambling is allowed among family and friends in a person's home (excluding public places such as void decks, coffeeshops, hotels and chalets) and not for the private gain of any persons; social online gambling remains prohibited.

#3. Minimum Age for Gambling | The minimum age for gambling will remain at 21 years old, except for gambling at Singapore Pools' physical outlets, which will remain at 18 years old.



>> [Read the Second Reading Speech](#)

>> [Read the Wrap-up Speech](#)

HOME TEAM UPDATES

COMMITTING TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AGAINST DRUGS

Singapore pledged its continued support for international efforts to fight the world's drug problems, in a statement delivered by 2MIN Josephine Teo who led the delegation at the 65th United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) held from 14 to 18 March at Vienna, Austria.

“We are committed to contributing more towards developing evidence-informed and effective global drug control policies. We are also committed to supporting capacity building efforts and sharing research findings on drug trends.”

– 2MIN Josephine Teo



>> [Watch a video of the National Statement](#)

>> [Read the Press Release](#)



CND Side Events | To share best practices in implementing Preventive Drug Education (PDE) initiatives amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, CNB presented its PDE strategies during a side event at CND. The side event highlighted the importance of effective PDE in fostering a drug-free society. Singapore's sustained prevention efforts have helped foster a society keenly attuned to the harms of drugs, where drug abuse is neither mainstreamed nor the norm.

At the same session, the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) shared about leveraging technology and social media tools for its PDE campaigns. The Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) also attended CND and organised two side events with other NGOs to discuss topics related to the recovery of female substance abusers and the impact of the pandemic on drug trafficking in South East Asia.

FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE PRESIDENCY



“Congratulations to Raja for being the first Singaporean to lead the FATF. Raja’s capabilities, international experience and work as a senior public sector leader, operating in a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural environment across a range of disciplines, will come in useful to lead an international organisation such as FATF.”

– MIN K Shanmugam

MHA Senior Adviser (International) T. Raja Kumar has been appointed the next President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), with his term running from 1 July for two years. Singapore has been a member of the FATF since 1992 and Mr Raja will be the first Singaporean to take on the Presidency. Mr Raja fended off the challenge by two strong candidates and was unanimously selected by the Plenary.

Currently Head of Singapore’s delegation to the FATF, Mr Raja has deep experience in the areas of policy, regulation and law enforcement. He has also been active in leading Singapore’s efforts against money laundering and terrorism financing in various capacities since 2015.

>> [Read the Press Release](#)

DID YOU KNOW? The FATF is an inter-governmental body established by the G7 group of nations in 1989. It serves a watchdog function by setting international standards to prevent and combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

TAKING OUR RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT CAPABILITIES TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Helping our audit, risk management, finance and procurement practitioners better navigate the challenges brought about by COVID-19 – this was the goal of the inaugural Risk Management and Audit Webinar, organised by MHA’s Risk Management and Audit Group.

Held on 15 March, the webinar had the theme of “Rising to The Challenge: Good Governance, Anti-Corruption and Fraud Risk Management in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic,” and attracted over 650 participants (comprising officers from the Home Team, AGO, CPIB, MSF and MOF, as well as public sector Internal Audit leaders).



In addition to presentations from SPF’s Commercial Affairs Department, CPIB and MSF, other highlights of the webinar included a panel discussion featuring PS Pang Kin Keong and DS/C Jeannie Tan. Affirming that anti-corruption measures and fraud risk management are crucial to maintaining trust in our public institutions, PS Pang noted that there was great potential for officers to do so by harnessing technology and upskilling their digital capabilities.



“We are stewards of public resources, so we have a heavy responsibility to spend wisely and to guard against fraud, corruption, waste, loss and misuse of public monies. If the public perceives that we are not taking our responsibility as stewards seriously, then this has serious repercussions on public trust in the Home Team. And loss of public trust has a critical impact on our ability to carry out our mission.”

– PS Pang Kin Keong

DID YOU KNOW? Key takeaways from the webinar:

- **Fraud cases have gone up during COVID-19; from March 2020 to December 2021, the Police received 57 reports involving the abuse or fraudulent application of COVID-19 government grants and payouts amounting to \$1.7million.**
- **While corruption remains low in Singapore, it takes the effort of all public officers – including Home Team officers – to ensure this remains the case.**

SGSECURE COUNTER-TERRORISM WEBINAR

More than 100 members and leaders from the various Religious Organisations (ROs) attended the 9th Counter-Terrorism Seminar virtually on 1 March to learn how they can guard against terror attacks and respond to emergencies as part of the national SGSecure movement.



Jointly organised by SPF and MCCY, the webinar featured officers from ISD, SPF and HTBSC sharing on the latest terrorism developments and topics such as radicalisation, the TOPSIS Programme, emergency preparedness and post-terror attack resilience.

#SGSecure #StayUnited

HOME TEAM INSIGHTS

POWERED UP



Hear from SSSGT Muzainah about how she juggled the physically demanding ERT training with caring for her two young kids.

>> go.gov.sg/spf-sssgt-muzainah

FISHY AFFAIR



Find out how our ICA Sea Domain officers detect “fishy” contraband and help to keep our borders secure!

>> go.gov.sg/ica-sea-video

Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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

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