

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

HTVN WEBINAR: TOWARDS A SOCIETY WITHOUT RE-OFFENDING

The Home Team Volunteer Network (HTVN) had its second webinar titled '*We are each other's Stories, We are each other's Second Chances*' hosted by MOS Desmond Tan on 31 May 2022.

Thank you, Yellow Ribbon Singapore colleagues and guest speakers, for the insightful sharing and enthusiastic participation from the Home Team Volunteers during the dialogue session! We hope that you have learned more about how we can create an inclusive society and give ex-offenders a second chance in life.

If you were not able to join us this time, please keep an eye out for more HTVN webinars in the future!



>> [Check out MOS Desmond Tan's FB post on the webinar](#)


HIGHLIGHTS

ENSURING INMATE WELFARE

No prison premises are out of bounds to the Board of Visiting Justices (BOVJs), who conduct random inspections within prison institutions.

BOVJs listen to inmates to ensure they have someone independent to talk to about their health and well-being in the prisons.



 Watch the video to learn more about a BOVJ inspection and what are some of the inmates' key concerns.

>> go.gov.sg/sps-bovj-100522

DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN TARGETED AT SINGAPOREANS IN RELATION TO THE UKRAINE-RUSSIA CONFLICT

MP Mr Alex Yam asked for MHA's assessment of disinformation campaigns in relation to the Russia-Ukraine conflict to influence Singaporeans and the safeguards against such campaigns.



Here's the **Written Reply by MIN K Shanmugam**:

The Ministry of Home Affairs has previously provided our reply to a similar PQ filed for the 4 April Sitting. **To date, the Government has not detected a coordinated hostile information campaign (HIC) targeted specifically at Singapore.** Nevertheless, the Member's question is opportune to remind us that **we should continue to be vigilant against efforts to draw Singaporeans into inauthentic discussions online**, and that these efforts seek to otherwise influence or divide us through hearsay, rumours, half-truths or misleading statements. **The Government will continue with its efforts to build up a well-informed and discerning public through various public education efforts that strengthen our information and media literacy skills**, so that we know how to discern the veracity of information that we encounter online.

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS AT THE FRONTLINES

MP Mr Saktiandi Supaat asked about the protection of public service workers from harassment while carrying out their duties, and whether other frontliners like private healthcare workers are protected as well.

Here's an excerpt from the **Written Reply by MIN K Shanmugam**:

Under the Protection from Harassment Act (POHA), offenders who are convicted of harassment are liable for a fine of up to \$5,000, or an imprisonment term of up to six months, or both. **Where the victim is a public servant or public service worker, the punishment is higher – offenders are liable for a fine of up to \$5,000, or an imprisonment term of up to 12 months, or both.**

For the purpose of additional protection, **POHA classifies individuals as public service workers, if their job serves the general public, and not just patrons of a private business or establishment.**

Most recently, in 2021, we expanded the list of public service workers for the purposes of additional protection under POHA, to include private healthcare workers directly involved in COVID-19 operations.

>> [Read the full Written Reply](#)



DID YOU KNOW? The Protection from Harassment (Public Service Worker) Order, or PSWO, provides enhanced protection for Public Service Workers against acts of abuse or harassment while they carry out their duties.

ZERO-TOLERANCE AGAINST DIVISIVE TEACHINGS: MIN SHANMUGAM



MIN K Shanmugam reiterated our strict stance against any form of hate speech and ideologies, and to protect all religions equally on Monday, 23 May, at a doorstep interview. This follows the spamming of social media accounts of President, PM, several political office holders and government agencies by supporters of Indonesian preacher Abdul Somad Batubara, after he was denied entry into Singapore on 16 May.

MIN said Somad’s teachings are unacceptable in Singapore, and have real world consequences as some individuals investigated by ISD, including a 17-year-old detainee, had been influenced by Somad.

MIN explained that our laws are applied equally, citing how a few years ago Singapore banned three other Christian preachers who had denigrated other religions; the banning of the film “The Kashmir Files” early this month; and the police charging a Singaporean lecturer for denigratory remarks in court last week.

>> [Watch MIN’s doorstep interview](#)

MAINTAINING TRUST IN THE HOME TEAM

The collective efforts of each of us has brought the Home Team to where it is today, acknowledged MIN K Shanmugam, as he thanked all officers for the work behind the fight against COVID-19 in his speech at the Home Team Promotion Ceremony on Tuesday 24 May. This year, a total of 7,206 were promoted. Beyond hard work, MIN Shanmugam highlighted trust as a bedrock for the HT to be able to carry out our mission

“Trust allows us to take measures, and make decisions in the longer term, and in the public interest, even if in the short term, they may be unpopular. We do what is right.”

– MIN K Shanmugam



Maintaining this trust – both from the public and within the HT – will require three ingredients: a clear framework of laws to empower the HTDs to act; firm and fair leaders who back up agencies publicly but are also prepared for internal action when mistakes are made; and disciplined and well-trained officers.

MIN Shanmugam also emphasised that technology is a priority for the HT. Officers will see continual changes with operations aided by new technologies. MIN encouraged all to push on with transformation efforts and increased use of technology. Congratulations to all promotees!

>> [Read MIN’s speech](#)

CREATING A FAIRER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN

MIN K Shanmugam joined Class 95 FM's Muttons In The Morning programme to share how the [White Paper on Singapore Women's Development](#) helps protect and create a fairer and more inclusive society for women.

Among the plans for dealing with family violence and online harms, MIN talked about safe spaces for potential victims of family violence, as well as the new NGO, SG Her Empowerment Limited (SHE), that was set up to help young women navigate the internet safely.

Beyond the action plans to provide equal opportunities in the workplace, increasing criminal penalties and more, the White Paper plays a significant role in shifting societal norms for equality for women.

MIN Shanmugam stressed that everyone needs to be involved in embracing the values of equal partnership between men and women, internalising the unique contributions that women make in our society, and recognising these contributions.



>> [Catch MIN's full interview](#)

THE NEW FRONTIERS OF BORDER SECURITY



Themed 'Many Roles, One Mission', this year's ICA Workplan Seminar reflected on its two-year fight against COVID-19, highlighting the many roles that the agency plays to uphold the vision of "Secure Borders, Safe Singapore".

Guest-of-Honour MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim commended ICA for playing multi-faceted roles in keeping our borders secure and taking up public health roles during the pandemic.

"Singapore's transition to COVID resilience marks the next phase of border control... This presents both challenges and opportunities for ICA officers. Through the transformation and training efforts, ICA will become a future-ready agency that will continue to keep Singapore's borders secure and Singaporeans safe."

– MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim

>> [Read MOS' speech](#)



ICA announced its transformation plans in the areas of border security and service delivery under the New Clearance Concept (NCC) and Services Centre Next-Gen (SCNG), and upskilling its workforce.

Under the NCC, the Automated Clearance Initiative will allow eligible foreign travellers to be enrolled during manual immigration clearance for the use of automated clearance facilities, and Special Assistance Lanes will facilitate automated clearance for travellers with reduced mobility and families. Under SCNG, ICA is committed to a 'No Fuss; No Visit; No Waiting' experience for its customers. ICA will digitise ICA-issued documents so that the public can access and retrieve them remotely via a secured platform without making a physical trip to collect the documents.

To upskill officers, they will be trained in investigation, and interviewing skills to aid them in performing their new job roles.



>> [More about ICA Workplan](#)

LAUNCH OF SANA@NORTHWEST

The Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) opened its third Step-Up Centre, SANA @Northwest, to intensify its fight against drug addiction.

This walk-in facility located at Ace the Place Community Club partners People's Association and volunteer group Path-I-Choose to help persons in recovery and their families. It also serves as a touchpoint for parents, teachers and grassroots volunteers who need resources to educate and support youths and anyone at risk of drug addiction.



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

"I am heartened to see SANA and our community partners coming together as one to serve the diverse needs of former drug abusers and their families. This is testament of our community's readiness to support anyone who wants to start a new chapter in their lives."

- MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim

TRANSFORMING HOME TEAM LEARNING



HT officers can look forward to enhanced Training and Learning offerings from Home Team Academy (HTA) in the domains of Leadership in Public Safety and Security; Simulation Training for Critical Incident Management; Evaluation and Assessment; and Online Learning. This ties in with HTA's aspirations to become the Centres of Excellence in these four domains, said CE HTA, Mr Anwar Abdullah, at the HTA Workplan Seminar.

For example, the Home Team Learning Management System (HTLMS) 2.0 will incorporate new features such as learning analytics and an AI-enabled marking system when it is ready in 2023.

To internalise the 'One Home Team' mindset and identity, the Home Team Gallery was revamped for a more immersive experience. It provides visitors with an understanding of the HT's varied roles and functions, the significance of HT integration and community partnership, and the operating challenges and importance of HT Transformation to be future-ready. A segment of the gallery allows visitors to contribute images of peaceful scenes, to trigger reflections on how the peace we enjoy is the result of HT officers' contributions.

New HT officers will visit the Gallery as part of their HT Foundation Course, while other officers can email HT_Gallery@hta.gov.sg to make visit appointments.

"We must ensure that our officers receive the best form of training we can provide... throughout their entire careers in the Home Team. The required skill sets must continuously be reviewed and updated so that our officers are always well-trained, and remain current in their ability to deal with the evolving challenges of the day."

- MOS Desmond Tan

MOS Desmond Tan, who was the Guest-of-Honour, also commended the training and learning efforts of the other Home Team Departments. Some of the HT agencies' training tools and initiatives exhibited at the Seminar include SPS' in-house prototype of the Oleoresin Capsicum Delivery System Accuracy sensor. It lets trainers receive instantaneous feedback on whether the trainee's deployment of the irritant force was on target.



>> [Read MOS' speech](#)

>> [Follow HTA's LinkedIn page for more Home Team Training and Learning updates!](#)

COUNTER-TERRORISM JOINT EXERCISE

The Home Team and SAF mounted a multi-agency exercise to test and validate our counter-terror operational readiness. Held in two phases, over 700 officers from SPF's Bedok Police Division, Tanglin Police Division, Special Operations Command (SOC), and Gurkha Contingent (GC), Singapore Civil Defence Force's (SCDF) 2nd Division, and Kallang Fire Station, as well as the SAF's Island Defence Task Force (IDTF), and Special Operations Task Force (SOTF), participated in the exercise.



HOME TEAM INSIGHTS

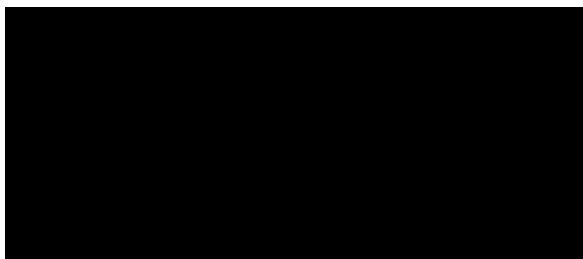
DUTY TO PROTECT



Alert at all times. Ready for anything that happens. Watch how ICA officers secure our borders:

>> go.gov.sg/ica-060522

HIDE AND SEEK



Nothing slips past the watchful eyes of our ICA officers whose mettle are tested every day. Watch how they do it:

>> go.gov.sg/ica-hide-peek-040522

Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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

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