

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SINGAPORE!



HIGHLIGHTS

HOME TEAM CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY

Catch highlights of the Home Team National Day Observance Ceremony (HT NDOC) first held physically on 4 August since COVID-19.



>> [Read Min's speech](#)

At the HT NDOC, 105 HT officers, 15 HT volunteers, eight HT partner organisations, three team projects/operations, and 82 members of the public received the Minister for Home Affairs National Day Awards. **Congratulations to all award winners!**





FIRST READING OF THE DEBT COLLECTION BILL

The Bill will regulate debt collection activities under a new framework. >> [Read the press release](#)

REGULATING THE DEBT COLLECTION INDUSTRY

Debt collection is a legitimate economic activity that helps fulfil financial obligations. The Debt Collection Bill allows MHA to regulate debt collection activities in Singapore and provides Police with the necessary levers to address dis-amenities from problematic debt collection practices.



The following regulatory regimes will be introduced:

Licensing Regime

- Debt Collection Companies, which collect third-party debt or debt which they have acquired, will need to obtain a licence.
- Debt Collectors working for licensees will need to obtain approvals.
- Licensees, key appointment holders and debt collectors will be screened and must be assessed fit and proper to be granted a licence/approval.

Class Licensing Regime

- Applies to regulated businesses, such as banks and finance companies.
- Debt Collectors working for class licensees will not need approvals.
- Class Licensees need not apply for individual licences, but will be subject to class licensing conditions.

Actions will be taken against breaches of debt collection regulations, depending on severity e.g. immediate suspension or revocation of licences and approvals, or disapplication of class licences.

The Licensing Officer may also modify conditions of licences and approvals or give directions to rectify non-compliances.



To avoid overregulation, the following will not be regulated:

- Entities whose activities have been assessed to pose a very low risk of public disorder e.g. persons carrying out court-administered debt collection activities and licensed law practices.
- Entities that collect debts owed to themselves and which are not regulated businesses e.g. individuals collecting debt personally owed to them, and in-house credit control departments collecting debt owed to the company.

Offences under the Bill include:

- Carrying out a debt collection business without a valid licence or class licence, except in the case of an excluded person.
- Deploying unapproved individuals to act as debt collectors for a debt collection business.
- Conducting debt collection activity for a debt collection business without a valid licence, unless the debt collection business is carried out by an excluded person.

FIRST READING OF THE REGISTRATION OF CRIMINAL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Bill will expand the DNA database to better solve crimes.

>> [Read the press release](#)

GRA OPERATIONAL ON 1 AUGUST

CRA has been reconstituted to the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) on 1 Aug, and is now the single regulator of all gambling matters.

>> [Read the press release](#)

Proposed Key Amendments to the Registration of Criminals Act

DNA and non-DNA identifying information, such as fingerprints and photographs, are useful tools for solving crimes.

A larger database of these information enhances the Police's investigative capabilities and aids in the solving of cases with very few leads.

The proposed key amendments will enable law enforcement agencies to carry out their duties more effectively, while safeguarding personal data.



Gambling Regulatory Authority of Singapore Act and the Gambling Control Act

The Act reconstitutes the Crime Regulatory Authority as the GRA, which will be the single regulator for all forms of gambling.

Key amendments are:

Address New Trends in Gambling

- Ensure that our laws can address the following trends:
 - Technological advancements have made gambling products more accessible and
 - Boundaries between gaming and gambling are blurring.
- Avoid the question of gambling to make it technology-neutral to cover existing and emerging gambling products.
- Clarify that social gambling among family and friends conducted in homes is allowed, as per current status upon Online social gambling will remain prohibited.
- Introduce new licensing regimes:
 - Gambling operators licensed by CRA for key products (eg. Singapore Power's products, first machine revenue and gambling in private establishments).
 - Class licences for lower-risk products (eg. mystery boxes and business promotional tickets).

Update and Harmonise Gambling Offences

- Apply a three-tier penalty structure consistently across online and physical gambling offences. The highest penalties will be imposed on operators, followed by agents, and then punters.
- Enhance penalties including mandatory imprisonment for agents and operators, impact operators who facilitate or operate unlicensed gaming services will face higher penalties.
- Criminalise easy gambling i.e. gambling on the instruction of someone outside of the gambling area.

Enhance Social Safeguards

- Raise the minimum age for gambling at 21 years old, except for gambling at Singapore Sports physical outlets, which will remain at 18 years old.
- Criminalise endorsement gambling, for it with legal or unlawful operators.



INCLUSION OF PARENTS' DIALECT INFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE

ICA Media Statement

1. The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) has received several queries about the non-inclusion of the parents' dialect in the digital birth certificate of a child.
2. Several fields of information which are not necessary for policy and other administrative needs, including the parents' dialect, were not included in the digital birth certificate, to simplify the registration process, and to reduce the number of fields. Information about the parents' dialect continues to be registered by ICA, and is available in Singpass.
3. However, we acknowledge the feelings that have been expressed on the matter. We have therefore decided to include parents' dialect^[1] in digital birth certificates issued from 1 September 2022.

Dialect Information in the Birth Certificate

4. Prior to the introduction of the digital birth certificate, the physical birth certificate of a child carried the registered dialect of the parents. It did not carry the dialect of the child.
5. With the introduction of online birth registration and the digital birth certificate to replace the physical birth certificate, the registration process was simplified. The number of fields in the digital birth certificate was also reduced. In addition to parents' dialect, the following information was excluded - the parents' country of birth, the mother's address, the child's place of birth registration, and a section called "Informant's Particulars". Only information which is required for policy or other public administration needs, was retained in the digital birth certificate.
6. The information relating to a person's dialect is still available in Singpass. Singaporeans who are 15 years and older and provisioned with a Singpass account can access their dialect information via Singpass under the Personal tab. For those below the age of 21, their dialect information can also be found in their parents' Singpass profile, under the Family tab.

Background Information

7. Upon birth, in the national registration database, ICA ascribes to a child the dialect of the father. Individuals, including the child, the father or the mother, can subsequently change his/her dialect registered with the Government via a written declaration to ICA. This means that an individual can have a different registered dialect from his/her father, or even both parents.
8. This has been the practice since the 70s. In consideration of the fact that there were races in Singapore that did not have dialect groups, individuals were allowed to also register the language/dialect that they spoke, instead of their dialect by lineage. Hence, dialect registration changed to the current practice, where individuals can change their registered dialect via a written declaration to ICA.
9. Those who wish to check the latest registered dialect of an individual can do so via the individual's Singpass, which is the authoritative source of the latest registered dialect information. The dialect information of the parents in the child's birth certificate, may not be their latest registered dialect.

Inclusion of Parents' Dialect in the Digital Birth Certificate

10. We should have made clear the reasons for not including the information on the parents' dialect in the digital birth certificate, and that the information was still available in Singpass.
11. Taking into account the feedback, however, ICA will include the parents' dialect in the digital birth certificate of a child, from 1 September 2022. For digital birth certificates issued between 29 May and 31 August 2022, parents may re-download their child's digital birth certificate from 1 September 2022 onwards, with the inclusion of the parents' dialect, at no additional cost. More details will be shared on the ICA website (www.ica.gov.sg) in due course.

^[1] Both father's dialect and mother's dialect will be reflected in the digital birth certificate.

TERRORISM THREAT REPORT

ISD released its annual Singapore Terrorism Threat Assessment Report 2022 on 13 July, noting that the terrorism threat to Singapore remains high although there is no specific intelligence of an imminent attack.

Here are **four things** to note:

#1. Threat from Islamist terrorist groups and their violent ideology persists. Their virtual network of supporters continues to disseminate propaganda, raise funds and plot attacks.

#2. The spread of radical ideologies online has fuelled the self-radicalisation threat in Singapore.

#3. Ongoing developments abroad, such as in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Ukraine, could also affect our security landscape.

#4. Public vigilance and preparedness are key components of our defence against terrorism. The public is reminded to report possible cases of radicalisation to ISD at 1800-2626-473.

SINGAPORE TERRORISM THREAT ASSESSMENT REPORT 2022

The terrorism threat to Singapore remains high. There is currently no specific intelligence of an imminent terrorist attack against Singapore. With the relaxation of pandemic restrictions and resumption of cross-border travel, terrorist elements may become more active and revisit plots that had been put on hold.

Threats to Singapore

- 1** The threat from Islamist terrorist groups and their violent ideology persists. Their virtual network of supporters continues to disseminate propaganda, raise funds and plot attacks.
- 2** The spread of radical ideologies online has fuelled the self-radicalisation threat in Singapore. Since 2015, 45 self-radicalised individuals – comprising 33 Singaporeans and 12 foreigners – have been issued with Orders of Detention or Restriction Orders under the Internal Security Act.
- 3** Ongoing developments abroad, such as in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Ukraine, could also affect our security landscape.
 - Extremist elements can exploit such conflicts and tap on grievances to promote their radical narratives and recruit supporters.
 - We must maintain a zero tolerance approach to all forms of hate speech and extremist rhetoric.

Public Vigilance and Preparedness are Key Components of Our Defence Against Terrorism

Report signs of radicalisation or suspicious activities to the Internal Security Department (ISD) at 1800-2626-473.

Visit sgsecure.gov.sg to learn more about SGSecure or sign up as an SGSecure Responder.

>> [Read the Report](#)

FIGHTING SCAMS THROUGH CONVERSATIONS

With scam cases quadrupling in the last five years, SPF's Ang Mo Kio Division and non-profit organisation RSVP Singapore have launched Project Police-RSVP Anti-Scam Engagement (PRAISE) on 30 July to tackle the situation.

The community partnership project trains senior citizens to reach out to their peers to raise anti-scam awareness and cultivate proper cyber hygiene habits.



“Having volunteers of the same age group working with the senior citizens to prevent them from falling prey is actually very important and meaningful, because people often times are more likely to trust and be able to have meaningful, trusting conversations with people who are more like them.” – MOS Sun Xueling



MOS Sun Xueling, who chairs the Inter-Ministry Committee on Scams (IMCS), said the best defence is a vigilant and discerning public.

IMCS' efforts also include detection and disruption, and enforcements efforts between the Police, their foreign counterparts and local community partners to bust scams.

>> [Read MOS' Speech](#)

BOLSTERING SG-US COOPERATION



The 6th Singapore-US Law Enforcement and Homeland Security and Safety Cooperation Dialogue (LEHSSCD) was successfully held from 13 to 14 July 2022.

Hosted in Singapore by MHA, the Dialogue was co-chaired by DS/P Puah Kok Keong and SA/Int T. Raja Kumar with US counterparts Department of Justice's Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Counselor for International Affairs Bruce Swartz, and Department of Homeland Security's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Robert Paschall. Over 80 participants from both countries engaged in lively discussions over contemporary issues such as cryptocurrency, domestic violent extremism and scams. The Singapore delegation comprised HT officers and representatives from MinLaw, Attorney General's Chambers, Council for Estate Agencies, Health Sciences Authority, Monetary Authority of Singapore, NParks and Singapore Customs.

INVESTING IN OUR OFFICERS

Building a dedicated, engaged, and skilled workforce is MHA's key priority, because it is impossible for the Home Team to fulfil its mission without its people, said 2MIN Josephine Teo at the MHA Scholarships and Sponsorships Award Ceremony held on 15 July. She stressed the need for the Home Team to invest in officers' development while congratulating the 148 recipients this year.



“We will continue to invest heavily in recruiting passionate and talented officers, developing our officers by equipping them with the skills to excel, and taking care of our officers' well-being.”

- 2MIN Josephine Teo

Amidst challenges such as the tight fiscal and manpower situation and the increasingly unpredictable operating environment, there will be strong emphasis on officers' growth and career development, through skills training, leadership development, and academic upgrading.

>> [Read 2Min's Speech](#)

AED-ON-WHEELS



To increase the chances of survival for persons suffering cardiac arrests, the SCDF-Ninja Van AED-on-Wheels Programme, the fifth of such collaboration with community partners, was launched by MOS Sun Xueling on 7 July.

The programme equips 50 of Ninja Van's delivery vehicles with AEDs and drivers will be mobilised to respond to cardiac arrest cases while on the roads. The courier service is the first logistics sector company to participate, and has equipped its participating vehicles with first aid kits and fire extinguishers as well, to respond to minor fires and traffic accidents. Since the programme started in November 2015, participating drivers have responded to 168 cardiac arrest cases.

>> [Read MOS' Speech](#)

TWO WHEELS GOOD

To promote the benefits of cycling and raise funds for charity, CE HTX Chan Tsan and **HTX officers together with MIN K Shanmugam, MOS Sun Xueling as well as a number of Members of Parliament**, cycled 11km on 15 July as part of the HTX Annual Cycle 2022.



This year, 443 HTX officers signed up to cycle alone or in teams, and have already clocked 32,563.23km collectively since the flag-off last Friday. By weekend, the distance covered is estimated to equal the earth's circumference (40,075km).

HTX also aims to raise **\$50,000 and more to fund non-profit organisation Engineering Good** that refurbishes used laptops to help underprivileged families and individuals.

>> [More about the Event](#)

FOSTERING COMMUNAL HARMONY



To sensitise youths to the threat of violent extremism and the community's role in maintaining social cohesion, MOS Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim attended a roundtable discussion with undergraduates from the NTU Muslim Society on 16 July.

"...the pandemic has deepened our racial and religious fault lines... precipitated by the stressors of COVID-19. This underscores the fragility of our communal relations, and the need to continually tend to our social cohesion during peacetime so as to build a united and resilient society that can withstand crises."

- MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim



Themed "Strengthening Social Cohesion Through Peacebuilding", the engagement was organised by the Inter-Agency Aftercare Group, Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) and Taman Bacaan.

During the dialogue, MOS Faishal stressed the need to be on guard against extremist threats, particularly self-radicalisation via the spread of radical ideologies online, and build bridges among different racial and religious groups to shore up social resilience during peacetimes.

>> [Read MOS' Speech](#)

GO DIGITAL FOR 1-1 MOVIE BENEFIT

Good news for HomeTeamNS members!

Now you can enjoy 1-for-1 movie tickets, all day, every day, at Cathy Cineplexes. All you need to do is to book your tickets directly on the HomeTeamNS Mobile App.

This latest offering, launched by MOS Faishal on 15 July, is part of HomeTeamNS's digitalisation push to bridge members' online and offline experiences in a more seamless manner.

Not a member yet? [Apply for the membership today!](#)



>> [Read MOS' Speech](#)

SHARING BEST PRACTICES



SCDF DART and UK International Search and Rescue held a joint exercise to learn from each other. For more:

>> [Click here to watch](#)

FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE



Watch how officers at ICA Air Cargo Command safeguard our borders against attempts to ship in illegal items:

>> [Click here to watch](#)

YELLOW RIBBON RACE (YRR) 2022



🎗️ EXCITED? YOU SHOULD BE!

Registration for the Yellow Ribbon Race (YRR) 2022 Virtual and Physical categories is now open! 🇸🇬

- **Virtual Race: 1 – 30 September 2022**
Regardless of distance or duration, participate in the **YR Care** category on either Foot, Water and/or Wheels. You can do it at your own pace and time too!
For avid duathlon participants who prefer a challenge, join the **YR Courageous** category and clock in the distance for running (20km) and cycling (60km) routes.
- **Physical Run: 25 September 2022**
If you miss the joy of outdoor events, we got you! Held in the Changi Prison Complex, grab a friend or a loved one and indulge in the atmosphere and fun activities. Meet fellow running enthusiasts and people from all walks of life while raising awareness for second chances. Participate in the 6km or 10km run; it's entirely up to you!

Register here: www.yellowribbonrace.sg

Psst, Home Team Volunteers can use the promo code *YRR22HTVNVOL* upon registration to enjoy the early bird rates. Hurry, fastest fingers first!

>> [Follow YRSG's FB for more details!](#)

