

# Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



## EDITOR'S PICK

### FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE FOR SOCIAL HARMONY

In an interview with ST and ZB on Monday (22 August), MIN K Shanmugam further explained the rationale for repealing s377A and how the Constitution will protect pro-family policies.

Implication of the Latest Court of Appeal Judgement

- The judgement signalled that s377a could potentially be unconstitutional. The legal risk is not only to s377A; the definition of marriage itself can be challenged.
- Thus our laws and policies built on the current definition of marriage (e.g. public housing, education, media), could be challenged.

The Right Thing for Parliament to Do

- Gay people are part of our society. They deserve dignity, respect, and acceptance. It would be wrong to continue criminalising their sexuality and what they do in private.
- The role of Parliament is to balance differing interests to take society forward. The right balance will keep social harmony and our social fabric intact.

How the Constitution will be Amended

- Instead of constitutionalising the definition of marriage, what will be constitutionalised is how Parliament defines marriage - as it is now in the Women's Charter - and which will define other pro-family policies.
- To change the definition of marriage to allow same-sex marriage will require a change in Parliament i.e. change in the Government.



>> [Read the Transcript of MIN's Interview](#)

>> [Watch MIN's Interview](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT SURVEY (VES) FINDINGS



Last year, HTVN conducted a Volunteer Engagement Survey (VES) with 2,000 Home Team volunteers across the 11 volunteer schemes so that we can better understand your perception and how engaged you are with the Home Team.

The last VES was conducted in 2018.

>> Click [here](#) to hear what some of the volunteers had to say!

[#HTVNVESFindings2021](#)

[#OrdinaryPeopleExtraordinaryMission](#)



## SECOND READING OF THE DEBT COLLECTION BILL

The Debt Collection Bill was passed in Parliament on 13 September. The Bill aims to:

- Allow MHA to better address dis-amenities that may arise from problematic conduct of debt collection
- Improve the profile of the debt collection industry and enhance Singapore's position as a business-friendly hub

>> [Read the Second Reading Speech by MOS Sun Xueling](#)

>> [Read the Wrap-Up Speech by MOS Sun Xueling](#)

### 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<sup>[1]</sup>
- 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.

[1] For more info, refer to: <https://go.gov.sg/debt-collection-bill-2022>



## AMENDMENTS TO TWO ACTS



### Prisons Act

Tranche one of the amendments include a new Employment Preparation Scheme (EmPS) that will replace the Work Release Scheme. EmPS will allow eligible inmates to not only work, but also study and upgrade their skills in the community towards the tail-end of their sentences. This will enhance their employability.

>> [MOS Faishal's soundbite on EmPS](#)

### Police Force Act

A second set of amendments will strengthen SPF's disciplinary, administrative and human resources processes, and reinforce controls over the Auxiliary Police Forces (APFs). The remaining amendment to the Police Force Act, to protect officers from legal liability for acts done in good faith and with reasonable care, will take effect at a later date.

>> [Read the press release](#)

### MIN K SHANMUGAM'S INTERVIEW ON DRUGS, DEATH PENALTY

Malaysian media Astro Awani aired an interview on 30 August with MIN K Shanmugam on Singapore's stand on drugs and the death penalty.



Here are the **key points**:

#### The Death Penalty Works in Singapore's Context

- Traffickers bring in drugs below the threshold amount, to avoid the death penalty. Thus, the supply is constricted and thousands of lives are saved.
- Surveys of residents in the region and in Singapore showed strong support for the death penalty, and believe it is a very effective deterrent to drug trafficking.
- Even if Malaysia abolishes the mandatory death sentence, Singapore is unlikely to follow suit. We have to consider our own policy position.

#### Singapore's International Reputation Did Not Suffer Over the Executions

- The majority view Singapore as a well-managed country. Foreign investment is high and applications for permanent residency or citizenships far exceeds the number we can give.
- Our tough laws have made living in Singapore safe.

#### Regional Developments Impact Singapore's Drug Fight

- The greater availability of cannabis in Thailand, a tourist hotspot, is going to present more challenges.
- If Malaysia legalises marijuana, cannabis or other drugs, given the even greater flow of people between Malaysia and Singapore compared to Thailand and Singapore, it will be more challenging to keep Singapore drug free.

>> [Watch MIN's interview](#)

>> [Read MIN's interview transcript](#)

### NEW CHAPTER RENEWED PURPOSE



2Min Josephine Teo, GRA Chairman Tan Tee How and GRA Chief Executive Teo Chun Ching launching the new GRA corporate logo

Following its reconstitution from the Casino Regulatory Authority on 1 August, the **Gambling Regulatory Authority of Singapore (GRA)** held its inauguration ceremony and first workplan seminar on Tuesday (16 August).

Guest-of-Honour 2Min Josephine Teo commended GRA for having come a long way since its beginnings as the Casino Regulation Division in MHQ 17 years ago. 2Min urged officers to keep up the good work and stay agile, given how **technology has made gambling more accessible, and changing consumer preferences have also given rise to new gambling products where the boundaries between gambling versus gaming have blurred.**



**“The gambling landscape will continue to evolve. But so long as we remain anchored on our mission and values, I am confident that you will be able to overcome these challenges.”** – 2Min Josephine Teo

>> [Read 2Min’s speech](#)

## ENHANCING DISASTER RESILIENCE



The annual ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2022 was held with the aim to sharpen the region’s disaster management policies and formulate long-term strategies. Themed **“The Future of Disaster Resilience is Now: Are We Ready?”**, the dialogue this year focused on forward-looking ideas that can potentially enhance disaster

resilience with an emphasis on the importance to act and invest now.

Gracing the event was 2Min Josephine Teo who reiterated the **importance of investing in disaster resilient infrastructure, and having close cooperation among stakeholders at the national and regional level.**

**“ASEAN is one of the regions in the world most impacted by climate change. We will see sea levels rising, and more extreme changes in weather patterns... Natural disasters will occur more frequently, and will be more severe. We must collectively try to mitigate their catastrophic and tragic effects.”** – 2Min Josephine Teo

>> [Read 2Min’s speech](#)



## ENGAGING STUDENTS AGAINST TERRORISM



The SGSecure Programme Office together with ISD and MOE have been organising **workshops for students to sensitise young minds against the terrorism threat.**

At one recent workshop with Temasek JC student leaders, **MOS Sun Xueling shared her experience in handling the topic of terrorism and radicalisation proactively and sensitively.**



>> [Check out MOS Sun’s FB post](#)

**ROBOT ESCORT**



Meet the new robot guide for travellers who need help, on trial from now till mid-November at Tuas Checkpoint:

>> [Click here to watch](#)

**FINE DINING IN PRISON**



Watch Youtuber Ghib Ojisan try the top three dishes from the Yellow Ribbon Culinary Competition 2022:

>> [Click here to watch](#)

**SCAMS ON THE RISE**



Scams continued to drive up the number of crimes, SPF's mid-year statistics released on Monday showed.

**Total scam cases reported rose to 14,349** in the first half of 2022, almost twice the number in the same period last year.

Housebreaking and robbery cases recorded a 10-year low.

>> [Read the report](#)

Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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

