MHA COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY DEBATE 2024

United and Secure – Safeguarding Singapore's Future

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

BUDGET 2024

Preserving Unity and Protecting Our Racial and Religious Harmony

Singaporeans are not immune to external events. We must prioritise the maintenance of our racial and religious harmony, while continuing to provide a safe space for Singaporeans to express their views.

- ☑ Introduce the Maintenance of Racial Harmony Act to supplement existing legislations as part of our consistent efforts to maintain racial and religious harmony.

- ☑ Introduce softer reparative measures to help the aggrieved community take a more reconciliatory view towards an offender and strengthen mutual understanding between races.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

BUDGET 2024

Empowering the Home Team for the Future

We will continue to leverage technology to enhance operational capabilities, service delivery and reduce our reliance on manpower.

We will develop our Next-Gen officers by investing in technology to help them develop new competencies.

✅ Use smart and autonomous systems, such as patrol robots and Police cameras (PolCam), to enhance sense-making and situation awareness.

✅ Launch ICA Service Centre in 2025 where the public will be served via a single touchpoint even if they require multiple immigration services.

✅ Roll out an enhanced myResponder 2.0 application with new features including a video call function for live guidance by SCDF Operations Centre personnel.

BUDGET 2024

Transforming Corrections, Countering Drugs

While Singapore's drug situation remains under control, the impact of global trends, particularly on our youths, is worrying.

We will continue to strengthen our harm prevention approach to combat drug abuse, and work in partnership with the community to keep Singapore drug-free and reduce long-term recidivism.

1. Launch of SPS Corrections 2030

✅ Reduce recidivism, prevent intergenerational offending, and better support reintegration.

✅ More comprehensive support, such as marriage counselling, to help inmates rebuild relationships with their families.

✅ Maximise employability and career opportunities of ex-offenders under YRSG's TAP & Grow initiative.
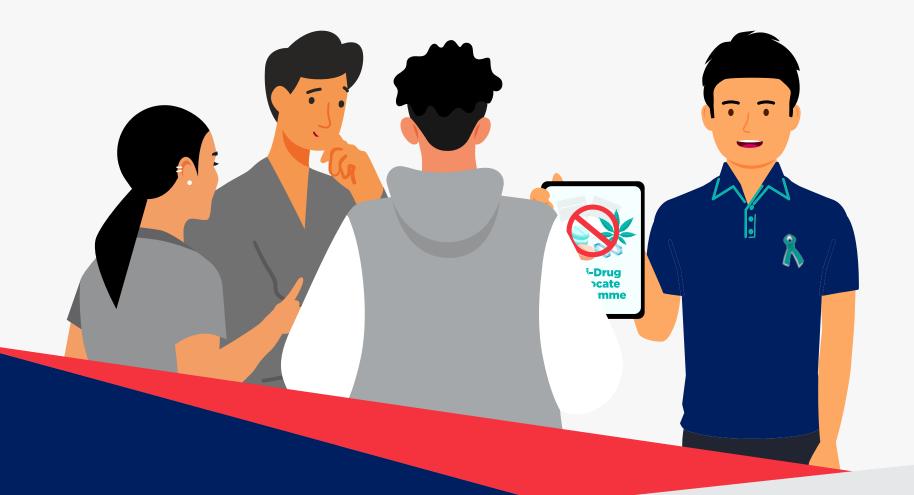
Yellow Ribbon
sg Beyond Second Chances

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

BUDGET 2024

Transforming Corrections, Countering Drugs

2. Inter-Ministry Committee on Drug Prevention for Youths

- ☑ Launch "Drug Victims Remembrance Day" to remember victims of drug abuse.

- ☑ Expand teaching of drug harms in schools to science and general paper subjects.

- ☑ Enhance preventive drug education for NSmen and better equip NS commanders to identify and support drug abusers and those at risk.

3. Strengthen Rehabilitation and Aftercare

- ☑ Enhanced drug supervision regime under Supervision 2.0 to improve monitoring and provide better support for drug supervisees.

- ☑ Continue to partner community organisations to offer pro-social support to abusers in the Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

BUDGET 2024

Advancing the Fight Against Scams

We will continue to work closely with our partners across the Whole-of-Government (WOG), international agencies, private sector and community to combat scams.

1. Partnering WOG and Industry Stakeholders

- ✅ Telcos now block likely scam calls and SMSes from reaching victims in Singapore.

- ✅ Banks have introduced new banking features to secure monies in bank accounts, such as "Kill Switch" and "Money Lock".

- ✅ Government agencies and banks have upgraded e-services to protect users from malware scams.

- ✅ Online platforms, such as Shopee and Carousell, are working closely with Police to strengthen their user verification process.

- ✅ Carousell is the newest addition in the Anti-Scam Command that houses police and bank officers. Co-location of staff helps to stamp scams faster.

Advancing the Fight Against Scams

2. Updating Legislative Levers

☑ Progressively operationalise the Online Criminal Harms Act (OCHA) to give Police the legal power to issue directions to online platforms to prevent scam accounts and content from interacting with or reaching Singapore users.

☑ Introduce legislative amendments to deter the misuse of local SIM cards for scams and other criminal activities.

3. Leveraging Technology and Public Education

☑ Enhance ScamShield to improve the accuracy of scam SMS detection, and allow users to report scams more easily.

☑ Launch a one stop portal with information on latest scams trends and where victims of scams can seek help.

☑ Introduce measures to protect those who refuse to believe they are being scammed.

☑ Expand existing community initiatives to include cybercrimes, such as Cyber Guardians on Watch and Crime Prevention Ambassador (Cyber) programmes.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

BUDGET 2024