## **Home Team Connects**

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



#### EDITOR'S PICK

Meet Mrs Gopal, one of our remarkable COP volunteers and a crime prevention ambassador who has been serving the community for more than two decades!





>> Read Volunteers in Blue: Mrs Gopal Vivakaambal

#### MHA IN PARLIAMENT







### Maintenance of Racial Harmony Bill

5 Things You Need to Know

1 🔊

#1 Presidential Council for Racial and Religious Harmony ("PCRRH") to be Established

The Bill will replace the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony with the PCRRH.

This independent council will:

- Advise the Minister for Home Affairs or Parliament on matters relating to the maintenance of racial and religious harmony in Singapore; and
- Make recommendations to the President on Restraining Orders.





#### Background

The state of Racial Harmony in Singapore is strong. This Bill further strengthens our ability to safeguard our social cohesion.



It takes close reference from existing legislation (i.e. Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act & Penal Code).

We consulted widely with members of the public. Majority supported the proposals in the Bill.

2

#2 Restraining Orders ("ROs") can Prohibit Communication, Production, or Distribution of Content Prejudicial to Racial Harmony

ROs can be issued to restrain a person from engaging in actions such as distributing specified information or material.

This is similar to the RO regime in the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act ("MRHA").

The issuance of such ROs is subject to safeguards, like those in the MRHA.



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# #3 Current Race-Related Offences will be Ported Over and Updated

Existing Penal Code offences relating to race will be consolidated under the Bill.

Updates have been made to align the offence provisions with the equivalent provisions in the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act, including:

- Increased penalties for race-related offences; and
- Introduction of explicit defences for conduct which are private or domestic in nature, or pointing out racial issues in good faith.



#4 Introduction of Community Remedial Initiative ("CRI")

Racial incidents can damage ties between racial groups; criminal prosecution alone cannot repair community ties.

The Bill will introduce the CRI, under which

suitable alleged offenders may be offered the opportunity to undertake programmes, to learn from and make amends for the racist conduct,

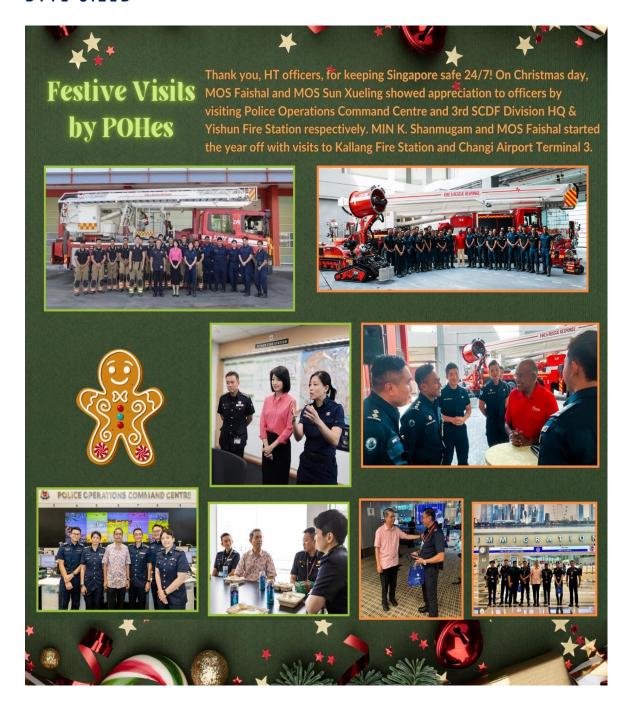
thereby soothing communal tensions and repairing ties between the communities.







#### BYTE-SIZED





#### **FEATURES**



SPS and YRSG collaborated with Mediacorp to produce "Another Wok of Life".

Featuring #CaptainsofLives from Selarang Park Complex and Changi Prison Complex, and YRSG's Hope Café!

Catch the Drama on MeWatch from 13 January, or on Channel 8, weekdays 9pm from 16 Jan onwards!



#### YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS



#### **Connect with Us!**





















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

























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