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POSITIVE RECIDIVISM RATE A RESULT OF CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN PRISONS AND ITS KEY PARTNERS

Singapore's Recidivism Rate Remains One of the Lowest in the World

1. Singapore's recidivism rate has decreased remarkably from 44.4 per cent for the 1998 release cohort to the current 27.3 per cent for the 2008 release cohort. Compared to other nations, Singapore's current recidivism rate is considered low.

Table 1: Overall Recidivism Rate in Singapore

Release Cohort of 2006	Release Cohort of 2007	Release Cohort of 2008
25.1%	26.5%	27.3%

2. "Through the numerous rehabilitation and counselling programmes, we have helped many inmates, who are amenable to change, turn over a new leaf and equipped them with basic life-skills and knowledge to help them in their reintegration to society," said Mr Desmond Chin, Deputy Director of Singapore Prison Service (SPS). "But these successes would not have been possible if not for the unwavering support we have received from our partners such as aftercare agencies SACA, SANA & ISCOS, our Prison volunteers and the community at large. They have played a critical role in helping us keep Singapore's recidivism rate low."
3. SPS leverages on a rigorous and strict inmate management regime, and an effective and targeted rehabilitation framework, to create an environment where deserving inmates are provided with the opportunity and inspired with the motivation to change and to break the offending cycle. Various rehabilitation programmes addressing stress, drug addiction, anger management, violence, family and reintegration have been introduced. Similarly, the Kaki Bukit Centre (Prison School) functions as an educational institute to enhance academic training and to improve inmates' educational qualifications.

SPS Steps Up Efforts to Help Drug Offenders Break the Offending Cycle

4. The total convicted penal and drug rehabilitation centre (DRC) inmate population stands at 11,919 in 2010, of which 6,995 are convicted drug offenders, and they represent about 58.7% of the 2010 inmate population.

Table 2: Total Convicted Penal Population + DRC Population (as at 31 Dec of each year)

	Y2008	Y2009	Y2010
Total Convicted Penal Population + DRC Population	11,191	11,901	11, 919

Table 3: Snapshot of Number of Drug Offenders (including DRC population) (as at 31 Dec of each year)

	Y2008	Y2009	Y2010
Drug-related Offender Population	5,699	6,629	6,995

5. As part of the continued efforts to treat and rehabilitate drug offenders, SPS expanded its DRC regime at the end of 2008. The expanded DRC programme now covers all controlled drugs, and all convicted drug offenders will undergo a similar DRC regime, regardless of the drugs abused. Prior to admission, all drug offenders will go through an extensive assessment by Prison counsellors, after which they will be channelled to a treatment programme of low, moderate or high treatment intensity, depending on the severity of their addiction. A critical component of the regime is the Community Based Programme (CBP-DRC), which allows motivated and suitable offenders to serve the tail-end of the DRC detention either at home (Residential Scheme) or at halfway houses (Halfway House Scheme), for a period of 6 to 12 months. The CBP-DRC regime provides offenders a conducive environment where, with the support of their families and the community, they may be rehabilitated from their addiction.
6. “The social environment that an ex-offender enters after release is of utmost importance. The family and the community play a crucial role in effecting a positive change in the lives of amenable offenders and helping them stay out of prison after they have been released,” added Mr Desmond Chin.

Encourage Greater Community Partnership to Strengthen Aftercare Efforts

7. Recommendations made by the Committee on the Prevention of Re-offending (CPR) in mid-2010 called on SPS to work even more closely with community partners, including the CARE Network, to provide aftercare support for ex-offenders. A number of initiatives have since been piloted or expanded, including the **befriender service** for inmates by the Singapore Aftercare Association (SACA). The Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) also continues to work with SPS to conduct aftercare programmes which aid the ex-drug offenders and their families in their reintegration journey. In addition, modelling after the **WE CARE** project of Admiralty constituency, where the grassroots are mobilised to support families of offenders in their neighbourhood, similar programmes will be introduced in various other constituencies.
8. “Ultimately, inmates and ex-offenders must be motivated and willing to change. We will continue to work together with our partner agencies, volunteers and the public at large to provide more rehabilitation opportunities to help motivated ex-offenders to stay crime-free,” highlighted Mr Desmond Chin.

- Ends -

Note to Editor:

Recidivism Rate: Defined as the percentage of local inmates who are released and subsequently detained or convicted and imprisoned again for a new offence within 2 years of their release.

About the Singapore Prison Service

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) is an agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs. As a key member of the Home Team, SPS operates a secure and exemplary prison system. SPS protects society through the safe custody and rehabilitation of offenders, co-operating with its partners in prevention and aftercare. The SPS is committed to realising its Captains of Lives vision. Its team of uniformed officers and civilian staff work together to realise its vision of steering offenders towards becoming responsible citizens with the help of their family and the community.

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Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics 2010

The following statistics aim to provide our partners with pertinent information that can facilitate their understanding of our role in protecting society through the safe custody and rehabilitation of offenders. The type and depth of information to be published was decided based on feedback from our partners and the public.

Snapshot of Convicted Penal Inmate Population (as at 31 December of each year)

		Y2008	Y2009	Y2010
Total Convicted Penal Population		10,628	11,288	11,154
Gender	Male	9,673	10,302	10,156
	Female	955	986	998
Age Grp	Below 21	553	570	546
	21 - 30	2,367	2,390	2,206
	31 - 40	3,465	3,483	3,248
	41 - 50	2,922	3,203	3,279
	51 - 60	1,186	1,463	1,658
	Above 60	135	179	217
Edu Level¹	No Edu	219	209	172
	Pri	4,324	4,540	4,442
	Sec	5,072	5,377	5,415
	Pre - U	175	178	173
	Vocational	602	697	670
	Tertiary & Above	236	287	282
Main Offence Grp²	Crimes Against Person	598	604	503
	Property Crimes	2,252	1,969	1,745
	Commercial Crimes	598	674	598
	Drug Offences	5,136	6,016	6,230
	Immigration Offences	631	492	475
	Crime Against Public Order	249	303	243
	Crimes Under Woman's Charter	26	14	32
	Traffic Offences	73	86	57
	Other Offences	1,065	1,130	1,271

¹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

² Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only.

Snapshot of Drug Rehabilitation Centre³ Population (as at 31 December of each year)

		Y2008	Y2009	Y2010
Total DRC Population		563	613	765
Gender	Male	453	501	622
	Female	110	112	143
Age Grp	Below 21	41	44	65
	21 - 30	171	211	257
	31 - 40	140	181	213
	41 - 50	133	116	155
	51 - 60	77	57	68
	Above 60	1	4	7
Edu Level⁴	No Edu	11	16	11
	Pri	189	190	210
	Sec	309	316	442
	Pre - U	10	20	10
	Vocational	34	56	63
	Tertiary & Above	10	15	29

Recidivism Rates

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2006	Release Cohort 2007	Release Cohort 2008
Overall	25.1%	26.5%	27.3%

³ DRC regime is meant for local inmates only.

⁴ As declared by inmates upon admission.