

**HOMETEAMNS AWARDS 2023, HOMETEAMNS BEDOK  
RESERVOIR – SPEECH BY MR MUHAMMAD FAISHAL  
IBRAHIM, MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF HOME  
AFFAIRS & MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
5 APR 2023**

**Board of Governors,  
Management Committee,  
HomeTeamNS Volunteers, Ladies  
and Gentlemen.**

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1. A very good evening to all of you.**
- 2. Today, I am happy to be here to mark the fifth edition of the HomeTeamNS Awards.**
- 3. Heartiest congratulations to the 63 awardees who have contributed to HomeTeamNS's mission of deepening bonds among Home Team National Servicemen.**

**I. TRIBUTE TO HOME TEAM NATIONAL SERVICEMEN**

- 4. Home Team National Servicemen are an integral part of the Home Team.**

- You work and train alongside our Regular officers and perform many of the same duties.
  - At the frontline, you are deployed in many critical areas of safety and security.
    - Dealing with crime;
    - Maintaining law and order; and
    - Saving lives. Most recently, two full-time SCDF National Servicemen were part of the Operation Lionheart search and rescue mission in Turkiye.<sup>1</sup>
5. Your efforts have helped to make Singapore one of the safest and most secure countries in the world. Our citizens feel safe and trust our law enforcement agencies.
- Gallup's 2022 Law and Order Index ranked Singapore as the safest country in the world.
  - Singapore also has one of the lowest fire fatality rates in the world, according to the World Fire Statistics Report released in 2022.
6. However, there are challenges ahead for the Home Team.
7. Safety and security threats are constantly evolving.

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- **Scams in various forms – phishing scams, e-commerce scams, investment scams and job scams – remain a major concern.**

**Methamphetamine trafficking is increasing in the region. The level of cannabis abuse among our youth has returned to preCovid levels.**

- **Terrorism and self-radicalisation are still serious threats.**
  - **Just in December 2022 and January 2023, two selfradicalised youths aged just 15 and 16 were issued with orders under the Internal Security Act.**

• **We must continue to manage issues of identity along racial, religious and political lines sensitively.**

- **Or risk serious repercussions for our social cohesion.**

• **Our multi-racial and multi-religious society makes us potentially vulnerable to misinformation and foreign influence campaigns.**

▫ **Chat applications and social media platforms have made it easier, faster and cheaper to carry out malicious campaigns against us.**

**8. We need to remain vigilant against these threats, maintain high public trust and deliver on our mission.**

9. I thank you, our Home Team National Servicemen, for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us to safeguard our way of life.

**II. RECOGNISING EFFORTS OF HOMETEAMNS VOLUNTEERS**

10. It is precisely to recognise the contributions of SPF and SCDF National Servicemen that HomeTeamNS was set up in Apr 2005, some 18 years ago.

11. More than a regular recreation club, HomeTeamNS aims to build stronger bonds among National Servicemen and their families, and within the wider Home Team.

12. Many of you here today have gone one step further, serving your fellow National Servicemen by volunteering your time and expertise to HomeTeamNS.

13. I am heartened to hear that our current volunteer network has a total of 132 active National Servicemen volunteers, serving in various committees.

14. For volunteers who have completed their tenures, I am also happy to hear that you are now part of the *HomeTeamNS Guardian Network* and will step up when required.

15. I hope you find your roles meaningful and continue to build on the network's mission of "Creating a Future Together".

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16. Let me highlight some of the contributions of our volunteers.

17. First, you have built state-of-the-art and best-in-class clubhouses.

The Clubhouse Development Committees comprise multidisciplinary teams of architects, landscape specialists, construction experts, and safety and security experts.

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You conducted extensive research to learn what your fellow National Servicemen want – space and facilities for interaction and gatherings, a family-oriented environment, and to have a clubhouse that they are proud to be associated with.

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Beyond development, National Servicemen volunteers from the Clubhouse Executive Committees also provide invaluable expert advice and support to better manage our network of clubhouses.

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I am proud to see the well-developed and managed Khatib and Bedok Reservoir Clubhouses. These clubhouses are a firm testimony of the contributions of our Home Team National Servicemen to their fellow Servicemen.

□ I look forward to the next clubhouse in Tengah.

18. **Second, you have brought more value to members through digitalisation.**

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The Information and Technology, Branding and Publicity Committees have worked together to roll out several state-of-the-art digitalisation features.

. Some of these include the HomeTeamNS mobile app and keyless access to our East Villa at this clubhouse.

19. Third, you have continued to organise events to engage National Servicemen and foster bonds.

. For instance, the REAL Run and GolfLinks Committees have played key roles in the planning and execution of HomeTeamNS's signature events, to keep our National Servicemen, friends and family connected.

### **III. HOMETEAMNS AWARDS**

20. Tonight, to appreciate your exemplary contributions,

- . 35 of you will receive the Long Service Award; and
- . 27 will receive the Meritorious Award.
- . Let me share some information on our award recipients.

#### **Long Service Awards**

21. First, Deputy Assistant Commissioner (NS) Mohd Azhar Bin Yusof.



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- **Azhar is one of our 15-Year Long Service Award recipients.**

**He started volunteering in 2006, as Vice-Chairman of the HomeTeamNS REAL Run committee.**

- **Azhar has served on various committees, including the East and North Development Committees, and has overseen the development of the Khatib and Bedok Reservoir clubhouses.**

- **He has also most recently been appointed as a member of the Executive Committee of HomeTeamNS Bedok Reservoir.**

- **In his day job, Azhar is the Head of CoachSG at the Singapore Sports Institute.**

- **He has generously lent his expertise in the curation of gym equipment and zone planning at the Fitness Workz Garage at level 4 of this clubhouse.**

- **The next time you work out, you can thank Azhar for his contributions.**

## **22. Captain (NS) Raja Kamarul Bahrin.**

- **Raja is the sole recipient of the 20-Year Long Service Award.**



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- **He has served as a HomeTeamNS volunteer since 2002 and has been Chairman of the GolfLinks Interest Group for the past 14 years.**

- **As an avid golfer, he has led his team of like-minded HomeTeamNS volunteers with gusto.**

**He is committed to sharing the joys of golf with other likeminded HomeTeamNS members through organising activities and programmes at subsidised rates for all to enjoy.**

- **Under his leadership, various signature events such as Annual Golf Championships and the Monthly Golf Friendly matches, were introduced.**

### **Meritorious Awards**

**23. Superintendent (NS) Jim Tan is the Co-Chairman of the East Development Committee.**

- **Over the past few years, Jim has diligently led his team to develop and operationalise this beautiful Bedok Reservoir Clubhouse.**

- **An architect by training, he provided extensive guidance to the project team, which was useful in mitigating construction delays and other challenges brought about by the pandemic.**

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- He often went above and beyond by undertaking the responsibility to inspect site conditions in his personal time, to ensure the project was completed on time.

- For his outstanding contributions to HomeTeamNS, Jim has been conferred the Meritorious Gold Award.

**24. We also have Lieutenant Colonel (NS) Jahan De Silva.**

Jahan is the Chairman of the Information and Technology Committee and has been instrumental in the setting up of HomeTeamNS Bedok Reservoir's IT infrastructure network.

- He constantly provides feedback and professional insights to shape HomeTeamNS's IT capabilities and is a source of motivation to the Committee and HomeTeamNS staff.

- Jahan's exceptional contributions to HomeTeamNS have not gone unnoticed, and he has been conferred the Meritorious Gold Award in recognition of his outstanding efforts.

**25. Thank you, Azhar, Raja, Jim and Jahan, and all our award winners, for your contributions to HomeTeamNS.**

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

**26. I would also like to express my appreciation to**

- All our HomeTeamNS volunteers who have completed their service with HomeTeamNS; and
- Welcome those who will be taking up new appointments.

**27. To all HomeTeamNS volunteers, I thank you for your contributions:**

- To the nation;
- To HomeTeamNS; and
- To your fellow Home Team National Servicemen.

- 28. HomeTeamNS is truly a set-up led by NSmen, for NSmen.
- 29. Congratulations again to all award recipients.