SMS US!

Simply SMS us at 9112 5929. Three lucky workers to offer their feedback will receive mystery prizes from us.

SMS your feedback in English and end it with your work permit number. Example:"Hi MOM, you newsletter is good and informative. WP 0 7245596"

NOTE: The mobile number provided is not valid for voice calls.

YOU DESERVE A

SAFE AND CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Recent news reports have highlighted that some foreign workers in Singapore are forced to stay in bad living conditions and that their employers did not take care of their well-being.

While you work in Singapore, you have the right to live in acceptable accommodation. Your employer is required by law to ensure that you have such accommodation during your term of employment in Singapore.

Your accommodation should be well-maintained, clutter-free, and not overcrowded. However, in order to ensure your living space is clean, comfortable and safe, every one of you must play a part to maintain it, by tidying and cleaning your living areas regularly.

If you are housed in unacceptable accommodation, you should inform MOM so that we can take action and help you. All the information provided will be kept strictly confidential.

You can contact us at:

Address
Ministry of Manpower Service Centre
1500 Bendemeer Road
Singapore 339946

Telephone
6438 5122

MOM Welcomes our Foreign Worker Ambassadors

MOM AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

MOM held its first "Foreign Worker Cascading Workshop: An MOM Ambassador Programme" on 16 November 2014. The objective was to promote an information-sharing culture among our foreign workers (FWs), and impart more knowledge to them while they work here. A group of FWs from various dormitories and companies were invited to attend the workshop and become our ambassadors.

These ambassadors were nominated by their dormitory operators and companies for their leadership abilities and positive influence they exert amongst their peers.

MOM hopes to equip these ambassadors with important and useful information on employment conditions and regulations, so that they can in turn share them with their friends. Each ambassador received a goodie bag filled with educational collaterals and gifts. Extra sets of brochures, calling cards and comic books were also provided for our ambassadors' friends.

The workshop was interactive, fun and yet educational for our Indian, Chinese and Bangladeshi ambassadors. The ambassadors were treated to cultural performances and presentations on MOM messages mixed with skits and role play. The ambassadors won prizes when they participated in stage games and quizzes to show they understood MOM's messages.

Another highlight of the workshop was the educational booths set up by various public agencies and organisations to educate the FW ambassadors. Besides MOM messages, our ambassadors were also educated on other important messages and regulations.

Workers Give the Workshop the Thumbs Up

Three workers shared their thoughts on the workshop, and also on becoming ambassadors.

"I find this workshop very meaningful, and it helped me to better understand all the important information. With more information, I believe it will be helpful to my work." said Mr Liu Song Pin, 33, a construction worker from China who has worked in Singapore for the past one year.

"Wearing our PPE is very important. We agree that we must consult MOM on any matters if we have problems. (sic)", said Chidambaram Ilaiaraja, a 28-year-old construction worker from Sim Lian Construction Co. (Pte.) Ltd. Ilaiaraja who attended the programme with his colleagues said that they will convey the messages learnt and also explain to their friends how MOM can help them.

Another participant Pinto Ahmmad Sirijul Islam, 30, an electrician from Kingsmen Exhibits Pte Ltd also echoed the same sentiment. He said, "Good programme. I learnt about work safety and if there's any problem with our employers, we can consult MOM. I will also tell my friends about the regulations, their rights and responsibilities.(sic)",

NEWS

CRIME ADVISORY

Phone Scam by Culprits Impersonating as an MOM Officer

Police noted a recent spate of cases involving victims who received phone calls from scammers claiming to be Ministry of Manpower (MOM) officers. The scammers would call victims using a phone number similar to the MOM hotline (6438 5122). The scammers would inform the victims that they had not filled in their Disembarkation/ Embarkation cards properly or payment required for Work Permit. The victims would be asked to transfer funds to the scammers to legitimize their stay in Singapore.

Such calls are not authentic. MOM does not call up members of public for funds transfer pertaining to immigration facilities or Work Permit. **Members of public who received such phone scam calls should do the following:**

- Ignore such calls;
- Do not transfer any money via remittance agencies, banks or any other means to the caller; and
- Call the Police immediately at '999' to report the case.

If you have any information related to this crime, do not hesitate to call the Police hotline at **1800-255 0000** or **'999'** for urgent Police assistance.

SAY NO to Drugs

You left your hometown to make a living here. You deserve respect as you work hard for your family and loved ones back at home.

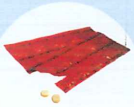
Do not let your hard work go to waste by getting yourself involved with drugs. If you are caught, you can be jailed or even be sentenced to death under Singapore laws. Your work permit will also be cancelled and you will not be allowed to enter Singapore again.

Some of the controlled drugs in Singapore are

Cannabis

Heroin

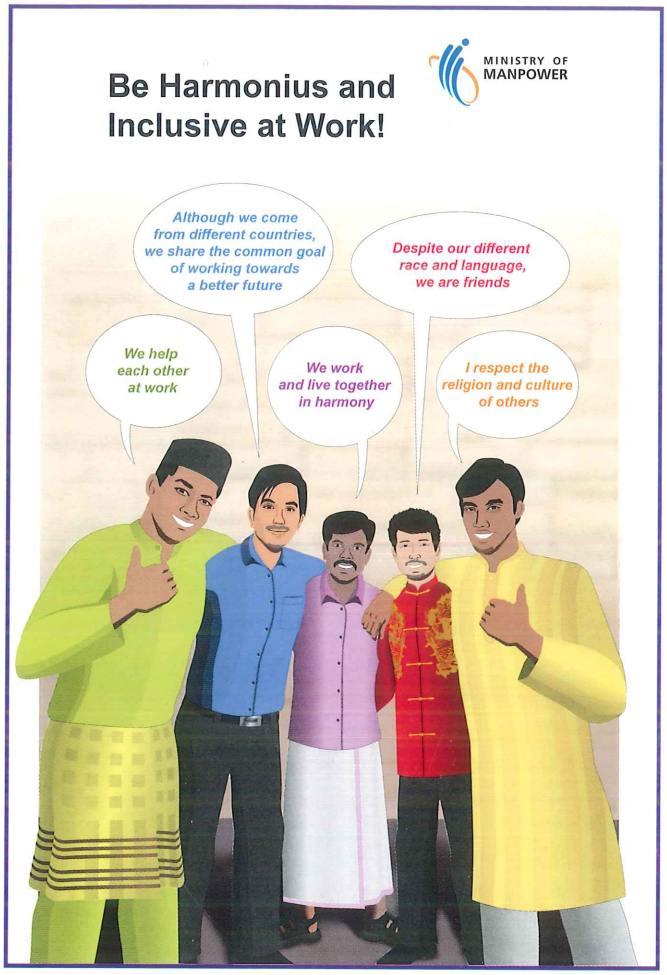
'Ice'/ 'Ya ba'

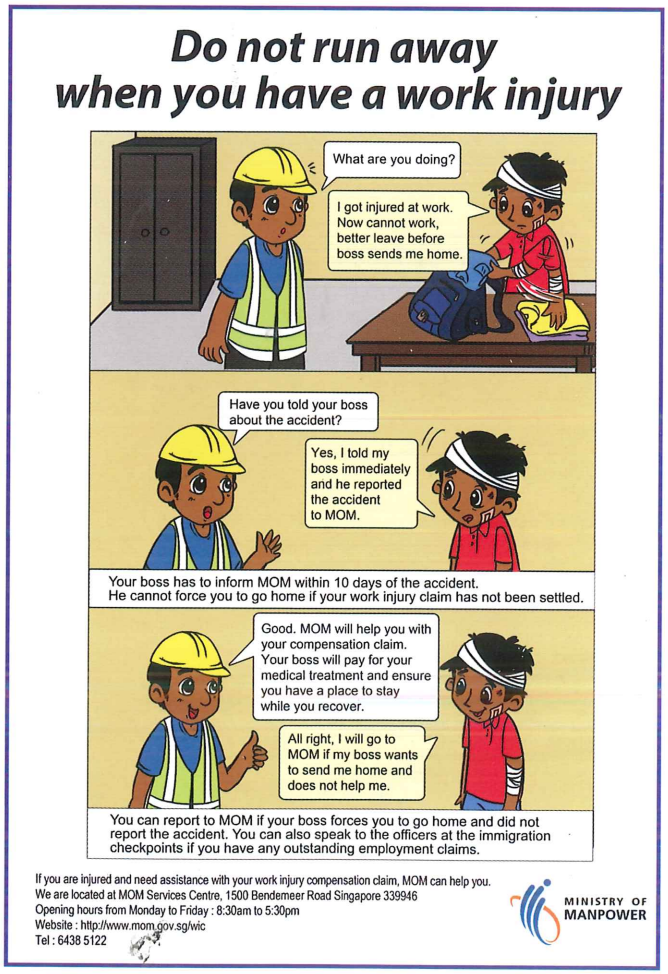

'Erimin-5'

You may visit CNB's website for more information on the controlled drugs in Singapore (**www.cnb.gov.sg**)

If you are approached to try or be involved with drugs:

- Warn the person that involvement with drugs is illegal.
- Inform your supervisor.
- Call the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) at **1800-325-6666**.
- Call the police at **999**.





THIS IS A GAS SAFETY MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY SINGAPORE POWER.

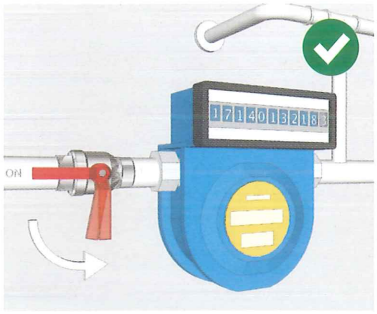
SINGAPORE POWER
Powering the Nation

Safety is our highest priority, and we believe it should be everyone's way of life.

Safe Use of Piped Gas

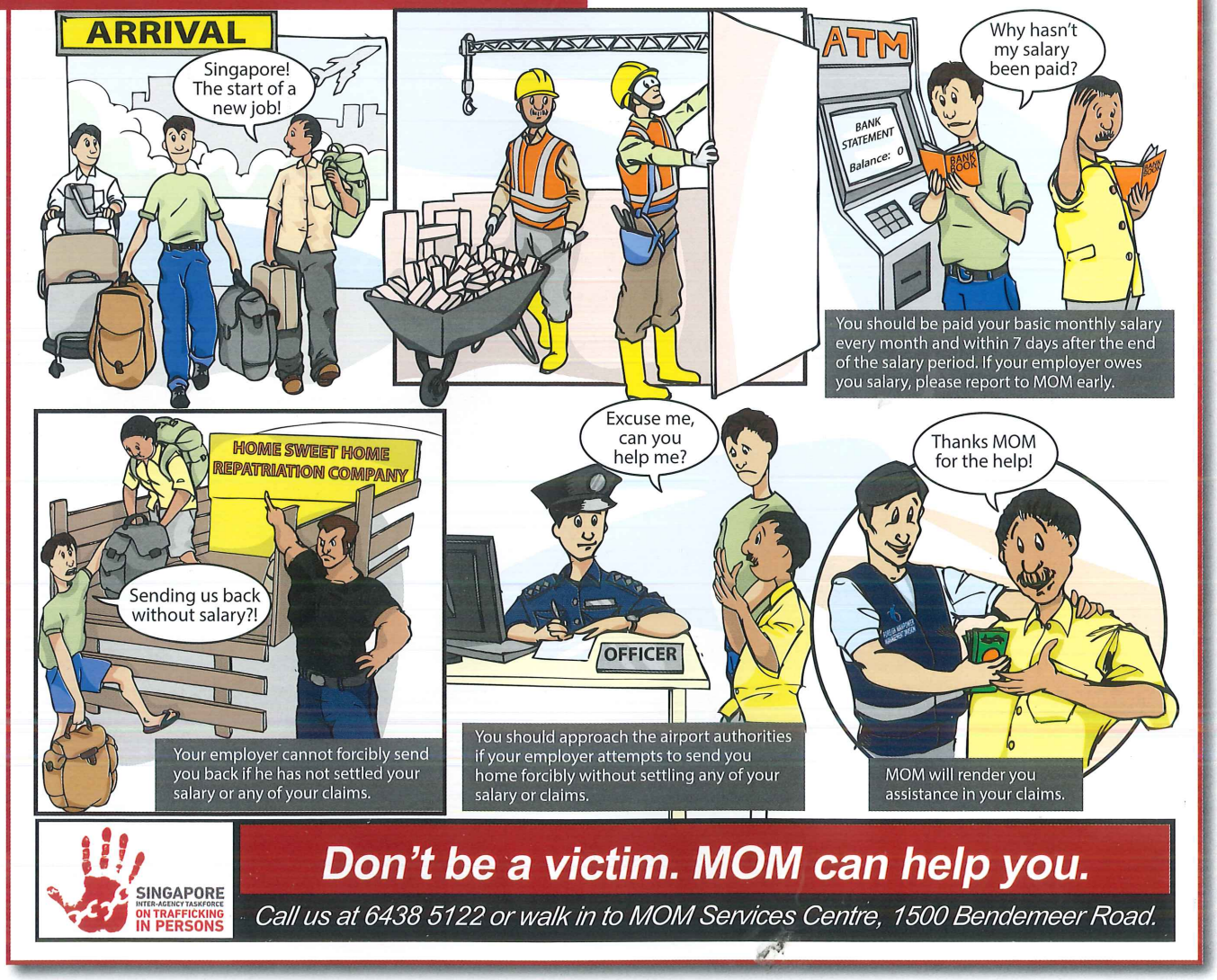
- Use gas appliances in well-ventilated areas.
- Check the tubing of your gas appliances regularly.
- When doing renovations, before drilling holes in the wall, make sure you know where the gas pipes are so you do not puncture them.
- When cooking, do not leave the gas cooker unattended.
- Do not place flammable materials near the gas cooker.
- Ensure there is no strong smell of gas before lighting the gas cooker.

In Case of a Gas Leak



- DO **turn off** the gas valve.
- DO **open** the windows and doors.
- DO call the gas hotline at **1800-752-1800** when you are a safe distance away.
- **DO NOT** light a flame.
- **DO NOT** turn on or off any switches.
- **DO NOT** make any calls while you are around the source of the gas leak.

Are you a victim?



DO NOT PAY
What Your Employer Should Be Paying

When you work in Singapore, there are laws to protect you. This is to ensure you have a positive and meaningful employment experience. There have been instances whereby errant employers have made their workers bear the costs of employing them, and this is against the law.

Your employer must bear the costs related to employing you. For example, your employer cannot ask you to pay for renewing your Work Permit as a condition to continue to employ you.

It is also illegal for your employer to demand or force you to pay for:
- Securing a job
- Renewing work pass
- Levy payment
- Security bond
- Medical fees
- Medical Insurance
- Repatriation costs
- Compulsory training

What Should I Do?
If your employer makes you pay a fee or deducts it from your salary, please report the case to MOM immediately by calling 6438 5122, and we will investigate.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY IN SINGAPORE

In Singapore, there are laws to regulate local employment agencies (EA). This is to ensure that they operate in a fair and lawful manner.

Here are some important things to note when using an EA in Singapore:

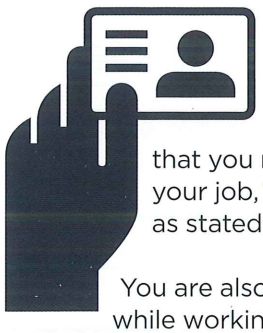
- The EA should charge you fees only when you are successfully placed in a job.
- You must not pay more than one month's salary in fees, for each year of your Work Permit or employment contract.
- You must not pay more than two months of your salary as agency fees in total.
- Your agency must issue you with a receipt that shows the breakdown of all the charges for all the services provided to you.
- If your employer terminates your contract within six months, you can get a refund from your employment agency of at least 50% of the agency fees which you have paid.
- MOM is unable to help with fees you paid to your employment agents in your home country.

USE ONLY LICENSED EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

How do I know if the EA which I intend to use in Singapore is licensed? Follow these simple steps:

- Ensure that the EA's registration number is shown on the name cards, advertisements and signage of the EA.
- Ask to see the employment agent's registration card and take note of the name and registration number stated on the card. Verify this information in the MOM EA Directory on the MOM website at www.mom.gov.sg/eadirectory to confirm that you are dealing with a licensed agency.

Remember, it an offence to use an EA not licensed by MOM.



DO YOU HAVE A VALID WORK PASS?

MOM would like to remind all workers that you must have a valid work pass to work in your job, and, you can only work for your employer as stated in your Work Permit card.

You are also not allowed to start your own business while working in your current job, or to look for a second part-time job to earn extra income. These are against the law.

Do not be tempted by the extra money that you think you can earn. This is because if you are caught, you can be **fined up to $20,000 and/or jailed for up for two years**. You may also be sent back home and banned from working in Singapore.

If your employer asks you to work part-time, you must explain to your employer that it is not allowed, and firmly say NO!

Should the employer force or threaten you, report the case immediately to MOM or call us at 6438 5122.

MOM CAN HELP YOU

Do not hesitate to approach MOM for help when you encounter problems while working in Singapore.

Were you promised a job in Singapore, but upon arrival here, you found that you did not have one? Were you forced by your employer to do something that you know is against the law? Did your employer not pay you for work done?

If your answer is "Yes" to any of the above questions, then you should be reporting the matter to MOM immediately.

Approach MOM for help! Talk to us and give us the details of your situation so that we can investigate and help you. You must come forward if you want MOM to assist you. You can call **6438 5122**.