

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON FOREIGN WORKFORCE  
MANAGEMENT BY THE ACTING MINISTER FOR MANPOWER**

1. The Acting Minister for Manpower spoke about managing the foreign workforce in Singapore. He made these key points:
  - a. **Foreign workers in Singapore are, by and large, treated decently by their employers.** While the situation is not perfect, surveys commissioned by MOM have found that the vast majority of foreign workers are satisfied with their overall experience working here. Many foreign workers consider Singapore an attractive destination country, and want to come here to work. Errant employers who flout the laws will be dealt with, and we review our legislation regularly to ensure they remain adequate.
  - b. **We should therefore not generalise that there is widespread and systemic abuse of the foreign workforce; nor come to premature conclusion that it is the underlying cause of the riot.** Some foreign media also echo such points but offer scant evidence for their assertions.
  - c. **Managing our foreign workers well is important, and we will continue to improve the management of their well-being.** Even before the riot, we had identified the need to speed up the construction of purpose-built dormitories over the next two to three years, and ensure that the daily basic living needs of more foreign workers are taken care of. To supplement these facilities in the dormitories, the government has also established dedicated recreation centres with a good range of amenities, and will launch more of such gathering spaces to meet foreign worker needs.
  - d. **But recreation centres can never fully substitute gathering places like Little India, that fulfil a social and emotional need for these workers.** We believe Singaporeans understand and appreciate the need for foreign workers to have such shared spaces. We will manage these areas to facilitate harmonious coexistence, just as we continue to educate foreign workers about Singapore's social norms and laws.