



## JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Singapore, 2 July 2024 | For Immediate Release

### **Focused Cleaning in Full Swing. Call for Volunteers for Next Phase**

The next phase of joint efforts on the focused cleaning of the difficult-to-reach areas on land and coastlines is in full swing using specialised equipment for the clean-up efforts.

#### Focused Cleaning in Full Swing

2. All the affected areas, including Sentosa Tanjong beach, have entered the second phase of the clean-up response, which focuses on difficult-to-clean areas like rock bunds, breakwaters, and oil trapped deeper in the sand. The cleaning methods for the second phase are decided jointly by the oil spill consultants and cleaning contractors. These methods will be adapted and refined as required, as the shoreline features of affected areas may differ. For biodiversity-sensitive sites, to minimise impact, strategies such as allowing for natural flushing may be adopted.
3. Members of the public may notice a scaling down of general cleaning at the affected beaches, as more specialised teams are deployed to clean these difficult areas. General cleaning of the beaches may still be required, as oil remnants may continue to be washed ashore.
4. The washing of berths at Pasir Panjang Container Terminal is about 20% completed with the estimated completion date by end July 2024. Port operations are not affected during this clean-up effort.

## Gradual Re-opening

5. We expect the clean-up to take around three months, though this will vary for each area. The cordoned-off areas of the beaches at Sentosa, along East Coast Park, and Southern Islands will progressively open for land-based activities<sup>1</sup>. We will test the water quality until it is back to normal and stable for a week, before resuming swimming and other primary contact sea activities.

6. Marina at Keppel Bay has re-opened since 28 June 2024 following the removal of the accumulated oil in the marina and after a joint assessment with ITOPF and the cleaning contractors. High pressure washing of the marinas and condos will continue to be carried out to remove the oil stains. Separately, ONE<sup>o</sup> 15 Marina Sentosa Cove has also re-opened access to the marina since 25 June 2024 as localised clean-up efforts progress.

## Insurance Claims

7. On matters of claims, economic losses caused by the contamination can be submitted for claims assessment by British Marine, the insurer of MARINE HONOUR. A contact email to receive claims from affected parties has been set up and affected businesses can write to [marinehonour@helmsmanlaw.com](mailto:marinehonour@helmsmanlaw.com) to enquire.

8. In accordance with international and local laws, the owner of the bunker vessel MARINE HONOUR is liable up to the limits prescribed in law for the damage. Claims exceeding the liability of the owner of MARINE HONOUR will be made against the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1992, which has a higher limit.

## Support for Businesses

9. Agencies including the National Parks Board, Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) and Singapore Land Authority are closely monitoring the impact of the oil spill on affected businesses. The agencies are developing rental deferral measures to help affected businesses with their cash flow, on a case-by-case basis. SDC will also look to promote a return of footfall through marketing and social media support. As mentioned by the Ministry of Transport during last week's joint press conference, the economic losses resulting from the oil spill can be assessed for claims.

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<sup>1</sup> The cordoned-off areas include the foreshore of the beaches where clean-up is on-going. When the clean-up is complete, the cordons will be removed. Unaffected areas of the beaches, especially towards the backshore, have remained open throughout this period.

## Volunteers for the Final Phase of Clean-up Efforts

10. Many volunteers have stepped forward to offer their assistance in the clean-up operations. Volunteers have not been directly involved in the beach clean-up actions, due to the complexity of the tasks, and for their personal safety.

11. Volunteers may be mobilised in the final phase of the clean-up, after agencies assess that it is safe to do so. For the final phase, remnant oil deposits hardened and mixed with sand, in the form of tar balls, will need to be sieved and separated for removal. Partnering relevant agencies, the Public Hygiene Council will help to train, equip, and coordinate with volunteers for this effort. This would be a safe and meaningful way for Singaporeans to contribute to the re-opening of our beaches and waters.

12. Agencies will work with partners and community groups such as Stridy and International Coastal Cleanup Singapore on the recovery efforts, for example, for the coastal clean-ups and surveys.

## Ambient Air Quality Safe, Water Supply Unaffected, Seafood Safe for Consumption

13. The air quality in affected areas at East Coast Park, Labrador Nature Reserve and Sentosa remains well within safe levels. Information on air quality at affected beaches is published on NEA's website.

14. Singapore's drinking water supply remains unaffected. There is no impact to operations at national water agency PUB's desalination plants and reservoirs.

15. To date, our fish farms remain unaffected by the oil spill. As a precautionary measure, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has been taking seafood samples from coastal fish farms in the East Johor Strait for food safety tests. SFA also continues to test imported fish. The test results indicate that our local and imported fish remain safe for consumption.

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## **About Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)**

MPA was established on 2 February 1996 with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore's port and maritime development, taking on the roles of port authority, maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion, national maritime

representative and a champion of digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts at regional and international fora such as at the International Maritime Organization. MPA partners industry, research community and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in our waters, facilitate maritime and port operations and growth, expand the cluster of maritime ancillary services, and develops maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation policies and plans, R&D and manpower development. MPA is responsible for the overall development and growth of the maritime domain and Port of Singapore. In 2023, Singapore's annual vessel arrival tonnage crossed 3 billion Gross Tonnage and remains the world's busiest transshipment hub, with a total container throughput of 39.0 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

For more information, please visit <https://www.mpa.gov.sg>

### **About National Environment Agency**

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organisation responsible for ensuring a clean and sustainable environment for Singapore. Its key roles are to improve and sustain a clean environment, promote sustainability and resource efficiency, maintain high public health standards, provide timely and reliable meteorological information, and encourage a vibrant hawker culture. NEA works closely with its partners and the community to develop and spearhead environmental and public health initiatives and programmes. It is committed to motivating every individual to care for the environment as a way of life, in order to build a liveable and sustainable Singapore for present and future generations.

For more information, visit [www.nea.gov.sg](http://www.nea.gov.sg)

### **About National Parks Board (NParks)**

The National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for enhancing and managing the urban ecosystems of our City in Nature. We are the lead agency for greenery, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and animal health, welfare and management. We are also working closely with the community to enhance the quality of our living environment.

NParks manages some 400 parks, 3,347 hectares of nature reserves, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Pulau Ubin and the Sisters' Islands Marine Park. Adding to this is the extensive network of Nature Ways, and the over 380 km Park Connector Network that links major parks, nature areas and residential estates island-wide. Every year, we run about 3,000 educational and outreach programmes across our various green spaces.

NParks has developed an urban biodiversity conservation model, which aims to conserve representative ecosystems in land-scarce Singapore. NParks also monitors and coordinates measures to enhance the presence of biodiversity in our urban landscape.

NParks is working closely with partners in the landscape, horticulture, veterinary and animal sectors to increase productivity, and provide training for all levels of the workforce. Enhancing competencies of the industry will support Singapore's vision of being a City in Nature.

For more information, visit [www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg) and [www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz](https://www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz)

### **About PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency**

PUB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE). It is the national water agency, which manages Singapore's water supply, water catchment, and used water in an integrated way. From April 2020, PUB also took on the responsibility of protecting Singapore's coastline from sea-level rise as the national coastal protection agency.

PUB has ensured a diversified and sustainable supply of water for Singapore with the *Four National Taps* (local catchment water, imported water, NEWater, desalinated water). PUB leads and coordinates whole-of-government efforts to protect Singapore from the threat of rising seas and the holistic management of inland and coastal flood risks.

PUB calls on everyone to play a part in conserving water, in keeping our waterways clean, and in caring for Singapore's precious water resources. If we all do our little bit, there will be enough water for all our needs – for commerce and industry, for living, for life.

Find out more about us:

Like us at [www.facebook.com/PUBsg](https://www.facebook.com/PUBsg)

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Subscribe to our channel at [www.youtube.com/sqPUB](https://www.youtube.com/sqPUB)

Visit our website at [www.pub.gov.sg](http://www.pub.gov.sg)

### **About Sentosa Development Corporation**

Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) was established on 1 September 1972 as a Statutory Board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Its charter since inception has been to oversee the development, management, marketing, and promotion of the island of Sentosa as a resort destination for locals and tourists.

SDC wholly owns its subsidiaries Sentosa Cove Resort Management Pte Ltd and Sentosa Golf Club Pte Ltd. SDC also owns the Singapore Cable Car Sky Network, managed by Mount Faber Leisure Group Pte Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary which operates as an autonomous commercial arm.

As a testament to its commitment to sustainability, SDC has been conferred the Global Sustainable Tourism Council – For Destinations (GSTC-D) certificate, making Sentosa the first island destination in Asia to receive this accolade.

### **About the Singapore Food Agency**

The mission of the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is to ensure and secure a supply of safe food. To safeguard Singapore's food security, SFA adopts a multi-pronged approach which includes diversifying food import sources and increasing local food production. To ensure that food in Singapore is safe for consumption, SFA has in place an integrated farm-to-fork food safety system which adopts a risk-based approach guided by science and aligned with international standards. As food safety and security is a joint responsibility, SFA provides an enabling environment that supports all stakeholders to play their part.

For more information on SFA, visit [www.sfa.gov.sg](http://www.sfa.gov.sg)

### **About SLA**

Singapore Land Authority (SLA) is a statutory board with the Ministry of Law. Its mission is to optimise land resources for the social and economic development of Singapore. SLA manages some 11,000 hectares of State land and about 2,600 State properties, which have largely been tenanted out for a variety of uses. It also manages land sales, leases, acquisitions and allocation, developing and marketing land-related information, and maintaining the national land information database through digitised land information services. Being the national land registration authority for property transactions, SLA issues and guarantees land titles in Singapore. It also manages and maintains the national land survey system, where boundaries or legal limits of properties are defined, based on a coordinated cadastre survey system. The use of geospatial information is also spearheaded by SLA through a national collaborative environment where geospatial data, policies and technologies are established and defined, thereby fostering innovation, knowledge and value creation for the Government, enterprises and community.

For more details, visit [www.sla.gov.sg](http://www.sla.gov.sg) or find us on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram @SingaporeLandAuthority.