

Good leadership key to Home Team's work: Shanmugam

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More than eight in 10 officers in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) "felt engaged" with the public service and their unit, a survey has found.

As a result, 97 per cent of adults feel safe walking alone at night, and Singapore has ranked first in Gallup's Law and Order Index on safety and security since 2015, said Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam at The Singapore Police Force Scholarship and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Scholarships Award Ceremony.

This trust within the Home Team, coupled with the public's trust in its officers, is key to it being effective and keeping Singapore safe, he added. Good leadership within the Home Team is "all the more important" amid uncertainties around the world.

The finding was from a recent Public Service Division survey across the Government on employee engagement levels, Mr Shanmugam said last night at the Istana.

He added: "(The officers) didn't wake up each morning wondering why they were doing this. They woke up each morning feeling committed to the organisation."

He said across all the categories surveyed - teamwork, recognition, quality of supervisors, career and professional development, and whether officers want to stay in the organisation - the Home Team officers scored "significantly higher than the public service norm".

The Home Team needs a "very strong pipeline" of leaders across its functions to continue to counter emerging and future threats, Mr Shanmugam told the 26 scholarship recipients and their families.

The MHA Scholarships comprise The Singapore Police Force Scholarship, as well as uniformed and civilian scholarships.

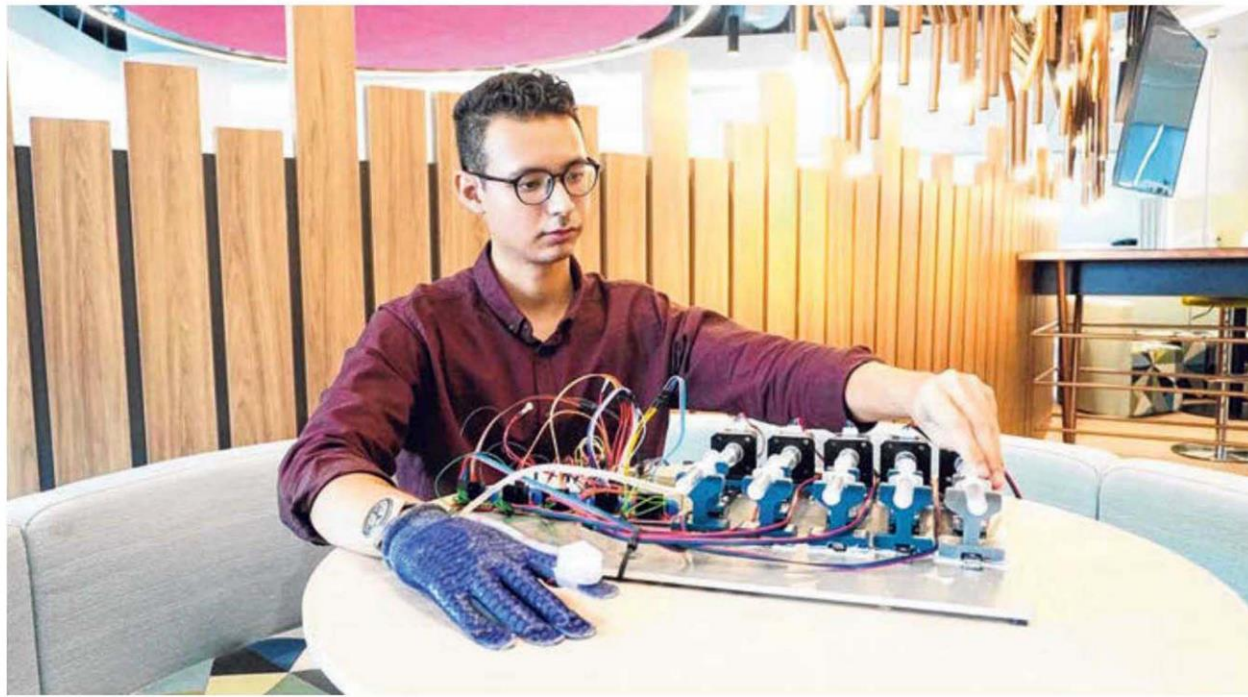
This year's Singapore Police Force Scholarship has been awarded to Inspectors Raeka Ee Pei Ying and Nigel Ng Hong Xun.

Insp Ee, 18, a first-year Singapore Management University student, said police work meaningfully combines her passion for helping others with her interest in the criminal justice system.

Insp Ee recalled an incident during her Singapore Sports School



This year's Singapore Police Force Scholarship has been awarded to Inspectors Raeka Ee Pei Ying (left), a Singapore Management University student, and Nigel Ng Hong Xun (above), who will be studying at London School of Economics and Political Science.



MHA Civilian Scholarship recipient Muadz Yamani Mustafa (left) will be working with Home Team Science & Technology Agency (HTX) after graduating from computer engineering at National University of Singapore.

PHOTOS: ALPHONSUS CHERN, HTX

days when she found a cleaner sleeping in a shower cubicle.

It prompted her and her friends to alert the school management and spend more time socialising and sharing their snacks with the cleaners so they felt comfortable taking a break in the open.

The incident also reminded her of the importance of helping oth-

ers when one is in a privileged position. She added: "That's what I feel policing can offer."

Among the 13 MHA Civilian Scholarship recipients is Mr Muadz Yamani Mustafa, 20. He will read computer engineering at the National University of Singapore after his national service.

Mr Muadz said that he was

largely driven by his experience growing up in the prison quarters as his father is a prison officer.

He recalled how families of the officers were allowed to tour the prison: "I got to see some of the cells and see how they respond to emergencies. From there, I gained more sense of appreciation."

Mr Muadz, an aerospace engi-

neering graduate from Temasek Polytechnic, added that the public sector provides him with an opportunity to help more people.

He said there are many projects being tried in the public sector, and the work done would reach a wider audience.

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