

**Question:**

Ms Sylvia Lim: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs in light of the change in the community policing model announced by the Ministry in November 2011 that will be implemented within the next three to five years (a) in what ways is the current community policing model deemed inadequate or not optimal to meet current or anticipated policing needs; and (b) what are the outcomes that the public should expect the Next-Generation Frontline Policing Model to deliver.

**Answer:**

On 14 November last year, I announced that the police would be embarking on the Next-Generation Frontline Policing Model and laid out its main considerations and features.

2 I just want to reiterate a few key points. Our frontline community policing model has to keep pace with the changing environment, demographic trends and also the changing needs in our community. We started with the Neighbourhood Police Post (NPP) system in the 1980s, as members would recall, and we moved on to the Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) model in the 1990s, 1997 to be precise. The NPC model has been successful in supporting our crime fighting efforts.

3 The fundamental philosophy has always been that the community and the Police are partners in keeping our neighbourhoods safe. This remains unchanged. However, Policing must adapt to changes in the operating environment, and this model is an effort in that direction.

4 In particular, the complexion of our community has changed. Mature estates now have more senior citizens who live on their own in several instances. Newer estates tend to have small nuclear families, who moved in recently and may not yet have formed deep neighbourly bonds as

within the old estates. Singapore's population is also now more diverse with new migrants. Therefore, we have to invest more to engage the community, in a more customized or tailored manner, so as to sustain and strengthen this partnership between the police and the community.

5 Today, technology also offers more opportunities, with solutions that are more capable and cost effective than in the past. We will therefore further leverage on technology, and this will also enable us to deploy our Police Officers in more strategic and targeted ways to fight crime and serve the residents better.

6 These changes, we expect, will enhance SPF's ability to prevent, deter and detect crime, and translate into a better sense of security for Singaporeans in their neighbourhood. We will announce more details of this model at the upcoming Committee of Supply debates.