



## BREAKING NEW GROUND IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

*A note from Indranee Rajah S.C., Senior Minister of State for Law*

### PILOT OF VIDEO RECORDING OF INTERVIEWS

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) intend to start a pilot of Video Recording of Interviews (VRI) during investigations, from 1Q 2016. Click [here](#) to read the announcement.

This will be welcome news to the Criminal Bar. This issue has been raised on various occasions by criminal law practitioners, including at the dialogue sessions in 2014 and 2015 with the Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam and myself. We informed the Bar that, as Minister had stated during the Committee of Supply Debate in 2013, the government would look at it.

MHA, AGC and MinLaw have been studying the feasibility of VRI since mid-2014 taking into account practitioners' feedback, and MHA is now ready to implement this as a pilot project, after consultations with stakeholders.

### AIMS

We think that, done properly, VRI will strengthen the trust placed in our criminal justice system and assist the Court to try cases more effectively.

The contemporaneous video recording will assist the Courts in determining the admissibility or weight of the interviewee's statement. It will also help the Courts to determine allegations relating to the conduct of the interview or the voluntariness of the statements given.

### SCOPE DURING PILOT PHASE

During the pilot phase VRI will apply to:

- a limited set of offences; and
- interviews involving accused persons and suspects.

The pilot phase will be conducted under the existing legal framework:

- The Police and CNB officers will continue to record written statements from interviewees in addition to VRI.
- Given that this is a pilot, the consent of the interviewee will be sought before the interview is video-recorded.

## CONSULTATION

MHA will be consulting various stakeholders, including members of the Criminal Bar, on the implementation of the pilot prior to its commencement. I would like to thank members of the bar for their invaluable feedback thus far. I would encourage criminal law practitioners to participate in these consultations and help us ensure effective implementation, and strengthen the integrity of our justice system.

*– Indraneel Rajah S.C., Senior Minister of State for Law  
28 July 2015*