

Recognising Contributions of NSmen.

Chairman,

Our NSmen make up the bulk of Singapore's fighting force and play a critical role in defending our sovereignty.

They devote two full years to the defence of Singapore, putting on hold their studies and career aspirations. After this, they continue to serve Operationally Ready National Service (ORNS) duties.

As a member of the ACCORD, it has been a true eye-opener for me during our ground visits to see first-hand the harsh training our men undergo to keep this nation safe, whether as full-time or operationally-ready NSmen.

As our NSmen enter the workforce, balancing National Service obligations and professional and personal commitments poses new challenges to their lives. For those starting their careers and also starting their own families, there may be many competing pressures.

All of us, including our employers, must play our part in ensuring that our NSmen feel supported and recognised in their sacrifices.

DPM Wong has, in his budget speech, announced a special cash credit for all former and current national service members in Budget 2024.

I have been heartened to see initiatives like the NS55 Recognition Package and the enhancement of the NS Home awards.

I believe there is however, space to do more.

What role can employers play in support of NSmen, in recognition of their contributions towards Singapore's defence?

Can MINDEF also provide an update on what steps are being taken to ensure that NSmen receive recognition and are well taken care of in their service to the nation?

Thank you.