



## **JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

Singapore, 24 June 2024

### **Removal of Bulk Oil at Sea and Shore Near Completion. Next Phase Commences with More Specialised Clean Up of Trapped Oil.**

The removal of bulk oil from the sea and beaches is nearly completed. There has been no observed oil slick along the East Coast and Changi since 18 June based on both satellite and drone images. The bulk of oil-soaked sand has been removed from most of the affected public beaches, with the exception of Tanjong and Palawan beach at Sentosa. To date, about 550 tonnes of oil-soaked sand and debris have been collected from all affected beaches.

2. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), National Environment Agency (NEA), National Parks Board (NParks), Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) and private organisations have deployed over 700 personnel since 14 June for cleaning-up operations. Over 3,400 metres of boom have been laid, to help contain trapped oil from flowing back to sea, and to prevent oil remnants from being washed ashore and into our inland canals while beach clean-up operations are ongoing. As the tides may continue to sweep in more oil remnants, we will be vigilant and continue to monitor.

#### **Clean-up Operations Transition into the Next Stage of Cleaning Rock Bunds**

3. We are moving to the next phase of the clean-up response, which is focused on the more difficult clean-up of oil remnants trapped in areas such as coastal features, waterside infrastructures and rock bunds. These areas are not as easily accessible, and oil could be trapped in crevices and below beach surfaces that require significant effort to clean.

4. This new phase will involve specialised resources and equipment. This cleaning will be done carefully, considering the conditions at each site, such as wind, tide and currents, to minimise the oil on the rock bunds from re-polluting the coastline, beaches,

and biodiversity-sensitive areas. We are working with the oil spill consultants to deploy the most effective methods for cleaning while minimising cleaning contamination to surrounding areas.

5. For the more heavily impacted areas, including Sentosa's Tanjong and Palawan beaches, the specialised clean-up operations are expected to take around three months, based on our preliminary estimates.

6. For the more lightly impacted areas at Sentosa Siloso beach and certain stretches of East Coast Park, this clean-up is expected to be completed earlier. The rock bund cleaning at Siloso beach has commenced since 21 June and the Singapore Civil Defence Force has deployed a Rapid Response Fire Vessel at the affected area to support the cleaning operation. The rock bund cleaning at selected rock bunds at East Coast Park beaches will commence this week and we are working towards the progressive re-opening of certain stretches earlier as well. All the beaches on Sentosa remain open.

7. For biodiversity-sensitive sites, ongoing efforts are underway to monitor longer term impacts to biodiversity.

8. Even after a beach has been cleaned and re-opened, swimming and water activities can resume only after water quality has gone back to normal and is stable<sup>1</sup>. The Government is also closely monitoring the impact of the oil spill on related businesses and affected residents as the situation continues to evolve.

9. Sentosa Cove is less severely affected, as lockgates were closed promptly, supplemented by absorbent booms since 15 June 2024. Currently, vessel movements within Sentosa Cove have been halted and these efforts have been made to minimise the impact on Cove waterways and canals within residential areas, while awaiting oil deposits on seaward rock bunds to be cleaned. Vessel movements would be allowed to resume when lockgates are safe to open.

### **Final Clean Up of Residual Oil in Areas Off Pasir Panjang Container Terminal**

10. Cleaning of trapped oil remnants in the shoreline areas and waterside infrastructures off Pasir Panjang Container Terminal including PSA Terminal and Labrador Nature Reserve has been largely completed on 23 June. There are no observed residual oil floating off the shoreline and the stranded oil near the shore and port structure

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<sup>1</sup> Water samples will be collected and tested to assess if the water quality has returned to pre-incident levels and remains consistent for about a week.

since this morning. The upstream cleaning of the oil spillage is important to help prevent further spread of floating oil to other downstream locations, including Sentosa.

11. Containment booms have been laid at the mouth of Keppel Marina to facilitate the clean-up efforts of the accumulated oil. A total of about 40 clean-up personnel and two skimmer systems to recover the accumulated oil have been deployed. Oil booms at the mouth of the three canals leading to the residential areas have been set up and cleaning works are ongoing to clear the oil gathered there.

### **Clear Patches of Waters off the Eastern Anchorages, Changi, and Pasir Ris**

12. There have been no observed oil slicks at the Eastern Anchorages based on both satellite images and daily drone monitoring flights. Sporadic patches of oil sheens are observed but this thin layer of oil on the water surface are expected to dissipate through a natural process.

13. No oil has been observed at Changi and Pasir Ris Park beaches. NEA will continue to monitor the situation closely. As a precaution, members of the public are advised against swimming at Changi and affected beaches and engaging in other primary contact water activities until further notice.

14. The Current Buster systems are currently stationed off Changi and the east coast area and are ready to respond to any sightings of oil slicks in the area, with the support of the Police Coast Guard monitoring the area off Changi. The situation is dynamic, and it is possible for the oil spill to resurface at a later stage or flow to and affect other areas. We will continue to remain vigilant and monitor the situation.

### **No Significant Observations at Biodiversity-Sensitive Areas and Southern Islands**

15. Even as the cleaning of the shoreline at Labrador Nature Reserve is largely completed, agencies are closely monitoring the area and oil-absorbent booms will continue to be deployed there as a precaution. As of 23 June, the beaches at St John's, Lazarus and Kusu Islands remain cleared of oily sand. The beaches will be monitored for further signs of oil slicks. Containment booms have been laid across the entrance to Kusu Island, as an added preventative measure. The recovery of the accumulated oil around St John's Island and Lazarus Island is ongoing after the booms were deployed.

16. While no oil has been observed off West Coast Park, Chek Jawa Wetlands at Pulau Ubin, Pasir Ris Park and Coney Island Park, oil-absorbent booms have been deployed there as precautionary measures. Time will be needed to observe and understand the long-term effects of the oil spill on the biodiversity in those areas.

## **Galvanising Collective Action by the Community**

17. Over 1,500 members of the public have come forward, indicating interest in helping with the oil spill management efforts. Over 2,000 more members of the public have also indicated interest in being updated on ongoing efforts and future volunteering opportunities.

18. Thus far, over 400 volunteers, including volunteers of the Public Hygiene Council, have helped to patrol East Coast Park and West Coast Park, advising members of the public to stay away from affected beachfronts, as well as reporting sightings of oil stains and of oil-slicked wildlife.

19. Volunteers from Friends of Marine Park and marine experts are carrying out surveys at St John's Island and Lazarus Island, together with NParks staff, to monitor the impact of the oil spill on biodiversity on these offshore islands.

20. Agencies have consulted around 30 stakeholder groups, including nature groups, grassroots and Institutes of Higher Learning, to explore opportunities to involve them in assessing and managing the longer-term impact of the oil spill on our biodiversity.

## **Fish Safe to Consume. Ambient Air Quality Safe and Water Supply Unaffected**

21. To date, our fish farms remain unaffected by the oil spill. Nonetheless, as a precautionary measure, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has been taking fish samples twice daily from coastal fish farms in the East Johor Strait for food safety tests. The test results continue to indicate that our local fish are safe for consumption. SFA has also been closely engaging the fish farmers to undertake precautionary measures to protect their farming areas. SFA has provided absorbent pads and canvas sheets to the fish farms, and assisted or advised them on the deployment of these items. SFA also continues to test imported seafood under its existing food safety system.

22. The air quality in affected areas at East Coast Park, Labrador Nature Reserve and Sentosa remains well within safe levels. NEA will continue to monitor the air quality at the affected areas daily to ensure the safety of the public and personnel involved in the clean-up operations. Information on air quality at affected beaches is published and updated daily on [NEA's website](#).

23. Singapore's drinking water supply remains unaffected. There is no impact to operations at all our desalination plants and reservoirs. National water agency PUB's water quality readings remain normal.

## **Impact on Businesses**

24. Beachfront businesses are open for business except for those offering activities that take place at sea or on beaches which are currently closed. The Government is in touch with these businesses and is also closely monitoring the business impact.

25. British Marine, the insurer of the stationary tanker, MARINE HONOUR, has set up 3<sup>rd</sup> party claims contact to attend to affected parties who have been impacted. For claims related inquiries, please contact [marinehonour@helmsmanlaw.com](mailto:marinehonour@helmsmanlaw.com).

## **Transferring Remaining Oil from MARINE HONOUR**

26. The damaged MARINE HONOUR which spilled the oil on 14 June is currently anchored off the western petroleum anchorage. The remaining fuel oil onboard from the ruptured cargo tank and its full contents onboard the vessel must be emptied before it can be towed into the shipyard for its repair. Aside the containment booms laid around the vessel, a 35-tonnes oil load Current Buster system is on station to respond to any potential leaks in the lightering process to transfer the MARINE HONOUR oil to another vessel.

27. The safe lightering of MARINE HONOUR is expected to take one to two weeks as care is needed to ensure the stability of the vessel throughout the process.

## **Regional cooperation**

28. We have been in close contact with the relevant Malaysian authorities, which shared on 19 June 2024 that they have observed some oil slicks off Johor. We will continue to share relevant information to facilitate their efforts.

<End>

## **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)

Follow us on <http://www.instagram.com/PUBsingapore>, [www.twitter.com/PUBsingapore](https://www.twitter.com/PUBsingapore) and <https://www.tiktok.com/@pub.singapore>

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

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.


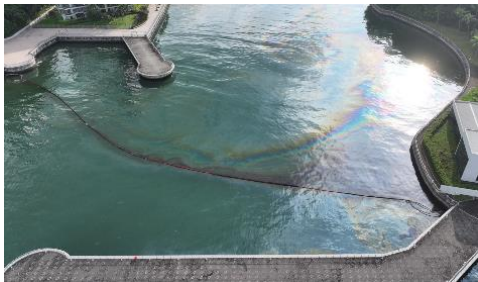
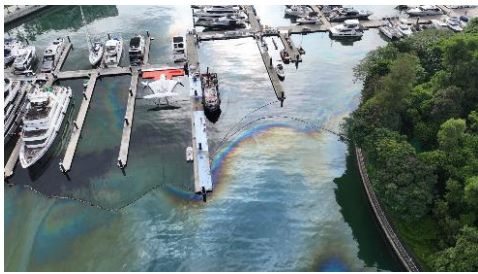







## Annex – Media Materials

For high-resolution photos and videos, please refer to the following link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/OilSpill24June>

File Name	Image / Video Screenshot	Caption
1_Rock bund cleaning at Sentosa_1		
1_Rock bund cleaning at Sentosa_2		<p>Specialised crew from Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) flushing the oil on the rock bund at Siloso Beach with water pumped from the sea.</p> <p>Containment booms are laid around the rock bund to contain the oil, preventing the oil from re-polluting the coastline.</p>
1_Rock bund cleaning at Sentosa_Video 1		<p>(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)</p>

<p>1_Rock bund cleaning at Sentosa_Video 2</p>		
<p>2_Drone Image of East Coast Park_23 June 2024_5pm_1</p>		<p>There has been no observed oil slick along the East Coast since 18 June based on both satellite and drone images.</p>
<p>2_Drone Image of East Coast Park_23 June 2024_5pm_2</p>		<p>Drone image of East Coast Park on 23 June at around 5:00 pm.</p> <p>(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)</p>

<p>3_Drone Image of Siloso Beach</p>		<p>Oil recovery systems removing the oil from the waters off Siloso Beach. Containment booms can also be seen laid along Siloso Beach.</p> <p>(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)</p>
<p>4_Keppel Marina with booms_1</p>		<p>Containment booms have been laid at the mouth of Keppel Marina to facilitate the clean-up efforts of the accumulated oil.</p>
<p>4_Keppel Marina with booms_2</p>		<p>(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)</p>
<p>5_Kusu Island with booms</p>		<p>As of 23 June, the beaches at St John's, Lazarus and Kusu Islands remain cleared of oily sand. The beaches will be monitored for further signs of oil slicks.</p> <p>Containment booms have been laid across the</p>

<p>5_St Johns Island_1</p>		<p>entrance to Kusu Island, as an added preventative measure.</p> <p>(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)</p>
<p>6_Pasir Panjang Terminal_1</p>		<p>There are no observed residual oil floating off the shoreline and the stranded oil near the PSA Pasir Panjang Terminal since 24 June 2024 morning.</p> <p>(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)</p>
<p>6_Pasir Panjang Terminal_2</p>		
<p>7_Lighting of MARINE HONOUR_1</p>		<p>The remaining fuel oil onboard from the ruptured cargo tank and its full contents onboard MARINE HONOUR must be emptied before it can be towed into the shipyard for its repair. Aside the containment booms laid around the vessel, a 35-tonnes oil load Current Buster system is on station to respond to any potential leaks in the</p>

7\_Lighting  
of MARINE  
HONOUR\_2



lightering process to transfer the MARINE HONOUR oil to another vessel.

The safe lightering of MARINE HONOUR is expected to take at least a week as care is needed to ensure the stability of the vessel throughout the process.

(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)

8\_NParks  
officers at  
Chek Jawa



National Parks Board officers deploying oil-absorbent booms at Chek Jawa Wetlands at Pulau Ubin as precautionary measures.

(Credit: National Parks Board)

9\_SCDF\_rockbund  
cleaning rockbund off  
Sentosa\_video



Singapore Civil Defence Force deployed a Rapid Response Fire Vessel to support the rockbund cleaning operation off Palawan Beach on 23 June 2024.

(Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)