

Two-thirds of terrorist detainees released after rehab

Business Times, 25 February 2009

TWO-THIRDS of terror detainees held here since 2001 have been released after rehabilitation, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs K Shanmugam said yesterday in his inaugural address at International Conference on Terrorist Rehabilitation.

The conference was organised by The S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and The Religious Rehabilitation Group, a group of volunteer religious teachers and scholars involved in counselling terror detainees in Singapore.

Mr Shanmugam said implementing an effective rehabilitation strategy was not easy. And in the absence of a foolproof assessment system, it was difficult to ascertain that detainees had indeed been reformed.

In Singapore, he said, such detainees go through a holistic programme that incorporates psychological, social and religious aspects of rehabilitation. This continues even after they are released from detention.

He said the detainees who have been released after rehabilitation have not strayed back into terrorism and have integrated well into society. But still, the government is monitoring the situation closely.

Mr Shanmugam also launched P4Peace.com, an online portal developed by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research of RSIS.

Besides countering the spread of terrorist ideas on the Internet by providing a platform for discourse on pro-social and peaceful alternatives, the portal will facilitate information sharing and collaboration by counter-terrorism practitioners and academics.