

Cop charged with corruptly obtaining sexual favours

Staff sergeant suspended, accused of offences linked to two women who were subjects of investigations

Shaffiq Alkhatib
Court Correspondent

A staff sergeant with the Singapore Police Force (SPF) has appeared in court to face charges of corruptly obtaining sexual favours from two women who were the subjects of investigations.

On Feb 27, Mahendran Selvarajoo, 31, allegedly received gratification from one of them to help her with her employer's purported queries about the investigation.

The policeman is said to have committed the offence in a multi-storey carpark of Block 590, Ang Mo Kio Street 51.

Mahendran is accused of corruptly obtaining oral sex and sexual intercourse from another woman at a multi-storey carpark of Block 264 Serangoon Central on April 30. He allegedly committed the offence to help her avoid criminal prosecution.

Court documents did not reveal further details and the women cannot be named due to a gag order.

Mahendran, who has been suspended, was also charged yesterday with two counts each of corruption, performing unauthorised modification to the contents of a computer, as well as being in possession of obscene material in his mobile phone and USB flash drive. He is said to have committed them between February and May this year.

The Singaporean is also accused of accessing without authority the photo gallery in a woman's mobile phone to snap three of her personal pictures. He allegedly committed this offence in a Clementi Police Division office on Nov 16, 2017.

In a statement on Thursday, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) said law enforcement

officers have the duty to maintain law and order, and conduct themselves with integrity and discipline.

It added: "Those who abuse their position to obtain or solicit any form of gratification in the course of their duties must bear the full brunt of the law."

"Singapore adopts a strict zero-tolerance approach towards corruption. The CPIB will not hesitate to take firm action against all corrupt offenders, including public officers who abuse their position of authority to cause undue harm to the public and tarnish the image of the public service."

A police report was lodged against the policeman on April 30. In a statement yesterday, the SPF



Mahendran Selvarajoo, 31, a staff sergeant with the Singapore Police Force, has been suspended.

\$15,000

Bail offered to Mahendran Selvarajoo. He will be back in court on Dec 27.

said that after police investigations, the case was referred to the CPIB on May 1. Mahendran was suspended two weeks later.

The policeman, who was offered bail of \$15,000, is represented by lawyer Kalidass Murugaiyan. He will be back in court on Dec 27.

For each count of corruption, an offender can be jailed for up to five years and fined up to \$100,000.

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Nurse wins award for going extra mile for patients

Timothy Goh

In the course of her career, Ms Teo Mui Hiang has cut the hair of over 100 persons and sewn costumes.

But the 48-year-old is neither a hairdresser nor a seamstress – she is a nurse who has constantly gone the extra mile to improve the lives of her patients and fellow staff.

For these efforts and more, she received the Tan Chin Tuan Nursing Award 2019 yesterday. It honours nurses for professional and behavioural competencies, and professional and personal contributions.

Ms Teo, who has been a nurse for 26 years and is currently a senior assistant nurse in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, explained that she often cuts consenting patients' hair even though it is not part of her official duties, as it helps them feel better.

"I want to help them look nice and tidy. If you're unhygienic, sometimes you'll feel sicker."

She also sewed a "God of Wealth" costume, complete with beard and hat, for her colleague to dress up and bring festive cheer to patients during Chinese New Year.

But that is not all she has stitched together. Earlier this year, Ms Teo was behind an initiative to help fellow nurses handle the multiple pieces of equipment needed for their duties. The large number of items often results in pieces of equipment being dropped or misplaced, she explained.

So Ms Teo bought some cloth to



Nurse Teo Mui Hiang, who received the Tan Chin Tuan Nursing Award, came up with the idea of attaching Velcro strips to the walls above patients' beds that nurses could stick the blood pressure cuffs to. ST PHOTO: KELVIN CHNG

sew pockets onto the vests that the nurses wear while making their rounds, providing them with a place for their equipment while attending to patients.

And when some colleagues complained the vests were too uncomfortable, she bought more cloth and sewed crossbody slings, which were lighter and more breathable, to hold their equipment.

She does all this in her spare time and pays for the expenses out of her own pocket.

It is not the first initiative she has taken to help improve the lives of fellow staff. As blood pressure cuffs needed to be accounted for but tended to get misplaced, she came up with the idea of attaching Velcro strips to the walls above patients' beds that nurses could stick the cuffs to. She even did this for other

wards on her floor that were not under her purview, to make things easier for the staff there.

Ms Teo's nearly three decades of nursing have been full of challenges. As a nurse during the severe acute respiratory syndrome or Sars crisis in 2003, she had to overcome her fears, and those of the public, to carry on with her duties.

She recalled she and her colleagues would not wear their nurses' uniforms in public as others would avoid them, and taxi drivers would refuse to drop her off at the hospital. But she persevered regardless, for the sake of her patients. "If everyone fled, who would care for them?" she said.

How does she handle those patients who are not always easy to deal with? For instance, Ms Teo has to find ways to accommodate

patients who have dementia and insist on going home. In such cases, she and her colleagues would sometimes go through the motions of pretending to take the patient to wait for a taxi. Then, acting as though no taxis were available, they would coax them to return to their ward to "wait" for their family to come and pick them up.

Tiring though the job may be, Ms Teo has never thought of quitting. "When you see patients smile and they thank you, it's worth it."

Calling the award a surprise and "a bonus", Ms Teo intends to continue in nursing for as long as she is healthy and able. She said: "You must have patience and passion... It's not easy but if you have the heart for it, you can get through it."

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Veteran actor-director Huang Yiliang charged with assault and affray

Veteran local actor-director Ng Aik Leong, better known as Huang Yiliang, appeared in court yesterday after he allegedly attacked another man with a metal scraper.

Ng, 58, was charged with one count each of causing hurt with a weapon and an unrelated affray charge involving another man.

Affray is committed when two or more people disturb the public peace by fighting in a public place.

Ng is accused of using a metal scraper to attack a man, identified only as Mr Jahidul, at a canteen of the Singapore Islamic Hub in Braddell Road at around 4.30pm on Dec 11 last year.

He allegedly used the weapon to hit Mr Jahidul twice on his abdomen and once on his head.

The alleged victim suffered a head injury and an abrasion over his abdomen.

Separately, Ng allegedly disturbed the public peace by fighting with Mr Morgana Raj Saravanan in Buffalo Road at around 7.50pm on June 9.

The Singaporean is said to have hit the back of Mr Morgana Raj's head with a mobile phone.

Ng, who was unrepresented in court yesterday, told District Judge Terence Tay that he intends to engage a lawyer. He was offered bail of \$15,000 and the case has been

adjourned to Dec 20.

Ng, who has been named Best Supporting Actor at the annual Star Awards three times, left MediaCorp in 2008 and set up a production house.

Known for his comedic flair, he stood out in roles such as a foul-tempered husband in Holland V and a gambler in a movie, 12 Lotus, by film-maker Royston Tan.

Ng made his directorial debut in 2009 with Autumn In March, an arthouse film about a girl who loses her family and tries to find happiness by manipulating those around her.

If convicted of affray, Ng can be jailed for up to a year and fined up to \$5,000.

Those convicted of causing hurt with a weapon can be jailed for up to seven years and fined or caned.

Ng cannot be caned as he is over 50 years old.



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Tenders called for 56 Sembawang-Yishun and Bulim bus routes

Wong Kai Yi

Tenders have been called for operators to run 56 bus routes across the Bulim and Sembawang-Yishun packages.

The Bulim package consists of 29 routes; the Sembawang-Yishun one has 27. As with all government bus contracts, the tenures are for five years.

This tender marks the second term for the Bulim bus package, which is up for renewal in 2021, while the Sembawang-Yishun one is the fifth tendered contract under the Government's bus contracting model (BCM).

There are a total of 14 route packages under the BCM.

The tenders will close at 4pm on March 30 and are expected to be awarded in the second half of the year.

This is the first time the Land Transport Authority (LTA) has currently called for tenders for two packages – a process it says it is exploring to achieve "economies of scale".

The LTA said it can award the two packages to the same operator or two different ones, depending on the bids.

"The bid which allows us to get the best value for money and (to) enhance the service levels of our bus industry will be awarded the tender," LTA added.

The current Bulim package comprising 26 routes was first awarded

to British transport operator Tower Transit, which began operations out of Bulim Bus Depot in May 2016.

Over its five-year contract, Tower Transit is expected to receive about \$556 million in fees.

SMRT Buses, meanwhile, has been operating the 25-route Sembawang-Yishun package since September 2016.

The tender listing on government procurement site GeBIZ states that bidders must submit offers for the Bulim package, the Sembawang-Yishun package and a combined Bulim/Sembawang-Yishun package.

The requirement to bid for a combined Bulim/Sembawang-Yishun package could mean LTA is looking to attract more foreign transport players here on a marginal cost base, said Singapore University of Social Sciences transport expert Park Byung Joon. But he was unsure if it would be an attractive business proposition for them.

Tower Transit Singapore managing director Winston Toh said the company "welcomes the opportunity" to bid for the packages and said it believes it has delivered "good service" for its customers.

Under the BCM, the LTA first sets out the bus services to be provided as well as service standards, and operators then bid to operate these services, receiving a fee in return.

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