



**MEDIA STATEMENT FROM
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING (NCPG)
IN RESPONSE TO MTI ANNOUNCEMENT, 3 APRIL 2019**

The NCPG has been working closely with the Government to ensure that problem gambling remains low in Singapore. The NCPG has emphasised to the Government the importance of ensuring that any impact from casino gambling be minimised even as we acknowledge the economic benefits and job opportunities of the integrated resorts.

2 The NCPG welcomes the increase in entry levy and the steps that will be taken towards utilising technology to help casino gamblers make informed decisions and better regulate their gambling behaviour. We have seen examples of such systems in other countries that allow gamblers to set a budget or time limit for themselves and to get automatic reminders when they are nearing these limits. It is positive progress that the IRs will study and implement suitable technology to promote responsible gambling in the casinos.

3 Such responsible gambling tools provide users greater awareness of and control over their gambling behaviour in a pre-emptive effort to prevent problem gambling.

4 This builds on the existing slate of social safeguards that have been recognised by other jurisdictions as best-in-class. In particular, we note that:

- Awareness of problem gambling is high. A public awareness survey conducted this year found that 9 out of 10 Singaporeans are aware of the potential harm of gambling addiction.
- Problem gambling help services are known. 6 in 10 Singaporeans are also aware of the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1800-6-668-668.
- Problem gambling numbers remain small, affecting less than 1% of the resident population.

5 The NCPG will continue to raise awareness of problem gambling through public education. We urge individuals to exercise personal responsibility, and family members and the community to encourage those with gambling issues to seek help early.

Tan Kian Hoon, Chairman

About the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)

The NCPG was appointed in August 2005 as part of Singapore's national framework to address problem gambling, and is now into its seventh term (2017-2019). The Council is committed to address problem gambling in Singapore, across all forms of gambling, through public education and outreach programmes and the provision of help services. NCPG offers the National Problem Gambling Helpline and WebChat service, administered by the National Addictions Management Service. NCPG also administers Casino Exclusions and Casino Visit Limits for those who are affected by or who are vulnerable to problem gambling. Don't Let Gambling Become a Problem. Take Action Now! Call 1800-6-668-668 or WebChat www.ncpg.org.sg.