

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**9 May 2022****MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL EMPLOYERS FEDERATION ON SAFETY TIME-OUT**

The Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF) strongly support the call for a safety time-out by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and the Workplace Safety and Health Council (WSHC).

2. SNEF noted that workplace fatalities had risen from 30 in 2020 to 37 in 2021 and had 20 so far this year. With the reopening of the Singapore economy, employers should put the health and safety of workers as a priority as more workers return to the workplace and economic activities pick up.

3. The theme for this year's National WSH Campaign 'Take Time to Take Care of your Safety and Health' is a timely reminder that workers should take the time to look out for their own and their colleagues' safety and health.

4. In addition, it also means that company leaders should take interests and invest their time to create safe workplaces. SNEF strongly urge company leaders to take the opportunity of a safety time-out to review their workplace safety and health (WSH) system and work processes. This would allow them to address any weaknesses and take the necessary actions before recommencement of work.

5. Leadership is important to develop a safety culture in the workplace to sustain good WSH records. Company leaders have the responsibility to ensure that workers can come to work and return home safely daily. Company leaders should empower all workers to take ownership of their safety so that they would speak up about safety issues and would not take unnecessary risks to meet deadlines. Everyone should have the mindset of safety begins with me.

6. Going forward, SNEF will continue to work with MOM, NTUC, WSHC and employers to realise our aim of reducing workplace fatalities rate below 1.0 per 100,000 workers by the year 2028.

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About Singapore National Employers Federation

The Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF) is a trade union of employers. Our mission is to advance tripartism and enhance labour market flexibility to enable employers to implement responsible employment practices for sustainable growth. SNEF has a membership of over 3,400 companies with a combined workforce of over 800,000. For more information, please visit www.snef.org.sg