

ERC/PR/2021  
27 September 2021

**MEDIA ADVISORY:  
SCCCI's response in relation to incident of wakeboarding  
at War Memorial Park**

In relation to the above-mentioned incident, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) will not condone any acts of disrespect towards the civilian victims of the Japanese Occupation commemorated at the War Memorial Park. This incident underscores the need to continue promoting National Education, to allow Singaporeans, especially the younger generation, to understand the hardships and journey that the different ethnic groups in Singapore took to build a home together from the ravages of war, and the importance of always staying vigilant. This would help strengthen the sense of Singaporean identity among the younger generation.

On 15 February 1942, Singapore fell to the Japanese. To enable all Singaporeans to remember and respect the sacrifice of those who died during the war, the Chamber took on the social and moral responsibility to spearhead the construction of the Civilian War Memorial in the early 1960s. Since our late founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew unveiled this memorial in 1967, the SCCCI has dedicated itself to holding the War Memorial Service every year without fail on 15 February. The memorial service reminds Singaporeans not to take Singapore's peace and stability for granted. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, SCCCI received support from MINDEF to continue with its annual War Memorial Service with strict safety management measures, reiterating the importance of National Education and Total Defence.

The SCCCI will continue to work with the government and community groups, to actively promote National Education efforts, such as SCCCI building the Memorial and organising the War Memorial Service, to help Singaporeans better understand the historical significance behind this Memorial dedicated to the civilian victims of the Japanese occupation.

The incident happened this year on 17 July, at 10.10pm. The man was charged in court with wilfully interfering with a national monument under the Preservation of Monuments Act on 13 September.