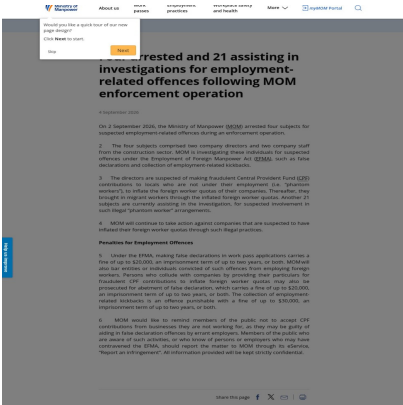




MOM arrests four in construction phantom-worker probe on 2 September

Description

The Ministry of Manpower arrested four people from the construction sector on 2 September 2026 for suspected employment-related offences, and said on Thursday (4 September) that another 21 people are assisting in investigations into alleged “phantom worker” arrangements.



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practices

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Four arrested and 21 assisting investigations for employment related offences following MOM enforcement operation

4 September 2026

On 2 September 2026, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) arrested four
suspected employment-related offences during an enforcement operation.

2 The four subjects comprised two company directors and two co-
from the construction sector. MOM is investigating these individuals for
offences under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act (EFMA), such as
declarations and collection of employment-related kickbacks.

3 The directors are suspected of making fraudulent Central Provident
contributions to locals who are not under their employment (i.e.
workers"), to inflate the foreign worker quotas of their companies. They
brought in migrant workers through the inflated foreign worker quotas.
subjects are currently assisting in the investigation, for suspected involv
such illegal "phantom worker" arrangements.

4 MOM will continue to take action against companies that are suspe
inflated their foreign worker quotas through such illegal practices.

Penalties for Employment Offences

5 Under the EFMA, making false declarations in work pass applicatio
fine of up to \$20,000, an imprisonment term of up to two years, or bo
also bar entities or individuals convicted of such offences from emplo
workers. Persons who collude with companies by providing their pa
fraudulent CPF contributions to inflate foreign worker quotas m
prosecuted for abetment of false declaration, which carries a fine of up
an imprisonment term of up to two years, or both. The collection of e
related kickbacks is an offence punishable with a fine of up to
imprisonment term of up to two years, or both.

6 MOM would like to remind members of the public not to
contributions from businesses they are not working for, as they may
aiding in false declaration offences by errant employers. Members of the

MOM press release on the 2 September 2026 enforcement operation. Credit:
Ministry of Manpower

MOM press release on the 2 September 2026 enforcement operation. Credit: Ministry of
Manpower

What MOM says happened

The four arrested comprise two company directors and two company staff. MOM is investigating suspected offences under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act, including false declarations and collection of employment-related kickbacks.

The directors are suspected of making fraudulent Central Provident Fund contributions to locals who were not under their employment, so that foreign worker quotas looked larger than they were. MOM says migrant workers were then brought in against those inflated quotas. The other 21 subjects are assisting for suspected involvement in such arrangements.

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Penalties for Employment Offences

5 Under the EFMA, making false declarations in work pass applications carries a fine of up to \$20,000, an imprisonment term of up to two years, or both. Convicted entities or individuals can also be barred from employing foreign workers. Persons who collude with companies by providing fraudulent CPF contributions to inflate foreign worker numbers are prosecuted for abetment of false declaration, which carries a fine of up to \$30,000, an imprisonment term of up to two years, or both. The collection of employment-related kickbacks is an offence punishable with a fine of up to \$30,000, an imprisonment term of up to two years, or both.

6 MOM would like to remind members of the public to report any suspected contributions from businesses they are not working for, as well as aiding in false declaration offences by errant employers. Members who are aware of such activities, or who know of persons or entities who have contravened the EFMA, should report the matter to MOM via the "Report an infringement". All information provided will be kept confidential.

Penalties section from MOM 4 September 2026 release. Credit: Ministry of Manpower

Penalties section from MOM's 4 September 2026 release. Credit: Ministry of Manpower

Penalties and how to report

Under the EFMA, making false declarations in work pass applications carries a fine of up to S\$20,000, imprisonment of up to two years, or both. Convicted entities or individuals can also be barred from employing foreign workers. Abetment of false declaration carries the same fine and jail ceilings. Collection of employment-related kickbacks carries a fine of up to S\$30,000, imprisonment of up to two years, or both.

MOM reminded the public not to accept CPF contributions from businesses they do not work for, because that can amount to aiding a false declaration. Tip-offs can go through MOM's "Report an infringement" eService, with information kept confidential.



Ministry of Manpower wordmark. Credit: Ministry of Manpower

Ministry of Manpower wordmark. Credit: Ministry of Manpower

MOM said on 4 September 2026 that four construction-sector subjects were arrested on 2 September and 21 others are assisting in the phantom-worker probe.

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