

Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act 2018



The Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act [POSSPA] was passed in Parliament on 21 Mar 2018 and came into force on 16 May 2018. The Act provides the Police with the necessary powers to deal with serious public order and safety incidents, including terrorist attacks.

Enable the Use of Special Powers

POSSPA replaces the Public Order (Preservation) Act [POPA] to allow the Police to manage situations which seriously threaten public safety.



The Act allows Police to respond swiftly and decisively to terrorist acts and serious violence affecting the public or threats of such incidents occurring.



In serious incidents where public safety is threatened, the Minister of Home Affairs will issue the order to authorise Police to use the powers in the Act.

Enable Police to Respond to Serious Incidents More Effectively

New Provisions enable the Police to manage the safety of the public in the incident area and facilitate security operations.



Police can direct owners of buildings within incident area to take certain actions, such as closing their premises.



Police will have enhanced powers to stop and question individuals within incident area in order to obtain information.

Enable Police to Protect the Secrecy of Tactical Operations

Leaking information on on-going Police operations endangers the lives of both security forces and members of the public.



Commissioner of Police can issue an order for all persons to stop making or communicating films, pictures, text or audio messages about ongoing security operations in the incident area.



Police will be able to take down any unmanned aircraft and autonomous vehicles and vessels in the incident area.