



Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

\$1.8 MILLION SPORTS HUB OPENS IN BISHAN NORTH

- ❑ **Residents get range of facilities at their door-step**
- ❑ **Project will provide youth with opportunity to explore new sports**

Singapore, 24th Aug 2008 – Legendary Brazilian footballer Ronaldo once perfected his deadly shots on the streets of Brazil, while Chelsea's Michael Essien honed his stunning technique on the Ghanaian sidewalks. And, with these as inspirations who will know if the next sporting superstar may rise from one of Singapore's neighborhoods –the \$1.8 million sports venue in Bishan North, beside Block 231, Bishan Street 23.

2. Called "Bishan Active", this project was spearheaded by the Bishan-Toa Payoh North Citizens' Consultative Committee (CCC), in collaboration with the Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council. It offers an all-in-one solution to meet the sporting needs of aspiring youths in the heartlands. At the same time it provides an open place where families, neighbours, or just about anyone can go and enjoy some time together.



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3. Recognising the active lifestyles of Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC residents, the CCC decided to make good use of the vacant open land to quench their thirst for a place where they can enjoy a work out. Also, the GRC is known for their iconic “Healthy Heart Day” event which invariably draws very good support from the residents. Hence the Bishan Active assembles a broad spectrum of sports facilities to meet the needs of the young and the elderly, and for families.
4. The sports venue opens today with the Mayor of Central Singapore District, Mr Zainudin Nordin who is also an MP for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC, as the Guest of Honour. Himself an active sportsman, from soccer to golf, he will kick a ball into the goal as a symbolic gesture to mark the opening of the sports venue. Also kicking off the launch together with Mr Zainudin will be fellow MPs, namely, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Mr Wong Kang Seng, Minister for Education Dr Ng Eng Hen, Mrs Josephine Teo and Mr Hri Kumar Nair.
5. Mayor Zainudin, who is also the chairman of Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council, said: “I am proud to be involved in making this project a reality. We had deliberately planned it such that this venue can be a place for everyone. It is ideally suited for those who need a place to exercise regularly as this venue is fairly well-equipped. We believe its convenient location and relaxed setting will motivate others to come down and take up a sport as well. Who knows among them we may find our own Olympian in the making.



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“Beyond that, parents with young children can come together and enjoy the open spaces. Hopefully through their early exposure to sports, these children will grow up and adopt an active lifestyle.”

6. Another underlying element in the CCC’s support for this project is that such community facilities provides a good platform to organize sporting activities that cuts across races and religion, and offers a level playing field for people from all walks of life to come together. Sport is also a magnet that can unify communities and contribute to nation building. Elaborating Mayor Zainudin: “We can also use this venue to bring our residents together during major sporting events so that they can enjoy themselves and foster closer ties with one another. Bishan Active will be an ideal place for us to rally the residents and garner support for the efforts in gearing our nation for the 2010 when Singapore will host the first Youth Olympic Games.”

7. “Moreover, in today’s society, everything has become fast-paced,” added Mayor Zainudin. “This leads to many lacking the time to spend with their family, friends and neighbours. So they sometimes tend to neglect their own health as well. I am confident that Bishan Active will provide the much-needed stimulus for residents to remedy all of these problems, as they can all enjoy the facilities together with their friends and family and after that proceed to relax together at the same convenient location.”



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8. To plan for this project was not an easy task. The architect's proposed idea/design was presented to the working committee. Later, the grassroots leaders together with Mayor Zainudin used the design illustrations to carry out a survey among the residents to ascertain their response to the idea of turning the open land into a sports venue. After getting their support, the CCC then embarked on planning the project together with the Town Council.

9. Bishan-Toa Payoh North CCC Chairman, Mr Teh Hee Seang, said cost was an important factor as the project was undertaken at a time when price of construction raw materials was escalating. "We had to make some adjustments here and there, and with the good support from the Town Council, we are pleased that we completed on time and within budget," added Mr Teh. "Our residents will benefit from this project as we are providing a variety of facilities to suit their needs. We hope to encourage more people will take up a sport."

10. Mayor Zainudin said another challenge is to maintain the cleanliness of the estate as part of the holistic approach to keeping the community healthy. This he noted has been achieved largely because of the tireless efforts of the conservancy workers.



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11. He added: “We have a group of highly committed conservancy workers. Environment cleanliness is important as it complements our effort to encourage families to lead healthy lifestyles.”
12. In line with this, the Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council had launched its reward scheme for the constituency’s conservancy workers earlier this month.
13. The Long Service Award is to recognise those workers who have contributed their services to Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC during the past five years. Mayor Zainudin will hand out the \$500 award to the workers who served Bishan North during the opening of Bishan Active.
14. Bishan Active at Bishan Street 23 features the following facilities:
 1. Covered link-way
 2. Twin pavilions
 3. Fitness Corner for Senior Citizens
 4. Fitness Corner for Adults
 5. Children’s playground
 6. Jogging cum Roller-blade track
 7. Soccer Field



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8. Basketball Court

9. Beach Volleyball Court

10. Podium and Hardstanding Area
