

18 June 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

To News Editors

GOVERNMENT CONTINUES EFFORTS TO ENHANCE RECOGNITION FOR NSMEN WITH NEW AND ENHANCED SAFRA CLUBS

Come early 2016, NSmen and their families can look forward to a brand new \$57 million waterfront SAFRA club in Punggol as part of the government's continuing efforts to enhance recognition for NSmen's contributions towards National Defence. Besides the Punggol clubhouse, there are also plans to enhance SAFRA Mount Faber, redevelop SAFRA Tampines and build a new SAFRA club in the North-western part of Singapore in the years ahead.

This was announced by the Guest-of-Honour Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of SAFRA Punggol.

A New Waterfront Club for NSmen and Their Families

Designed to be a "Family Lifestyle & Recreation" club for NSmen, the new SAFRA Punggol will consist of five storeys and house a comprehensive suite of facilities and services for enrichment, recreation, fitness and entertainment.

The club will boast the first indoor water playground in Singapore to offer great family fun to NSmen with children. This unique Kidz Amaze facility, themed "The Deep Sea", will span 23,000 square feet and three storeys high, featuring a myriad of interactive water play elements for NSmen and their families to enjoy and create indelible memories together. The new club will also house the largest NurtureStars childcare centre, which will be designed with an eco-friendly concept, using natural sunlight and hydroponic plants to illuminate and enliven the learning and play areas, with the aim to impart the 'go green' message to children.

To cater to the fitness and entertainment needs of NSmen, the club will house an EnergyOne gym, cycling and rollerblading facilities, a bowling centre, spa and KTV outlet. It will also have more than 10 F&B outlets, the most among all SAFRA clubs, to offer a wide variety of dining choices.

Seamlessly integrated with the Punggol Waterway Park, SAFRA Punggol will feature many open spaces, including a multi-purpose courtyard, which can be used to host unit cohesion activities, family carnivals, performances and a variety of lifestyle programmes. The new club will be an ideal sanctuary for NSmen and their families to recreate and unwind along the waterfront.

Further down the road, when the new Punggol Regional Sports Centre is completed next door, SAFRA members will also have convenient and direct access to its swimming pools and a host of other sports facilities.

SAFRA Punggol is a recommendation of the Fifth Committee to Recognise the Contribution of Operationally-Ready National Servicemen to Total Defence (RECORD V) to better cater to the lifestyle needs of NSmen and their families living in the North-eastern part of Singapore. SAFRA Punggol will be SAFRA's sixth club.

Refreshing Existing SAFRA Clubs and Building New Ones

Later this year, SAFRA will also begin work on enhancing its existing club at Mount Faber. Once completed in 2016, the club will have a fresh look, new facilities and tenants, and more entertainment programmes to become a bustling executive lifestyle club where NSmen can meet with each other and with their business associates.

SAFRA Tampines will also be redeveloped to provide NSmen living in the East with more distinctive sports and fitness facilities. The redevelopment is slated to begin in 2016 and the new club is expected to be completed by 2018.

Beyond that, a new SAFRA club will also be built in the North-western part of Singapore.

For more information, kindly refer to:

- Annex A – Fact sheet on the new SAFRA Punggol
- Annex B – Welcome address by MAJ (NS) Terence Quek, Chairman of the SAFRA Punggol Development Committee
- Annex C – Speech by Guest-of-Honour Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Defence

About SAFRA National Service Association

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of NSmen and their families through quality sports, social and educational programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence.

SAFRA currently has a network of five clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs is a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 330,000 members and their families.

Issued by the Communications & Public Relations Division, SAFRA National Service Association.

**SAFRA PUNGGOL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY
WED, 18 JUN 2014**

FACT SHEET

ABOUT SAFRA PUNGGOL

1. Location : Along Sentul Crescent
6-minute walk from Punggol MRT station
1-minute walk from Sam Kee LRT station (once opened)
2. Cost of Development : \$57.3 million
3. Size of Land : 1.45 ha/ 14,500 m²
4. Gross Floor Area : 19,430.11 m²
5. Nett Floor Area : 14,013.45 m²
6. Number of storeys : 5 storeys
7. Project Consultant : Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd
8. Key Timelines : Piling will begin in June 2014
Completed by early 2016
9. Flagship Theme : Family Recreation & Lifestyle
10. Design Concept : a) The inspiration of the cascading architectural design comes from the natural slope seen on part of the land where the club will be built.

b) The club is integrated seamlessly with the adjacent Punggol Waterway Park to retain the naturalistic ambience for recreation.

c) The interior of the club will adopt curvilinear forms and a primacy of the horizontal plane, representing the movement of water inspired by the Punggol waterway. These aesthetic concepts provide natural sun shading, ventilation and vistas.
11. Unique Facilities : a) First of its kind 3-storey indoor water playground in Singapore

- themed "The Deep Sea"
 - spans across 23,000 square feet
 - interactive water play elements
- b) Multi-purpose courtyard lined with a variety of F&B outlets. It offers much flexibility to be used for a variety of purposes, including hosting unit cohesion activities, family carnivals, performances and various lifestyle programmes.

12. Full List of Facilities : **1st Storey**

- Car park
- Outdoor lounges/ cafes/ F&B outlets
- Bicycle/ rollerblading kiosk
- Sports and recreational activities at Punggol Waterway Park

2nd Storey

- Car park
- Multi-purpose courtyard
- F&B outlets

3rd Storey

- Main lobby
- Kidz Amaze indoor water playground (3rd to 5th storey)
- NurtureStars childcare centre
- Enrichment facilities
- F&B outlets
- Games rooms

4th Storey

- Kidz Amaze indoor water playground (3rd to 5th storey)
- EnergyOne gym
- Spa and wellness
- Enrichment facilities
- F&B outlets

5th Storey

- Kidz Amaze indoor water playground (3rd to 5th storey)
- Bowling centre
- KTV outlet
- Chinese restaurant
- Function rooms

SAFRA Punggol Development Committee

1. Chairman : MAJ (NS) Terence Quek Chun Hou
2. 1st Vice Chairman : CPL (NS) Tan Xu Teng
3. 2nd Vice Chairman : CPT (NS) Khoo Sze Boon
4. Advisor : Mr Johnny Tan Cheng Hye, PBM
5. Secretary : Mr Sam Sum
6. Members : Mr Hoong Bee Lok
Mr Joshua Choo Soen Keng
LTC (NS) Ridzuan Bin Ismail
LTA (NS) Dr Frankie Tan
CPT (NS) Chow Cheok Kai
Mr Joe Tan Yong Chiang

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MAJ (NS) TERENCE QUEK, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AT THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF SAFRA PUNGGOL ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014

Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs

Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence and Chairman, SAFRA Board of Governors

Mr Chan Chun Sing, Second Minister for Defence and President of SAFRA

Dr Maliki Osman, Minister of State for Defence and Deputy President of SAFRA

MPs from Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Groundbreaking Ceremony of SAFRA Punggol. This morning marks another major milestone in the history of SAFRA.

2 SAFRA Punggol is a recommendation of the Fifth Committee to Recognise the Contribution of Operationally-Ready National Servicemen to Total Defence, or in short, RECORD V. The new club will better enable SAFRA to meet the lifestyle needs of NSmen living in the north-eastern part of Singapore as a way to recognise their contributions to the nation.

3 My committee and I are very honoured to be given this opportunity to spearhead the development of SAFRA's sixth club. As NSman volunteers, we see this as a collaborative effort by NSmen, for NSmen, as we build a place where all of us can gather, recreate and bond with our families.

4 Over the past year, the Development Committee has met and deliberated on many areas, ranging from facilities to the concept of SAFRA Punggol's architectural design. We had two key considerations in mind.

5 Firstly, **engagement**. To effectively engage and serve the lifestyle needs of NSmen, we need to know who they are. The Punggol area is expected to consist of many young NSmen families, many of whom will have children in the years to come. As such, the committee is in agreement that the new club must have facilities and services that meet this particular lifestage needs, in the area of childcare, enrichment and family recreation.

6 Besides that, one of SAFRA's key roles is to strengthen camaraderie among NSmen and SAFRA clubs serve as a convenient place where they can gather. Therefore, we wanted SAFRA Punggol to have facilities and spaces that can offer the flexibility to be used for various purposes such as unit cohesion activities, family carnivals, performances and a variety of lifestyle programmes. Over and above all this, the club also has to have a good mix of F&B, entertainment, fitness and wellness facilities that everyone can enjoy.

7 Our second key consideration is the **environment**, or the surroundings of the new club. For any development project, there are always many competing uses for available space. We want to create a new club that meets the core needs of NSmen living in the area, while offering all NSmen in Singapore more variety and something unique. To do so, we had to consider the nearby facilities expected in the area, as well as how the other SAFRA clubs island-wide holistically cater to these varied needs, in order to prioritise what goes into SAFRA Punggol.

8 On a more localised level, SAFRA Punggol is also the first SAFRA club to be built along a waterway and it is nestled in the tranquility of the surrounding Punggol Waterway Park. This gives us a great opportunity to leverage on its

surrounding environment to create a truly fun and unique waterfront experience, both in terms of architecture and activities. For instance, if you look around, you would realise that part of the land that the club will be built on has a natural slope towards the waterway. It is this quality that has inspired the cascading architectural design of the club.

9 We hope that this will be a club that all NSmen can be proud of. At this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the SAFRA Punggol Development Committee as well as the Concept Committee that preceded us for all their hard work and contributions to bring us to this milestone.

10 It is now my pleasure to invite our Guest-of-Honour, Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, to deliver his speech.

Deputy Prime Minister, Sir, please. Thank you.

**SPEECH BY MR TEO CHEE HEAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
COORDINATING MINISTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY & MINISTER FOR
HOME AFFAIRS, AT THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF SAFRA
PUNGGOL ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014**

Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence and Chairman, SAFRA Board of Governors

Mr Chan Chun Sing, Second Minister for Defence and President of SAFRA

Dr Maliki Osman, Minister of State for Defence and Deputy President of SAFRA

Fellow MPs from Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

INTRODUCTION

1. I am pleased to join you this morning for the Groundbreaking Ceremony of SAFRA Punggol. The development of SAFRA Punggol is part of the Government's efforts to recognise our NSmen and their families for their contributions to national defence.

A NEW WATERFRONT CLUB FOR NSMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

2. Some may ask, why a SAFRA clubhouse, and why Punggol?

3. Punggol is a growing new town, with some 150,000 residents by next year. Among them will be many NSmen and many young families. We want to serve our NSmen and the needs of their families. When SAFRA Punggol opens in early 2016,

it will be easily accessible to the more than 70,000 NSmen who live in the North-eastern part of Singapore – a significant proportion of the total number of our NSmen who can all have greater choices with this new club.

4. Punggol is the most exciting new development in Singapore, with water as a unifying theme – the Punggol Waterway, Sungei Serangoon, Sungei Punggol and the sea. We want our NSmen and their families to enjoy the refreshing and uplifting environment here.

5. The new 5-storey SAFRA Punggol club will complement and add to the waterfront facilities in Punggol. Integrated with the Punggol Waterway Park, the club will feature many open spaces and offer a wide variety of lifestyle and entertainment options for NSmen and their families to enjoy. When the new Punggol Regional Sports Centre is ready, SAFRA members will also enjoy direct access to its swimming pool and a variety of sports facilities.

DEFENDING OUR HOMES, OUR FAMILIES

6. Beyond the new and exciting facilities, the SAFRA clubhouse is also an important symbol, to answer the question “What will you defend?”. Having the SAFRA clubhouse here in the newest of our heartlands will be a constant reminder of what our NSmen are defending – our homes, our families, and the special Singapore that we have built together.

7. Besides the new Punggol clubhouse, there are also plans to transform the SAFRA Mount Faber club into an executive lifestyle club by 2016, redevelop SAFRA Tampines to provide more sports and fitness facilities by 2018, and build a new SAFRA club in the North-western part of Singapore. HomeTeam NS will complete the upgrading of its clubhouses in Balestier, Chinatown and Bukit Batok this August. The family-themed Bukit Batok clubhouse will offer a new selection of eateries, learning centres, lifestyle shopping outlets, and a multi-shooting arena. The Chinatown and Balestier clubhouses will have new eateries and revamped entertainment outlets. A new HTNS clubhouse in the Tampines Town Hub will also be ready by 2016.

8. Each time our NSmen come to use one of these facilities, it is a reminder of what National Service is about – protecting our country, our homes, our families, what is ours. And our appreciation for their efforts and sacrifices, providing them with a wholesome environment to enjoy quality time with their loved ones and fellow NSmen.

COMMITTEE TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SERVICE

9. We will continue to see how we can better recognise the contributions of our NSmen. Following the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee to Strengthen National Service, NSmen can look forward to receiving the NS HOME awards to assist them in their education, housing and healthcare needs. The Committee also recommended ways to expand community support for NSmen. All these help to anchor our NSmen's commitment to protect Singapore, as part of a strong and cohesive SAF and Home Team.

CONCLUSION

10. I would like to take this opportunity to commend SAFRA and HTNS for their good work in serving the lifestyle needs of NSmen. I would like to thank the SAFRA Punggol Development Committee, SAFRA corporate partners and volunteers for their support and contributions towards recognising NSmen.

11. Most importantly, I would like to thank our National Servicemen, for committing your time and energy to train hard and being always ready to respond when called upon. I also wish to express my appreciation to our servicemen's families, friends and employers, whose support is critical for our NSmen to serve with pride.

12. All of us here in Punggol look forward eagerly to this new clubhouse to serve our NSmen and their families, and our residents here in Punggol.

13. Thank you very much.