



## Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **\$1.7 MILLION DOLLAR SPORTS VENUE TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE IN BISHAN-TOA PAYOH GRC**

**- Multi-purpose sports venue is part of broad programme to get residents engage in healthy exercises**

**Singapore, 23 June** – A new \$1.7 million sports venue will be built right in the heart of Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC to provide the 200,000 residents with a variety of facilities to encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The sports venue, which is aptly called Bishan Active, will be developed into a family sports and activities hub and be a focal point for the young and the elderly to gather and enjoy the recreational facilities. The facilities to be provided include:

- ❑ A soccer field
- ❑ A basketball court
- ❑ A roller blade track
- ❑ Two feature walls
- ❑ One fitness corner
- ❑ One playground
- ❑ Three shelters.



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Following the ground breaking ceremony by Mr Zainudin Nordin, MP for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC on 23 June 2007, construction work will begin and is expected to take nine months to complete. A logo competition will subsequently be held for the public to design one for Bishan Active.

The project's open concept offers four entrances and beckons the residents to come and enjoy the facilities, which are specifically designed to cater to the needs of the general public. The Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council is confident that facilities like the soccer field will prove particularly popular.

The building of the park, which is undertaken by the Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council, has three main goals in mind:

### 1. Family Gathering

Bishan Active would serve as a suitable alternative venue for family members to gather, enjoy the outdoors and spend quality time together. Parents and grandparents alike can bring the young children and interact within a relaxed atmosphere.



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### 2. Healthy Living

The park offers an ideal social and physical platform to meet the needs of various age groups, from young children to the energetic youths and adolescents to the elderly. Its centralised location at the current open field bounded by several blocks of high-rise apartments and proximity to the schools at Bishan Street 23 makes the location ideal in attracting a captive crowd.

### 3. Community Bonding

With its size relatively larger as compared to most HDB estate facilities, the spaciousness of Bishan Active allows for mass participation activities that will promote interaction among residents. The park, which features tensioned membrane covered linkways will act as a shelter and can also be used as a venue to stage many grassroots events that will encourage healthy multi-racial bonding.

Mr Zainudin Nordin, who is also the chairman of Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council, said: “We have been eyeing this open ground for some time and exploring how can we best use it to benefit as many residents as possible. We eventually decided that converting the ground for sporting activities would be the best choice and got the Bishan-Toa Payoh North Citizens’ Consultative Committee (CCC) to work on this project.”



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Mr Zainudin has worked tirelessly to get the necessary funding and support from the Government so that the facilities can be enjoyed by everyone for free. It took the CCC, with Mr Zainudin as its advisor, 24 months from the time it applied for funding, got the architects to design the facilities, and the eventual approval by the authorities for construction work to go ahead.

Mindful that some residents living in the nearby blocks of flats may have their concerns, Mr Zainudin together with the CCC and other grassroots leaders fanned out last year to visit the households to gather their feedback. The majority supported his idea of creating a sport venue at the open field.

“We have many residents who are enthusiastic in sports. Our GRC has many sports enthusiasts. We are known for our Healthy Heart Day, which is an annual iconic event. We have been fielding a big team to take part in the various Big Walk events whenever they were held.

“You can see many of our residents jogging around the estates, apart from participation in soccer, woodball, roller blade and basket ball. So we are a sporting neighbourhood and I want our residents to be able to enjoy these facilities at no cost to them,” said Mr Zainudin, who is also the Mayor of Central Singapore District.



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The park will come as a pleasant surprise to nearby residents of Ang Mio Kio GRC as well, some of whom are known to frequent the nearby Bishan Sports Complex. In fact, Mr Zainudin is confident that this will be an excellent way of providing others from the nearby GRCs with a chance to join the Bishan-Toa Payoh residents to enjoy the facilities like roller blade track not currently available at the Bishan Sports Complex.

“Bishan Active is a good venue for people to come together and share some happy times growing up as one family unit,” said Mr Zainudin.

Bishan Active, which is initiated by the Bishan-Toa Payoh North CCC, is funded by the Community Improvements Project Committee (CIPC). Bishan Active is part of Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council’s \$215 million five-year estate renewal programme.

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