

OCTOBER 2022

Talk of the Town

BUALAN KOTA
市鎮之聲
நகர பேச்சு

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HOLLAND-BUKIT PANJANG
TOWN COUNCIL

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL DAY



pg 2-3
Fighting Dengue, Together



pg 4
Take a Seat



pg 6-7
National Day Spirit Across Town

"Dengue made my muscles and joints feel like they were being crushed day and night."

Shima, 39

"Dengue gave me rashes that felt like razor-sharp spikes stabbing my flesh."

Alisha, 29

"Dengue made my gums bleed like I'd gone multiple rounds with a boxer."

Gary Yang, 42

DENGUE IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK



START YOUR MOZZIE WIPEOUT

STOP DENGUE WITH B-L-O-C-K

BREAK

up hardened soil



LIFT

and empty flowerpot plates



OVERTURN

pails and wipe their rims



CHANGE

water in vases



KEEP

roof gutters clear and place BTI insecticide



PROTECT YOURSELF BY PRACTISING S-A-W

SPRAY

insecticide in dark corners around the house



APPLY

insect repellent regularly



WEAR

long sleeves and long pants



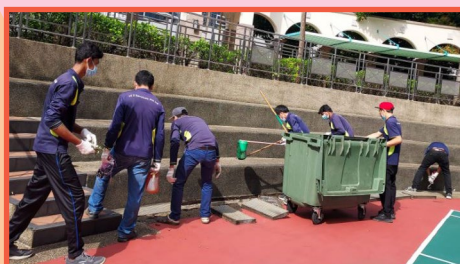
Mozzie Season Alert!



Dengue, the deadly viral disease that puts an estimated 40% of the world population at risk, is undeniably a cause for concern. The disease has remained endemic in Singapore, with periodic spikes observed in five-to-six year cycles since the 1990s. Infections typically increase from April and peak in July or August, before dipping between September and October. This year, the 5,184 cases reported as of June 15, far exceeded the 2,772 cases reported in 2017 and 3,285 in 2018. Although we are steadily recovering from a dengue outbreak, there is no room for complacency.

Amidst diverse other initiatives, the National Environmental Agency (NEA), in partnership with the Inter-Agency Dengue Task Force and Town Councils, conducted about 609,000 inspections islandwide in the first half of 2022 alone. To supplement national efforts, the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council (HBPTC) has been working with pest control teams and our conservancy to safeguard our town and its people.

As we enter the monsoon season, the potential for stagnant water build-up in our estates increases. In light of the current rainy weather, HBPTC has stepped up collaborative efforts with the National Environment Agency (NEA) on pest control and inspection at HDB common areas. We have intensified our pest control treatment from weekly to daily.



Let's Fight Dengue, TOGETHER!

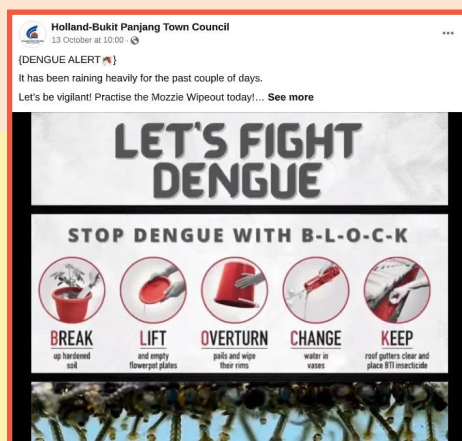


Close Collaboration with NEA

The NEA, which oversees national initiatives and efforts to tackle the dengue outbreak, possesses extensive knowledge on dengue and its risk factors. HBPTC has conducted several meetings and joint inspections in partnership with NEA to detect potential breeding sites in places such as open spaces and HDB lighting conductor pits. These inspections have also helped the Town Council gain a better understanding of the virality of dengue and its risk factors. The insightful collaboration has certainly allowed HBPTC to better its various efforts to safeguard its residents from dengue.

Stepping Up Preventive Efforts

Whilst our healthcare staff work tirelessly to help those infected, we have been reinforcing our preventive measures. Recognising that prevention is better than cure, we also conduct regular inspections at the rooftop, pump room and HDB common areas, all of which are potential mosquito breeding sites. Clearing of leaves in drains and drain oiling are now a daily affair. Thermal fogging and chemical misting are also carried out with increased frequency. To reap maximal results, we are also planting abates in drainages to deter the formation of mosquito breeding habitats.



Promoting Ownership in Dengue Prevention

A strong momentum of community efforts is crucial in our battle against dengue. As such, we seek to promote, amongst our residents, ownership in dengue prevention. We regularly share dengue prevention tips on our Facebook page in addition to showcasing our dengue prevention efforts in digital display panels. To allow our residents to readily remember prevention measures, we created awareness on the "Stop Dengue with B-L-O-C-K" campaign on our digital display panels as well as Facebook page.

It's a collective effort!

The fight against dengue remains a collective effort and we encourage residents to take an active role in the matter. At the same time, we are also closely monitoring the dengue situation in our estates and will not hesitate to increase our frequencies of checks when necessary.

My neighbourhood has been quite safe despite the alarming number of cases reported in other regions. I'm grateful that prevention measures were timely and effective.

— Soo Yu Xuan,
Blk 474 (Zhenghua)

The dengue preventions have been very effective. I'm happy that my household and I did not face any issues with dengue although there were many cases reported in Singapore.

— Veronica Woo,
Blk 208B (Bukit Timah)

Overall, the Town Council's measures have been effective as there were minimal cases here. I also came across brochures and banners that alerted and educated the public about dengue in Singapore.

— Kenneth Chia,
Blk 311C (Bukit Timah)

REPURPOSING MRT PARTS IN OUR TOWN



Towards a greener Singapore

Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council is proud to play an active role in the campaign to create a sustainable home in Singapore. We have repurposed decommissioned parts from MRT trains in our neighbourhoods, enhancing our residents' living environments while reducing waste to landfill.

As part of PAP's Action for Green Towns (AGT) initiative, which ultimately aims to make every PAP-managed town zero waste, energy efficient and greener, we are upcycling old MRT seats as benches at some of our void decks. Residents can now rest and connect with one another on these benches while contributing positively to the environment! One happy Zhenghua resident Mr Cedric Tan says "It is nice to see how things can be repurposed in our everyday lives for the good of people. The seats are a nice addition".

Our town's role in AGT

The repurposed MRT seats can be found around our town at Block 180 Lompang Road, Block 605 Senja Road, Block 431 Bukit Panjang Ring Road, Block 110 Gangsa Road and Block 532 Jelapang Road.

An old MRT railing has also found a new purpose as a handrail in a male toilet at Block 259 Bukit Panjang Ring Road. This green initiative aims to repurpose at least 1,500 MRT seats as well as 1,400 railings, and we are glad that some upcycled items have found their way into our town, and our lives!

We hope residents will find these seats and handrail beneficial. Have fun (re)using them!



PHOTO CONTEST

26 SEPTEMBER - 30 NOVEMBER 2022

THEME: OUR TOWN IN A PICTURE: HERITAGE, HOPES AND VISIONS



HOW TO ENTER

1. FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

 @HOLLANDBUKITPANJANGTC

 @HOLLANDBUKITPANJANGTOWNCOUNCIL

2. SUBMIT THE PHOTO VIA THE QR CODE

STAND A CHANCE TO WIN
\$50 NTUC VOUCHERS
(UP TO 10 WINNERS)

SCAN TO SUBMIT



THE WINNING PHOTOS WILL
BE FEATURED AROUND
OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
YOUR PHOTOS WILL BE
FEATURED HERE:



ONESERVICE APP

With effect from 31 October 2022, the iTown app will no longer be in use.



Scan and download the app here!



WHAT YOU CAN DO ON THE ONESERVICE APP

Submit feedback to the relevant government agencies and town councils on municipal issues in a timely manner. These include:



SPOT



SHOOT



SEND



Faulty facilities in HDB estates



Dirty public areas



Damaged footpaths

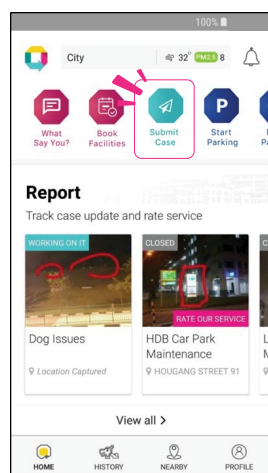


Pests in common areas

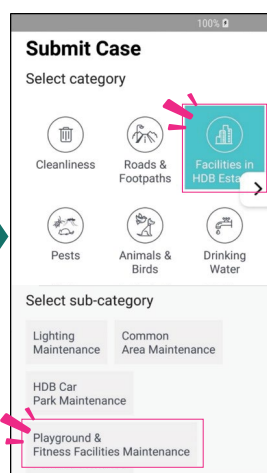


Overgrown grass

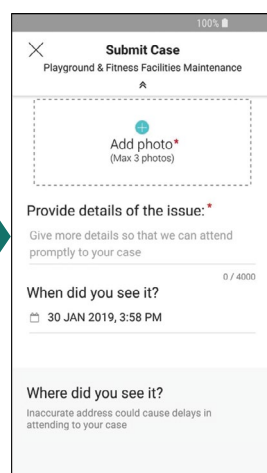
HOW TO SUBMIT FEEDBACK



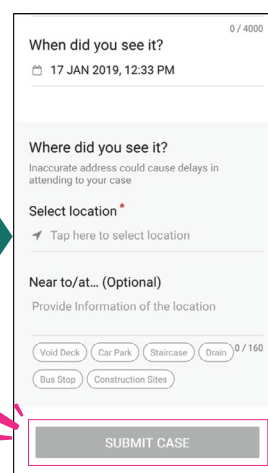
Select 'Submit Case'



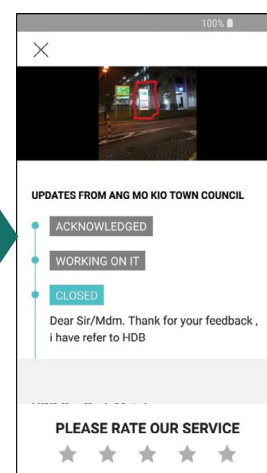
Select the Category and Sub-Category



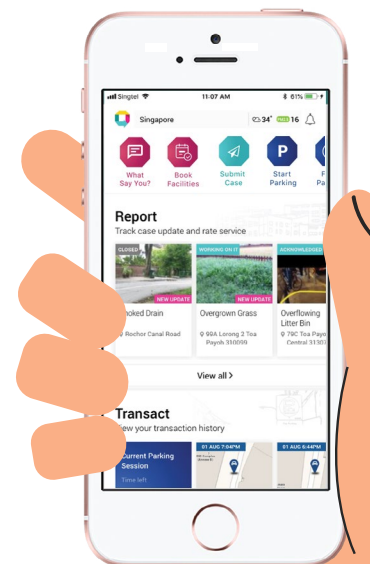
Provide a photo and details of a case



Click 'Submit Case' and it will be routed to the correct agency or Town Council



Track and receive progress updates on your case



NATIONAL DAY Celebrations Around Town

After two years of strict COVID-19 measures, our Holland-Bukit Panjang Town was finally able to hold proper celebrations for Singapore's national day — and we did it with a bang! A series of six festive events were held in honour of our nation's 57th birthday.

BUKIT PANJANG National Day Observance Ceremony & Brisk Walk 2022

Town celebrations started with Bukit Panjang's National Day Observance Ceremony & Brisk Walk 2022 at Bukit Panjang Community Club, which was attended by Mr Liang Eng Hwa. A rousing recital of Singapore's national pledge by students from Zhenghua Primary School kick-started the event, followed by a captivating instrumental performance of our national anthem by the marching band from West Spring Secondary School.

A carnival was also held at Fajar Hills in commemoration of National Day. The festive atmosphere was palpable as residents, decked in red and white, flocked the hilly compound at the heart of the estate for fun and games. There were game stations, such as bowling, ring toss and 'shoot the ducks', as well as a 'potong ice cream' cart, transporting us back to the good old days.

Energetic performances by New Life Community Services and Peranakan Sayang, who sang modern renditions of well-loved folk numbers such as "Rasa Sayang" and "Burung Kakak Tua", enlivened the event and held the enraptured crowd captive!

ZHENGHUA National Day Observance Ceremony 2022

Residents came out in hordes in the early morning of National Day for festivities at Zhenghua Community Club. It was well worth their time as the community club was brimming with interesting activities, such as terrarium making, paper quilling and nostalgia-inducing 'kampung' games. An Old Chang Kee food truck was also on the premises, dishing out free yummy goodies for everyone to enjoy!

Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui thanked the organising committee for putting the event together, a first since the COVID-19 pandemic and the final one to be held in the community club as it will be undergoing renovations soon. He also made a special mention of the spirited National Day run organised by Zhenghua Community Sports Network, where the community collectively clocked in more than 570 km over a few weeks, marking 57 years of independence for Singapore.



ULU PANDAN National Day Dinner 2022

"It is deeply meaningful to me that we are able to gather here today. You're like my family and friends, and I wish to meet and greet each and everyone of you after the dinner," said Mr Christopher de Souza, addressing the 2,000-strong crowd that had come to attend Singapore's National Day dinner in Ulu Pandan. He spoke emotively about the wonderful initiatives by his team and Ulu Pandan residents to assist those within the estate who have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as groceries and food rations for the elderly and laptops for students for their remote learning needs.

Students from Henry Park Primary School led the singing of the national anthem and recital of the pledge. Residents were then entertained by the highly-charged singing and dance performances of artists such as Vanessa Voon, Navin and Lynn Malik. The event ended with a mass toast for Ulu Pandan and Singapore. It was definitely a night to remember!



CASHEW National Day Celebrations

Held at Senja-Cashew Community Club, the National Day celebrations started with a fun quiz about this year's National Day songs. The segment was welcomed by the little ones who shouted out their answers excitedly. Silat was performed by children who have been attending the classes at the community club. Residents were also presented with lovely performances of traditional Chinese dances and stirring renditions of National Day hits such as "Home".

While Dr Vivian Balakrishnan could not attend due to COVID-19, he shared a few words with the help of a representative. "A key lesson from the pandemic is that we must treasure our family, friends and community," he stressed. "It is times like this that prove that we are a united, cohesive and compassionate society."



BUKIT TIMAH National Day 2022

The pretty Firefly Park, which is located off Clementi Avenue 4, turned into a cosy yet lively spectacle with bean bags strewn across the area for residents to kick back and relax while being entertained by live performances. A family-oriented event, the place was teeming with people, both young and old. Young children were kept happily occupied by a free train ride with ringing bells and decorative mini flags flapping in the cool breeze. The bouncy castle was a complete hit and there was a proliferation of free goodie bags and fun activities for one and all to enjoy.

Ms Sim Ann welcomed residents near and far to the event and wished everyone the best of health and a wonderful National Day. Mr Chen, a 64-year-old resident, found the atmosphere heartwarming, like a family event on a weekend. Phoebe, 9, enjoyed the train ride tremendously. "I wish for Singapore to remain extremely strong," she said with a giggle.



Congratulations!

to our National Day Award 2022 Winners!



Mr Jayaram s/o Letchumanan, BBM (L)
The Public Service Star (Bar)

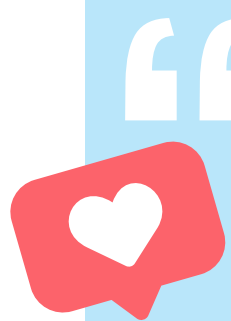


Mrs Lydia Neo, PBM
The Public Service Medal



Mr Richard Tan Kah Hock, BBM
The Public Service Star

BOUQUETS



Thank you, Mr Yap Joo Seem, for your kind assistance and prompt action. My neighbours and I really appreciate you for following up on my feedback and taking pre-emptive actions. We would like to compliment you and your staff for your actions as the situation has greatly improved. Thank you once again, and I hope we can keep our environment clean and safe to live in.

— Azlini Rhain, Ulu Pandan division

“

I called the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council office on 6 June to ask for assistance regarding a leaking pipe in my toilet. The receptionist who took my call politely told me that another officer would be coming to check on the leakage. Mr Jimmy Yap called and sent a plumber on 9 June. The plumber was polite and skilful, and tightened the loosened branch pipe eye.



I am impressed with the service provided by Mr Jimmy Yap.

—Mona Lee, Cashew division

“

I wish to inform the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council that the new contractor is doing a good job at maintaining the cleanliness of 419 Fajar Road and its surroundings.



They are also using pressure jets to clean the general areas which were neglected previously.

— Tony Lim, Bukit Panjang Division

“

We want to convey our thanks to the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council for the very prompt response and service.



Your staff came to inspect the electrical meter box about an hour after my email, and promptly followed up on whether our electrical tripping issue had been attended to.

I called the service man, Mr Leong, to arrange to replace the Earth-Leakage Circuit Breaker (ELCB). He arrived within half an hour and completed the job within 35 minutes.

Thank you very much.

— Edmund Lee, Bukit Timah division

“

Hi, I just want to express my sincere appreciation for the extremely speedy response of the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council team. I had requested help removing some nails and hooks outside my unit that the previous owner left and was surprised to learn that this was completed within two days. The workmanship is also good. Thank you very much for your prompt attention, assistance, and great job!



— Lael Loh, Zhenghua division

Have feedback to share? Drop us an email at mailbox@hbptc.org.sg!