

AUGUST 2024

Talk of the Town

BUALAN KOTA
市鎮之聲



HOLLAND-BUKIT PANJANG
TOWN COUNCIL

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Uniting in National Pride



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Rain or Shine, Community Spirit Radiates at National Day Observance Ceremony

In a vibrant celebration of Singapore's 59th National Day, the open space between Hillion Mall and Bukit Panjang MRT was alive with community spirit and patriotic fervour on 9 August 2024. The joint observance ceremony for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC and Bukit Panjang Constituency brought together residents and our MPs, Mr Liang Eng Hwa, Mr Christopher de Souza, Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and Ms Sim Ann.

The festivities began with enthusiastic renditions of national day classics by Bukit Panjang Primary School students, setting a tone of unity and celebration. As performances by our young ones continued, activity booths offered added engagement for all ages. The highlight arrived with residents singing the National Anthem and reciting the Pledge with our MPs.

In his address, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Cashew) Dr Vivian Balakrishnan reflected on Singapore's unique character, highlighting the country's strength in its diversity of languages and religions. He emphasised the importance of taking pride in this uniqueness and the need to continually nurture and strengthen national unity. He noted that celebrating National Day provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on these values and work towards a more united future.

As the day progressed, a sudden downpour drenched the area. Nevertheless, many did not let the weather dampen their spirits. The resilient crowd took shelter but ensured the day's celebrations continued with as much energy and joy as before. The event was a testament to our residents' unwavering community spirit.



National Day Awardee

Mr Goh Ting Meng, Tommy
BBM (L)
The Public Service Star (Bar)

Evolving Spaces for a Thriving Community



Community halls were simple structures used for town meetings and communal gatherings. However, as Singapore evolved, so too did these halls. Today, they are dynamic spaces that not only accommodate a wide range of activities but also address specific needs of the communities they serve.

MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Bukit Timah) Ms Sim Ann aptly captured this evolution at the opening of a new community hall, The Court @ Clementi Meadows, on 27 July 2024. She stated, “Bricks-and-mortar improvements such as new community halls in our neighbourhoods should be accompanied by good programming that addresses the specific needs of residents. At Clementi Meadows, we are always thinking about how to help our residents age well. I am delighted that the NUHS Mind Science Centre is now an anchor programme provider at our newly expanded community hall, through the Age Well Everyday (AWE) Club.”

Community is at the heart of ageing well as a nation, and everyone has a role to play. Initiatives within our community halls, such as those led by the AWE Club, are crucial in building a society where people of all ages can thrive. As Singapore continues to grow and change, these halls will remain central to our collective efforts to support and uplift every member of our community.



Senja Go! Trail

Bringing Fitness Home

Zhenghua residents can anticipate upgraded sports facilities closer to home with the Sport-in-Precinct (SIP) initiative, part of SportSG's Vision 2030 to promote active health. Themed Senja Go! Trail, the SIP initiative in Zhenghua provides multi-generational play and fitness. It features different zones for varying fitness levels, all unified by a running track around the precinct.

From children to seniors, residents expressed enthusiasm for the upgrades:

"My kids are very interested in this programme. They want to know what new facilities there are for them and the other kids in the estate."

Jing Lia, 35

"I'm glad I'd soon be able to use a stadium-grade running track at just a stone's throw away."

Chee Aun, 24

"I usually take walks around a park that is further away. With the upgrades and enhanced green spaces, I'll be able to enjoy greeneries closer to home."

Ann, 26

"Some of the equipment at the current fitness corner isn't very accessible to me, but these new ones are even wheelchair-friendly!"

Ang P K, 60



During a town hall feedback session on 5 May 2024, residents provided valuable insights and suggestions, such as strategies to maximise facility utilisation and the addition of water coolers and fans. MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC (Zhenghua) Mr Edward Chia reassured residents that their convenience would be carefully balanced with misuse prevention.

By prioritising inclusivity, sustainability and resident engagement, the initiative transforms physical spaces while nurturing a stronger sense of belonging and well-being among residents. As the project progresses, continued dialogue will be pivotal in realising a vibrant, active and thriving precinct for generations to come.



Weatherproofed Workouts at Your Doorstep

Whether to seek shelter from rain or scorching heat, indoor fitness corners offer residents refuge. Boo Sand Kee, 67, a regular jogger in the neighbourhood, appreciates the convenience they offer: “With a few new indoor fitness corners nearby, I can easily adjust my running routes when it rains and maintain my routine.”

Built at void decks, these fitness corners are easily accessible to residents. “I use them whenever I have some free time because they’re just a lift

ride away,” remarked Angeline Goh, 58. Residents’ Committee volunteer Ang Lay Hoon, 50, noted the improvement: “Before these indoor fitness corners were built, the nearest one was at the community centre, so it is much closer now.”

More than personal fitness, these indoor fitness corners also foster family and community bonding. Koh Kim Kee, 74, shared, “I join my granddaughters for a workout at these fitness corners sometimes, and they would guide me through exercises with the equipment.”

With more indoor fitness corners to come, MP for Bukit Panjang Constituency Mr Liang Eng Hwa encourages residents, “Come down and use these facilities. Integrate them into your routine.”

Bukit Panjang residents, get moving to one of the new indoor fitness corners near you now!



- 107 Gangsa Rd
- 121 Pending Rd
- 213 Petir Road
- 242 Bukit Panjang Ring Rd
- 412 Saujana Rd
- 434 Bukit Panjang Ring Rd
- 442C Fajar Rd

Infrastructural Upgrades

Electrical Rewiring

Over time, electrical wiring can deteriorate due to age, wear and damage. Electrical rewiring ensures that wiring continues to meet safety standards and supports increased energy demands. This prevents potential hazards such as fires, short circuits and electric shocks. Currently, 54 blocks are undergoing these important upgrades, designed to minimise disruptions and future-proof our community’s infrastructure.



New Covered Linkway

As part of our continuous efforts to improve town connectivity and accessibility, new covered linkways are added regularly. These pathways provide residents with greater convenience and ensure safer journeys, particularly during inclement weather. The latest addition is the newly completed covered linkway at Blk 3 Ghim Moh Road.



▲ Blk 3 Ghim Moh Rd

Appreciating Our Cleaners Beyond the Broom

“We need to appreciate our cleaners. They keep our estate clean, and it is not an easy job, especially as our expectations for cleanliness and hygiene increase,” asserted MP for Bukit Panjang Constituency Mr Liang Eng Hwa.

Indeed, our cleaners are essential front liners upholding our town’s commitment to cleanliness and maintenance. Zhenghua Primary School, grassroots leaders and volunteers organised an event at Bangkit Court Multi-Purpose Hall to express our gratitude to them. Armed with thoughtfully crafted questions, the students sought to forge connections with cleaners from Bukit Panjang, Cashew and Zhenghua.

“This is the first time I communicated with migrant workers at a deeper level. It helped me better appreciate them,” expressed Liew Yu Zhe, 11.

The event was also a unique experience for our migrant workers. Kawsar Sarkar, 29, shared, “I enjoy talking to the children as I hardly have the chance to interact with locals. It feels nice to be appreciated.”

At the event, students also distributed self-prepared care packs and served food to our cleaners, offering them a well-deserved break. As students and cleaners enjoyed a performance by the Migrant Workers’ Band and shared lunch, they continued to understand one another better.

In addition to the appreciation event, a series of appreciation visits was organised by Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council. MPs from the respective divisions personally visited the cleaners and thanked each of them with tokens of appreciation for their dedication to the town and community.



“It has been difficult being away from family, but the friendly residents and my friends make it easier.”

Sabuh

Ulu Pandan



Bukit Panjang



"I've been working here for two years, and it has been very nice. The residents are very friendly and would always say hi, greet me good morning or thank me."

Jowal

Cashew



Bukit Timah

"I'm still working at 84 years old because it gives me something to do. I get to stay active and make friends with residents and fellow cleaners."

Kian Huat



Zhenghua



"Working here has been very nice and peaceful. Being acknowledged for the work we do is very thoughtful."

Alamshsaha

Guide for Traditional Rites | 如何进行传统祭祀

Devotees observe the tradition of paying respects to their loved ones who have departed. Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council (HBPTC) would like to appeal to all devotees to practise considerate joss paper/incense burning and adopt safe distancing measures while carrying out these traditional rites.

信众都会根据传统习俗祭拜已去世的亲友。市镇会提醒居民焚烧香烛冥纸时，注意防火安全及遵守安全距离措施。

Why can't I burn joss papers on the common areas/grass turfs?

It poses potential fire hazards and damages common property. Please use the designated burners provided by HBPTC.

为什么不可以的空地或草地上焚烧冥纸?

这样做会造成火灾隐患及破坏公物。请使用市镇会提供的焚烧炉。



Why should I clear my offerings after praying?

The food remnants left at common areas may attract pests. Let us do our part in keeping our estate clean!

为什么祭拜后应清理供品?

留在公共地方的食物残渣会引来蚊虫鼠患。请尽一份力，保持环境清洁!



What can I do to minimise the smoke?

Consider burning joss paper in small quantities. Let us maintain good air quality and do our part to save the earth.

如何避免焚烧冥纸时制造大量浓烟?

将少量冥纸慢慢地放入焚烧炉，有助于减少浓烟，维持良好的空气质量。请尽一份力，爱护地球!



A little thoughtfulness can keep the estate clean for everyone!

Please call us at 1800 766 9100 for any feedback or assistance during this period.

多为他人着想，保持家园清洁!

在此期间，若您需要协助或有任何反馈，请致电1800 766 9100与我们联系。



HOLLAND-BUKIT PANJANG
TOWN COUNCIL

BOUQUETS

Dear Town Council,

Compliments to cleaner supervisor Mr Habib. Mr Habib works diligently to get work done. He monitors his group of workers daily and keeps the estate tidy and clean. He never fails in his duty when called upon and always keeps residents updated. His positive work attitude is deserving of much praise and appreciation. Please send my compliments to him. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

- Resident of Holland-Bukit Panjang

Dear Mr Ong,

Thank you for your prompt action in helping us resolve the issue in our unit. Please also extend our thanks and compliments to the repair and redecoration contractors for their good workmanship and attention and care to detail.

- Paul Ho

Dear Town Council,

I have been a resident of Ghim Moh Link for over six years. I want to praise the cleaner in charge of block washing today as he did an outstanding job. He washed the carparks at Blk 33 and 31A, and they are so clean now. I am very thankful for the great service.

- Karen Tan