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MEDIA RELEASE

To News Editors

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TEO CHEE HEAN OFFICIALLY OPENS SAFRA PUNGGOL

Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Mr Teo Chee Hean officiated the opening of a new SAFRA club, SAFRA Punggol, this evening. The opening was also attended by Minister for Defence and Chairman of SAFRA Board of Governors Dr Ng Eng Hen, Second Minister for Defence and President of SAFRA Mr Ong Ye Kung and Senior Minister of State for Defence and Deputy President of SAFRA Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, as well as around 500 other guests.

SAFRA Punggol had its soft launch in April after almost two years of development, and monthly patronage has since grown to over 150,000 visitors.

One of SAFRA Punggol's main attractions is its unique indoor water playground, Splash @ Kidz Amaze, which sees over 30,000 visitors every month. The 23,000 square feet facility features multi-level play decks and slides specially designed to allow parents to navigate with their children, as well as party rooms. The club also has a bicycle rental kiosk so visitors have the option of cycling along Punggol Waterway and to the nearby Coney Island Park. Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and their families can also look forward to the opening of a new water activities facility at SAFRA Punggol by March 2017, which will allow them to rent kayaks and paddle along the Punggol Waterway.

Besides housing a wide range of other facilities for child care, enrichment and recreation to cater to the growing population of NSmen and their families in the North-East region of Singapore, SAFRA Punggol has also become an icon for eco-friendly development projects. The club's focus on energy and water efficiency is estimated to save about 700,000 tonnes of carbon emissions and bring about \$360,000 in cost savings from electricity and utility bills each year. It is also the first SAFRA club to receive the Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework certification by NParks and to be conferred the Building and Construction Authority Green Mark Platinum award.

With the opening of SAFRA Punggol, SAFRA now has six clubs located islandwide and the total footfall this year is expected to exceed 8 million, as compared to about 7 million in 2015.

The new club has also enabled NSmen to enjoy a wider spread of recreational activities as part of their unit cohesion events, with water-based challenges and cycling added to the selection of activities. To date, more than 40 Singapore Armed Forces' unit cohesion events have been organised at SAFRA Punggol to strengthen camaraderie, benefitting over 6,000 NSmen.

After the opening ceremony, DPM Teo, Dr Ng, Mr Ong and Dr Maliki also visited some of SAFRA Punggol's key facilities, including Splash @ Kidz Amaze, the bicycle rental kiosk, 24-lane bowling centre, electronic darts bar and the EnergyOne gym where NSmen can take their Individual Physical Proficiency Test (IPPT) and attend IPPT Preparatory Training (IPT) sessions.

More Activities and Facilities to Engage NSmen

Next year, NSmen and their families can look forward to a slew of celebratory activities and promotions as SAFRA celebrates 50 years of National Service and SAFRA's 45th Anniversary. The celebratory activities will include the SAFRA Singapore Bay Run & Army Half Marathon and SAFRA Swim for Hope, as well as a dinner to recognise SAFRA volunteers and corporate partners.

SAFRA will also continue to enhance its islandwide network of clubs over the next few years. SAFRA Tampines will be upgraded and the feasibility of a seventh SAFRA club in the North-West region of Singapore is currently being assessed.

Kindly refer to **Annex A** for the fact sheet on SAFRA Punggol; **Annex B** for DPM Teo's speech.

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, educational and cultural programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence. SAFRA currently has a network of six clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Punggol, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs are a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 370,000 members and their families.

Issued by SAFRA National Service Association on 24 November 2016

FACT SHEET ON SAFRA PUNGGOL

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The development of SAFRA Punggol was a recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to Recognise the Contributions of Operationally-Ready National Servicemen to Total Defence (RECORD V) and also supported by the Committee to Strengthen National Service (CSNS) to better cater to the lifestyle needs of NSmen residing in the North-East region of Singapore.
- 1.2 The development was steered by a committee chaired by Major (NS) Terence Quek and comprised 11 other NSman volunteers and staff.
- 1.3 On 24 April 2016, SAFRA Punggol had its soft launch and attracted more than 11,000 visitors in a single day that explored its unique range of offerings and enjoyed a host of exciting programmes.
- 1.4 The Groundbreaking Ceremony for SAFRA Punggol was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr Teo Chee Hean on 18 June 2014.
- 1.5 SAFRA Punggol's patronage has since increased steadily and grown a monthly average of over 150,000.

2.0 Specifications and Design Concept

2.1 A summary of the club's building specifications:

- a) Location: 9 Sentul Crescent
6-minute walk from Punggol MRT station
1-minute walk from Sam Kee LRT station
- b) Cost of Development: \$64.4 million
- c) Size of Land: 1.45 ha/ 14,500 m²
- d) Gross Floor Area: 19,995 m²
- e) Number of storeys: 5 storeys
- f) Project Consultant: Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd

- g) Design Concept: The inspiration of the cascading architectural design comes from the natural slope seen on part of the land where the club is built. The club is integrated seamlessly with Punggol Waterway Park to retain the naturalistic ambience for recreation.

2.2 The club features a comprehensive suite of facilities to cater to the varied lifestyle and lifestage needs of NSmen and their families.

List of Facilities		
Fitness & Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bikes @ Waterway • EnergyOne Gym • Games Room • Manekineko • Member's Lounge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga Inc. • i Darts LAVA • Orchid Bowl • The Spa by The Ultimate
Play & Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artary • BazGym Gymnastics School • LCentral English • NurtureStars Preschool • Splash @ Kidz Amaze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StepUp Learning & Dance • Tien Hsia Language School • Yamaha Music • Stamford Education • Taekwondonomics • Culinary Experience Studio Powered by Bosch
Food & Beverages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavenly Wang • issho family restaurant • Pin Si Superior • Pizza Hut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siam Thai Tuckshop • Nom La La by Bakerzin • Jack's Place • McDonald's

2.3 The club also offers various firsts:

- a) First indoor water playground in Singapore

Spanning 23,000 sq ft and designed with the theme 'Enchanted Deep Sea', **Splash @ Kidz Amaze** features an area for toddlers between 18 to 36 months old and a triple volume area for children three years old and above. Specially designed for parents to play together with their children to enable them to create strong bonds and precious memories, it features a myriad of interactive water play elements including eight different play decks, five slides and a themed splash pad. The playground is also equipped with party rooms to provide creative and exciting venues for parents to host children's birthday parties.

b) First bike rental kiosk among SAFRA club

Managed by the same operator that runs the Park Connector Network (PCN) Pitstop kiosks along the PCN Eastern Coastal Loop, **Bikes @ Waterway** offers patrons the convenience of renting and returning bicycles at any of the other PCN Pitstop kiosks.

3.0 An Eco-Friendly Club

3.1 SAFRA Punggol is the first SAFRA club to be awarded the prestigious Building and Construction Authority (BCA) Green Mark Platinum award, the highest accolade of the benchmarking scheme that incorporates internationally recognised best practices in environmental design and performance, such as promoting energy savings, water savings, healthier indoor environments and the adoption of extensive greenery. It is also the first SAFRA club to receive the Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework certification by NParks.

3.2 The key energy and water-saving features of the club include:

- Energy efficient LED lighting coupled with motion sensors
- Energy efficient centralised air conditioning chilled water system
- Energy efficient heat pumps to provide hot water supply to the club
- Energy efficient mechanical ventilation fans with carbon monoxide sensors at carpark
- Energy efficient lifts with sleep mode
- Water saving fittings
- Naturally ventilated atrium and corridors
- A solar photovoltaic power system

3.3 SAFRA Punggol's vendors also adopt a Green Lease agreement with SAFRA. Besides designing and constructing a sustainable building, a green lease encourages occupiers to operate in an environmentally-friendly manner. As part of the lease agreement, retailers at the club will be required to make use of highly efficient air-conditioning and lighting systems, adopt recycling strategies, and reduce overall tenancy waste.

4.0 Looking Forward

4.1 A new water activities facility will be opened at the club by March 2017 and will allow visitors to rent kayaks and paddle along the Punggol Waterway.

4.2

Further down the road, the Punggol Regional Sports Centre will be co-located beside the club as part of the Punggol 21 Masterplan. Once completed, SAFRA members will have convenient and direct access to the Punggol Regional Sports Centre's swimming pool and a host of other sports facilities.

SPEECH BY MR TEO CHEE HEAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND COORDINATING MINISTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF SAFRA PUNGGOL ON THURSDAY, 1945 HRS, 24 NOVEMBER 2016 AT SAFRA PUNGGOL, SINGAPORE

“Celebrating the contributions of NSmen and their families”

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

Mr Ong Ye Kung, Second Minister for Defence and President of SAFRA

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

NSmen and volunteers,

Distinguished guests,

Residents of Punggol,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

I am happy to join you this evening for the official opening of SAFRA Punggol. Two and a half years ago, we had the ground-breaking ceremony here. This is SAFRA's sixth club and reflects the Government's continued commitment to recognise the contributions of NSmen and their families towards national defence.

2. Our NSmen are at the core of the SAF and the Home Team. The strong support from their families is vital to help our NSmen give their best. The thought of protecting their loved ones also strengthens each NSman's commitment to serve.

Tackling Terrorism Threat

3. Our SAF and Home Team pioneers fought hard to secure the peace, stability and progress we enjoy. Today, we face new security threats. The failed attempt by a group of militants based in Batam to attack Marina Bay is a stark reminder that terrorism is not far from our shores.

4. We launched SGSecure in September to prepare all Singaporeans. Our fight against terrorism will be long and extended. We need to stay alert to ever-present

security threats, stay united as one people should an attack occur, and stay strong to bounce back quickly after an attack. Just last month, the Home Team, the SAF and volunteers from the People's Association also came together to test Singapore's readiness to respond to a terrorist attack.

5. We are stronger as one people and we must not allow issues of race, language or religion to divide our communities. We can stay united in the Total Defence of Singapore.

SAFRA'S Role in Total Defence

6. While the SAF, the Home Team and other national security agencies continue to be steadfast in military and civil defence, SAFRA can help strengthen the psychological and social defence of our people.

7. SAFRA brings NSmen from all walks of life together to strengthen bonds and build cohesion. Today, SAFRA clubs are a common space for NSmen to build friendships, spend quality time with their families, or meet like-minded individuals to pursue common interests. SAFRA clubs also host more than 500 SAF unit cohesion events annually, benefiting more than 60,000 NSmen.

8. I am pleased that the SAFRA family – the SAFRA clubhouses, SAFRA Radio and NS Resort and Country Club (NSRCC) - will work with the SAF to raise the capacity to host more than 700 cohesion events next year. This will benefit more than 80,000 NSmen. Besides conducting cohesion activities in SAFRA clubs, the SAFRA family will also do so in the SAF camps and NSRCC to facilitate building camaraderie among NSmen.

SAFRA Punggol

9. SAFRA will continue to play a key role in recognising our NSmen's contributions to defence, by providing facilities and recreational services to the 380,000 SAFRA members and their family members.

10. This new \$64.4 million SAFRA Punggol will focus on serving the needs of the 80 000 NSmen and their families in the North-Eastern part of Singapore. Punggol is a growing new town with unique access to scenic waterways and the sea. There are also many young families here and we want our NSmen and their families to enjoy the refreshing and green environment. With these in mind, SAFRA Punggol was designed with three new elements.

11. First, SAFRA Punggol has incorporated many facilities catering to young families - child care, enrichment and play facilities for families with young children. There are also a variety of recreational options for NSmen to keep fit. The club's monthly

patronage has exceeded 150,000 visitors. Its unique indoor water playground, Splash @ Kidz Amaze, is well-liked by families and has garnered many good reviews.

12. Second, SAFRA Punggol is a green facility and helps to raise the level of environmental awareness among our residents. It is designed with many open spaces for a wide variety of outdoor lifestyle and entertainment activities. It is also the first SAFRA clubhouse to receive the Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework certification by NParks, as well as the Building and Construction Authority Green Mark Platinum award. SAFRA Punggol's focus on energy and water efficiency will save about 700 tonnes of carbon emissions and bring about \$360,000 cost savings in electricity and utilities bills each year. SAFRA will progressively implement such green measures in the other clubhouses.

13. Third, SAFRA Punggol has expanded its suite of activities by integrating with the scenic Punggol Waterway and the Punggol Regional Sports Centre planned next door. Participants raced along the waterway and Coney Island Park on kayak, bike and foot at the SAFRA Punggol Waterway Challenge in June this year. With the opening of the water activities facility by March next year, NSmen and Punggol residents can enjoy new activities and kayaking along the Punggol Waterway. SAF units will also conduct water-related cohesion events at SAFRA Punggol. SAFRA Punggol will truly be a one-stop recreation hub for NSmen and their families in the Northeast.

NS50 and SAFRA45

14. Next year, we celebrate 50 Years of National Service and also SAFRA's 45th Anniversary. As we celebrate how far we have come, we will also reaffirm our shared commitment to protect Singapore and our loved ones.

15. SAFRA will plan on the upgrade of SAFRA Tampines and a new seventh club in the northwestern part of Singapore. There will be a series of celebratory activities and promotions for NSmen and their families. These include the SAFRA Singapore Bay Run & Army Half Marathon, Swim For Hope to raise funds for charity and a celebration dinner to recognise SAFRA volunteers and corporate partners. SAFRA and the HomeTeam NS will also work together to provide a suite of benefits for NSmen and their families.

Conclusion

16. I would like to commend the SAFRA Punggol Development Committee, volunteers and staff who have worked tirelessly to make this new club a success. This is certainly an excellent facility for our NSmen and their families, and our residents in Punggol.

17. I would also like to thank our National Servicemen for committing your time and energy to train hard and be always ready to serve when called upon. I also wish to express my appreciation to our servicemen's families, employers and the community, whose support enables our NSmen to fully dedicate themselves to serve with pride. Thanks also to the many volunteers and SAFRA staff for your invaluable contributions to recognise and strengthen our NSmen community.

18. Now, it gives me great pleasure to officially declare SAFRA Punggol open. Thank you.