

28 May 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW SAFRA CLUB IN CHUA CHU KANG TO SERVE OVER 90,000 NATIONAL SERVICEMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) national servicemen can look forward to a new SAFRA club to be built within Choa Chu Kang Park in the coming years. Themed as a 'Fitness Oasis', the seventh SAFRA club will serve over 90,000 national servicemen and their families residing in the north-west part of Singapore.

This was announced by Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), Second Minister for Defence and President of SAFRA, Mr Ong Ye Kung, at the Chua Chu Kang GRC NS50 Appreciation Ceremony held at Keat Hong Community Centre this afternoon.

The appreciation ceremony, which saw 80 pairs of fathers and sons receive their NS50 Recognition Packages, was hosted by Minister for Health and Adviser to Chua Chu Kang GRC Grassroots Organisations (GROs) Mr Gan Kim Yong, as well as other Chua Chu Kang GRC Advisers Ms Low Yen Ling, Mr Zaqy Mohamad and Mr Yee Chia Hsing.

The new SAFRA club is expected to be seamlessly integrated with Choa Chu Kang Park with facilities and programmes complementing the surrounding park amenities and greenery. This will create a more compelling destination for national servicemen, their families and the community to keep fit, recreate and strengthen ties.

Some of the unique features planned for the new SAFRA club include:

- A ***sheltered swimming pool*** overlooking the greenery of the park, a first among SAFRA clubs
- A ***skypark running circuit*** within the club, also a first among SAFRA clubs
- An ***EnergyOne gym*** that also leverages on the park amenities for fitness programmes
- A ***nature-themed SAFRA Kidz Amaze playground*** where NSmen can inculcate an appreciation for nature among their young children through various programmes and bond with them through interactive play

Artist impressions of concept for 7th SAFRA club (For illustration purposes only)



The new SAFRA club will also house a comprehensive suite of other fitness, recreation and F&B facilities to meet the varied lifestyle needs of NSmen and their families. National servicemen training in nearby SAF camps located at Kranji, Lim Chu Kang, Tengah and Sungei Gedong will also have convenient access to the club for recreation and unit cohesion activities organised by SAFRA.

More NS50 SAFRA Treats for NSmen

To commemorate NS50 this year, SAFRA will also be introducing a string of initiatives to engage and appreciate national servicemen and their families for their contributions to the nation. These include **50 events**, **500 special deals** together with its partnering merchants and **50,000 give-aways**. Through these efforts, SAFRA aims to engage over **500,000** national servicemen and their families.

For more information on SAFRA's commemorative initiatives, refer to **Annex A**. For the speech by Second Minister for Defence and President of SAFRA Mr Ong Ye Kung, refer to **Annex B**.

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 330,000 members and their families.

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SAFRA'S NS50 COMMEMORATIVE INITIATIVES

(A) 50 Commemorative Events

SAFRA will be organising 50 events to commemorate NS50 throughout the year. These will feature unique NS50-themed highlights to provide opportunities for NSmen to bond or reunite with NS buddies, and also share about their NS experiences with their families.

A selection of key events is listed below for reference.

Date	Events	Venue
28 May	SAFRA Family Day Out at Army Open House	F1 Pit Building
June to July	Open House at SAFRA clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAFRA Yishun (17 to 18 June) • SAFRA Jurong (17 to 18 June) • SAFRA Mount Faber (24 to 25 June) • SAFRA Tampines (24 to 25 June) • SAFRA Punggol (1 to 2 July) • SAFRA Toa Payoh (1 to 2 July) 	Across SAFRA clubs
July	SAFRA Ultimate Frisbee Challenge	SAFRA Tampines
August	50 Years of Fitness	SAFRA Toa Payoh
August	SAFRA Sprint Kids Xtreme	West Mall
August	Pedal Paddle Mania	SAFRA Yishun
20 August	SAFRA Singapore Bay Run & Army Half Marathon	Marina Bay
9 to 10 September	SAFRA Punggol Diaper Dash	SAFRA Punggol
7 October	SAFRA Big Kids Carnival	-
12 October	SAFRA 45 th Anniversary Dinner & Awards Ceremony	-
October	SAFRA Swim for Hope	5 SAFRA clubs
11 November	SAFRA Photography Competition	SAFRA Mount Faber
11 November	SAFRA 45 th Anniversary Party	Clarke Quay
25 November	SAFRA Punggol 1 st Anniversary Celebrations	SAFRA Punggol
November	SAFRA Family Day Out	-
Ongoing	SAF unit cohesion activities	-

This year's SAFRA Singapore Bay Run & Army Half Marathon features a new NS50 Team Run category to encourage past and present SAF NSmen to form teams of 10 runners each to complete a 5km route together and clock a total distance of 50km in commemoration of NS50.

A series of open houses will also be organised by all SAFRA clubs during the June school holidays and early July 2017 to enable NSmen and their families to bond through a myriad of activities and programmes. For instance, at the SAFRA Jurong open house, NSmen and their families can look forward to engaging in fun-filled games inspired by common NS experiences within the three SAF services – Army,

Navy and Air Force, such as packing field packs, flight simulators and water obstacle challenges. At the SAFRA Toa Payoh open house, there will also be exciting activities inspired by IPPT stations for children and these will provide NSmen with the opportunity to share a part of their NS experience with their families. The SAFRA Punggol open house will also offer a series of virtual reality experiential booths and one of these will feature an educational programme for children to learn about Total Defence.

In August, the 50 Years of Fitness Journey roadshow organised by EnergyOne gym at SAFRA Toa Payoh, will showcase the evolution of fitness training in National Service over the past 50 years. There will also be activities and learning tips for NSmen to improve their fitness and preparedness for IPPT.

SAFRA Mount Faber along with the SAFRA Photographic Club will be organising a photography competition this year with NS50 as the theme. This edition shall introduce a new young photographer category to cultivate the passion for photography among the younger generation.

(B) 500 Special Deals

SAFRA members can enjoy special deals on a wide variety of products and services such as:

- Exclusive monthly 1-for-1 movie deals at Shaw Theatres
- Dining and leisure deals including 45% off Local Infusion Sundaes at Swensen's, free Sushi Red Plate at Sakae Sushi, 10% off Ministry of Food brands and more
- 20% off fuel at Caltex
- 35% off selected Watsons organic range at Watsons
- Exclusive buys at Robinsons
- Up to 50% off selected voucher sales

(C) 50,000 Give-aways

SAFRA members can also look forward to 50,000 give-aways including:

- 15,000 blockbuster movie treats
- 35,000 F&B treats

**SPEECH BY SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE AND PRESIDENT OF SAFRA,
MR ONG YE KUNG, AT THE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION NS50 APPRECIATION
CEREMONY (CHUA CHU KANG), ON 28 MAY 2017, 1535HRS, AT KEAT HONG
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health, Advisor to Chua Chu Kang GRC,

My Parliamentary colleagues,

National servicemen and families,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon everybody. Thank you for allowing me to be a special guest for your ceremony today. I am very happy to join you for this NS50 Appreciation Ceremony here in Choa Chu Kang. This series of ground-up events has been organised all over Singapore, and really, we want to thank the People's Association (PA) for supporting this and supporting NS50. Thank you very much to PA. This is really just a small way for the community to recognise the contributions and sacrifices of our national servicemen, and for us all to say thank you. Thank you to all our national servicemen.

2. The families of our national servicemen are also here with us, and I want to thank you too for the roles you play in supporting national defence. It is often our families that give us the reason and motivation to serve and defend our nation. Further, your unwavering support that gives our national servicemen the peace of mind to give their best in their training and operational duties, even when the going gets tough.

3. Another important pillar of support is the Singapore society. All of us have either personally served National Service (NS), or have loved ones – children, spouses, boyfriends – who have or are serving NS. We know how it is like, how tough it can be, but it is a sacrifice for our country and all of us are in it together as Singaporeans. So on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), I thank Singaporeans for your support for NS, and for speaking up for national servicemen from time to time, when the situation calls for it.

4. It has been 50 years since we started NS. NS has come a long way since the pioneer batch of national servicemen first enlisted in 1967. Now, more than one million national servicemen have served or are serving NS. Because potential aggressors know Singaporeans are solidly united in defending our country, we are able to achieve peace, stability and the conditions for our country to grow and our society to develop. And we must remember, in an increasingly complex world plagued with all kinds of terror such as the recent suicide attacks in Manchester and Jakarta, cyberattacks, and geopolitical uncertainties, we must continue to have a strong SAF, to underpin Singapore's prosperity and preserve our way of life.

5. The contribution of our national servicemen and their families are immense, and your sacrifices are significant. MINDEF and the SAF will do our best to ensure the

NS experience is a worthwhile one, and to recognise your contribution in whatever way we can. Training methods have improved greatly over the years. Skills acquired during NS are increasingly useful to servicemen, even after they start their careers. Rules are relaxed so that NSmen can better juggle in-camp and professional responsibilities. And at important milestones such as NS50, we use the occasion to express our gratitude and recognise the contributions of national servicemen, such as (through) the NS50 vouchers that many of you will be receiving.

6. In addition, we have over the years developed a network of SAFRA clubhouses, partly to provide recreation facilities for national servicemen, and partly also to develop a strong sense of community. Today, we have six clubhouses – Toa Payoh and Mount Faber serving the central part of Singapore, Jurong serving the West, Tampines serving the East, Punggol and Yishun serving the North – which are rapidly building up. Collectively, they serve 330,000 national servicemen and their families as members, with each of the clubhouses attracting a monthly average of 120,000 visitors. For NS50, all NSmen will be given one year free membership. Later this year, if the member pays one year's worth of annual fee, he will get three years of membership.

7. The provision of SAFRA clubhouses has been meaningful to national servicemen, and we want to improve our efforts in this area. The North-western of Singapore is rapidly building up too, including Choa Chu Kang and a new town at Tengah, and we would like to expand SAFRA facilities for national servicemen and their families living in this part of the country.

8. I am therefore pleased to announce that MINDEF will build a seventh SAFRA clubhouse in the north-west part of Singapore and in Choa Chu Kang. I was told SAFRA Choa Chu Kang will be less than (a) 5-minute walk from where you are now. SAFRA Choa Chu Kang will serve more than 90,000 national servicemen and their families residing in the north-west region. Our servicemen training in nearby SAF camps at Kranji, Lim Chu Kang, Sungei Gedong and Tengah will also benefit, with convenient access to NS cohesion activities conducted by SAFRA for NS units.

9. What is special about SAFRA Choa Chu Kang is that it will be nestled within Choa Chu Kang Park. It will be an integral part of the park, as the park will be an integral part of the clubhouse. What we will aim to achieve is a seamless blend between the clubhouse and the park facilities. This will therefore be a unique, tranquil and green setting for the clubhouse, which will in turn make the park a more attractive place, (and a) meeting point for Singaporeans. NParks will also be enhancing the current Park Connector Network in Choa Chu Kang to provide the accessibility from the stadium to the park and the new clubhouse.

10. The new clubhouse will be themed a "Fitness Oasis". So Choa Chu Kang residents will become fitter than the rest of Singapore. There will be ample exercise facilities, in addition to popular services such as swimming pools, restaurants and other recreation facilities. SAFRA is planning to incorporate a skypark running circuit within the club and a sheltered swimming pool overlooking the greenery of the park. There are plans for an EnergyOne gym that also incorporates the park amenities. SAFRA's Kids Amaze will adopt a nature themed playground and offer programmes that inculcate values on appreciating nature.

11. Since its inception in 1972, SAFRA clubhouses have served many generations of national servicemen, as gathering places to recreate memories and strengthen bonds. When SAFRA Choa Chu Kang is completed, SAFRA's network of clubhouses will be even more effectively distributed throughout the island, to serve national servicemen living in different parts of Singapore.

12. As we commemorate NS50 this year, SAFRA will also do something special. We will be introducing a string of initiatives and events to commemorate the occasion. SAFRA will introduce 50 events under the theme of NS50. SAFRA will also work with its partners to offer 500 special deals and provide 50,000 give-aways. Through these efforts, SAFRA aims to engage over 500,000 national servicemen and their families.

13. Each generation must play its part to leave Singapore better for the next generation, and the NS50 theme "From My Generation to Yours" signifies the passing on of this sacred duty from one generation to the next. All of us – whether national servicemen, or those who support them in the home, workplace or community – are together responsible for the defence of Singapore. In this NS50 year, let us commit ourselves to taking up, fulfilling and passing on this duty to defend Singapore and our nation.

Thank you very much.

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