

All HDB towns will be highly liveable, despite varying popularity: PM

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Whichever Housing Board town they live in and its relative popularity, Singaporeans can be assured that each town will be well planned, well maintained, and have up-to-date amenities that meet their living needs, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Sunday.

It is inevitable that some towns are more popular than others, but the Government strives very hard to make every HDB town highly liveable, with schools, clinics, food places, sports facilities and good transport connectivity within the town and also with the rest of the island, said PM Lee.

"This is the PAP government's promise to all Singaporeans: that your HDB flat will be both a good home for you and your family, and a valuable nest egg for your retirement," he said.

Singaporeans know the country's public housing system works, he added. "With your support, we will continue to keep this system running well, and we will deliver on our promise to Singaporeans for many more years to come."

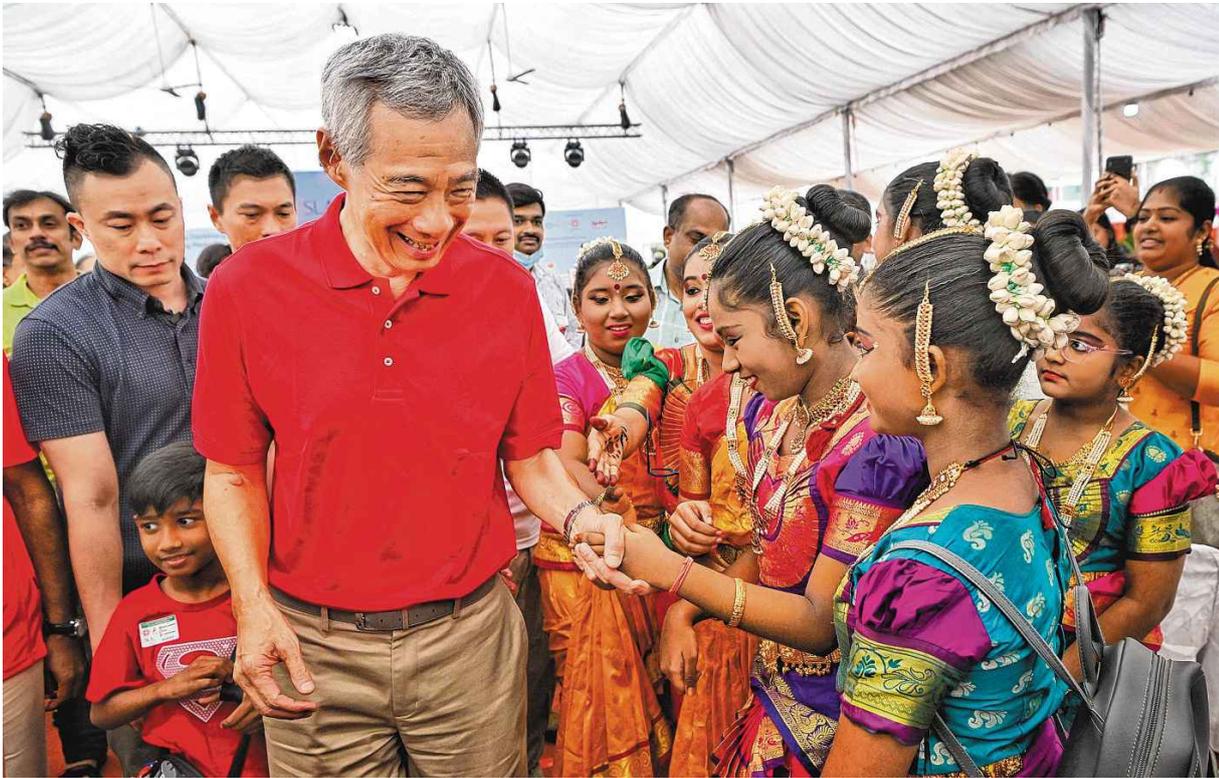
PM Lee was speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony for Chong Pang City, a new 0.9ha, seven-storey integrated development in Yishun.

When completed in 2027, the community hub will rejuvenate the 40-year-old neighbourhood with new facilities such as swimming

[CONTINUED ON PAGE A2](#)



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, with Law and Home Affairs Minister and Chong Pang MP K. Shanmugam, viewing a model of Chong Pang City on Sunday. Agencies like the Singapore Land Authority and People's Association had solicited residents' feedback on the features they wanted for the hub. ST PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG



PM Lee Hsien Loong shaking hands with performers at the ground-breaking ceremony of Chong Pang City on Sunday. He said Chong Pang City is just one example of what the Government has been doing all over Singapore, which is to not only build houses but also progressively redevelop older precincts to refresh the living environment with new homes, amenities and infrastructure. ST PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

Residents, shop owners look forward to new community hub

FROM A1

pools, a jogging track, fitness studios, a gymnasium and shops such as a supermarket.

It will also house the refreshed Chong Pang Community Club and an upgraded hawker centre, with the existing Chong Pang Market and Food Centre that was built in 1984 to then be redeveloped into a community plaza.

PM Lee said Chong Pang City is just one example of what the Government has been doing all over Singapore, which is to not only build houses but also progressively redevelop older precincts to refresh the living environment with new homes, amenities and infrastructure.

"We want every one of our HDB towns, new or old, to be of high quality," he said.

Most cities find this very difficult to achieve, with some areas that are very nice and which tourists visit, but also neighbourhoods that are left behind and run-down, and where infrastructure such as transportation links are lacking, he said.

He recounted that as a new MP for Ang Mo Kio GRC in the 1980s, he had to persuade residents to take up flats in Nee Soon that HDB offered them. Then, most families had much preferred Bishan or Ang Mo Kio as they were more developed and closer to town.

Today, Nee Soon is a thriving, family-friendly place with a full range of facilities, and its MPs get

many requests for more new flats in the town, said PM Lee.

"I think a few new flats will be coming, if you listen to the Minister for National Development," he said.

At the ground-breaking ceremony, Minister for Home Affairs and Law and Chong Pang MP K. Shanmugam said agencies such as the Singapore Land Authority and People's Association had solicited residents' feedback on the features they wanted since the integrated hub was announced in 2020.

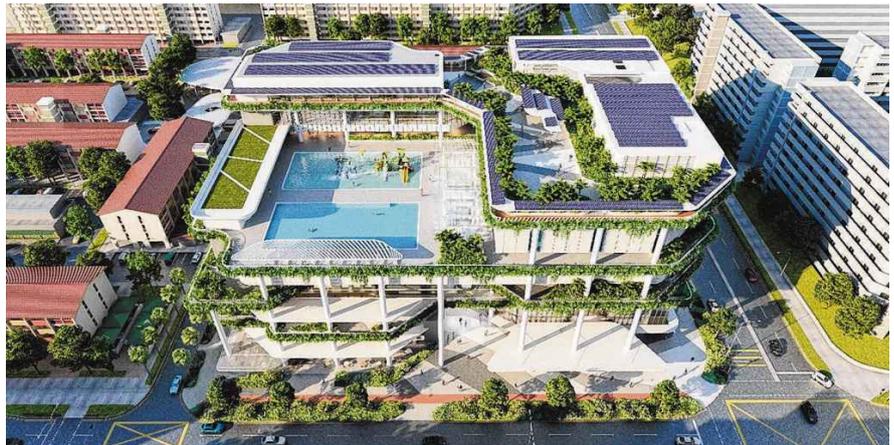
As a result, the development will also have more parking spaces, inclusive and senior-friendly barrier-free access routes, and a 24-hour sheltered pedestrian crossing that will connect Yishun Avenue 5 to the new community plaza, he said.

When asked about the many new sports facilities in store for residents, Mr Shanmugam, who keeps fit with regular exercises, quipped: "Maybe it has got something to do with the profile of the MP."

Yishun resident Praveen Chandran, 35, said he looks forward to the sports facilities in the new development.

"The new facilities like the swimming pool and gym will not just meet the increasing demand from younger residents and new families moving in, but also promote healthier living for us all," said the pharmaceutical sales representative.

Mr Basil Lee, 26, a Chong Pang



When completed in 2027, Chong Pang City will feature new facilities such as swimming pools, a jogging track, fitness studios, a gymnasium and shops. It will also house the refreshed Chong Pang Community Club and an upgraded hawker centre. PHOTO: SINGAPORE LAND AUTHORITY

resident since he was seven years old, said he will miss the old community centre, but he looks forward to the new facilities.

"I used to play basketball and badminton around here and then head off to McDonald's for a meal," said the physiotherapy undergrad-

uate at the Singapore Institute of Technology.

"I am sad to see everything go but I am also excited about the new developments, especially the swimming pool and indoor jogging track where I can jog even when it rains."

Local merchants such as optical shop owner Steven Koh, 61, also welcomed the new hub.

"Rejuvenating this place will increase its vibrancy and footfall, and attract the young who may prefer to visit shopping malls," said the chairman of the Chong Pang

City Merchant and Hawker's Association.

"The new hawker centre will also be cleaner and have better ventilation to give everyone a better dining environment."

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