

TAMPINES FIRST TO LAUNCH HIGH SECURITY LABELS FOR BICYCLES ON TAMPINES GRC FAMILY SPORTS DAY, 20 MARCH 2011

1 Tampines GRC, which is Singapore's first cycling town, will be the first constituency to launch high security labels for bicycles as part of its efforts to become a model cycling town.

2 Under this initiative, Tampines residents who own bicycles can be provided with tamper proof labels which contain security features that offer cyclists a unique identifier for their bicycles. Bicycle owners are encouraged to register their bicycle security labels in the online Bicycle Identification System (BIDS) administered by Tampines Town Council.

3 Introducing this system is part of Tampines GRC's ongoing efforts to improve the cycling environment in the Tampines estate. The initiative to introduce high security labels arose out of discussions between the Tampines Cycling Town Committee, headed by Member of Parliament Ms Irene Ng, and the Police and Tampines Town Council.

4 The label will be useful as an identity reference for bicycle owners when lodging a report in the event where they lose their bicycles or filing it in an independent registry, such as the Tampines Town Council BIDS system. The bicycle security labels will help to prevent bicycle thefts and serve as an additional piece of information for the Police in their investigations.

5 The Singapore Police Force and the National Crime Prevention Council will be rolling out the Bicycle Security Label programme to other constituencies in phases from May onwards.

6 Appropriately, the bicycle security programme will be launched at the Tampines Bike Park, involving about 5,000 residents. This will be the first mega event held at the bike park after the Youth Olympic Games.

7 The event will involve about 5000 residents and grassroots leaders walking from the 5 CCs in Tampines to Tampines Bike Park at 8 am. At the Tampines Bike Park, there will be various sports activities for the families, including kite-flying experience, kite flying demonstration, kite flying competition, euro bungee, human soccer, survivor challenge, sports games stalls and children activities.

8 There will also be a 10km competitive run and a 4.6km fun run for family at the bike park, in conjunction with the North East Trail Run. Encouraged by the response received last year for its district run, North East CDC had decided to branch out into community runs and sporting events in all GRCs within the North East district. Hoping to reach out to ten thousand residents within this year, the first of these community runs and sports carnivals will kick off at Tampines Bike Park.

9 In support of the 'Launch of Bicycle Security Labels Project' by Police, North East CDC will be collaborating with the Police to provide this service at all Safe Cycling Clinics in Schools and at the Grassroots.

10 The Guest-of-Honour is Mr Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development and MP for Tampines GRC, and fellow Tampines GRC MPs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli (Minister of State, Ministry of Education & Home Affairs), Mr Ong Kian Min, Ms Irene Ng and Mr Sin Boon Ann.

11 The event aims to encourage residents to take part in sports and stay active, and at the same time, to build stronger family and community bonds.

12 Ms Irene Ng, who is leading the Tampines Family Sports Carnival Committee in Tampines, said: "There is something at this carnival is for everyone, young and old, singles and families. You don't have to be a sporty person to take part, just a sporting one. Tampines is a compact estate and there is not much open space for our residents to fly kites and just run about. We thought we can transform the Tampines Bike Park into a park for everyone, not just cyclists, and we are starting with this family carnival."

13 Bicycle owners in Tampines who come to the Tampines Family Sports Carnival on 20 Mar 2011 will be the first in Singapore to collect their high security bicycle labels.

14 Ms Irene Ng, said, 'With more residents owning bicycles and using it as a mode of transport, we thought it will benefit our residents to work with the police to launch the bicycle security labels in Tampines. This is one of the many initiatives that we have introduced in Tampines to become a model cycling town.'

15 As Mr Tan Kian Hoon, Chairman of the NCPC said: "The NCPC is always looking at different ways to stop preventable crimes. As the bicycle population increase in Singapore, it is timely that we have a more proactive approach to tackling bike theft. By giving bicycles a unique identity, it would make it harder for thieves to use their stolen bikes openly."

16 Tampines GRC is also building more dedicated cycling paths and park connectors, as well as providing more bicycle racks. At the same time, it is stepping up on its enforcement patrols to check against reckless cycling.

17 Residents can check Town Council's noticeboard or Town Council's website (www.tampines.org.sg/cycling) for more information.

18 Your journalists and photographers are cordially invited to the Northeast Trail Run & Tampines Family Sports Carnival 2011 on Sunday, 20 March 2011 at 8.20am at the Tampines Bike Park. The programme and location map are attached. Please confirm your attendance in advance.
