

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marina Bay Sands surprises ASEAN Para Games athletes with David Beckham visit

The football legend toured the Games Village and observed a football five-a-side match



From left to right: Mr. George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive of Marina Bay Sands; Mr. Muhammad Rostam Umar, Chief of Client Services, Singapore ASEAN Para Games Organising Committee (SAPGOC); football legend David Beckham; Nila, 8th ASEAN Para Games mascot and; Mr. Lim Teck Yin, Chairman, SAPGOC Exco surprising the athletes at Marina Bay Sands, the Games Village of the 8th ASEAN Para Games

Singapore (6 December 2015) – International icon David Beckham delighted hundreds of athletes today when he made a surprise visit to the Official Games Village of the 8th ASEAN Para Games (APG) at Marina Bay Sands.

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*From left to right: David Beckham with the Malaysian athletes in the Nila Suite;
Nila giving David Beckham a warm welcome hug*

The football legend, who is no stranger to competitive sports and is known for his philanthropic efforts, was taken on a tour of the “Nila Suite” – an area at the Games Village where athletes can rest and enjoy recreational activities.

Accompanied by Marina Bay Sands’ President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. George Tanasijevich and Mr. Lim Teck Yin, Chairman of the Singapore APG Organising Committee (SAPGOC) Exco, Beckham also mingled with the athletes who were present.

During the tour, the sports celebrity chatted with athletes from the region. He also participated in an origami lesson, placing a folded paper heart on a wall art installation in the suite.



George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marina Bay Sands and David Beckham folding paper hearts for the Origami Wall

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Mr. Lim Teck Yin later hosted Beckham at a football five-a-side match between Team Singapore and Team Thailand at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre. Beckham's arrival at the sporting venue came as a welcome surprise to spectators.

Beckham said: "It is inspiring to see athletes pursue their passion with such great desire. There is no bigger honour than having the opportunity to represent your country. The sporting spirit is very much alive at the Games Village and I am privileged to have the chance to meet these incredible people."

Mr Lim Teck Yin, Chairman of SAPGOC Exco said, "The 8th ASEAN Para Games is more than just about competing. It is about connecting individuals, communities and countries to our dreams. It is about celebrating the extraordinary and inspiring people around us. David Beckham's presence today has been uplifting and certainly rewarding to the athletes and fans at the Games."

As the Official Games Village, Marina Bay Sands has welcomed more than 2,500 athletes and officials, housing them in 1,300 hotel rooms. For the first time, an entire level of hotel rooms in Tower 3 was converted into 24/7 medical suites.

Sands Expo and Convention Centre houses competition venues for Goalball, Football five-a-side, Powerlifting, as well as a Transport Hub and a Dining Hall. Over 14,000 meals will be prepared for the athletes and organisers throughout the whole period.

Marina Bay Sands is lending its support in more ways than one – over 170 Team Members are volunteering as caretakers and ushers during the Games, as part of the property's *Sands for Singapore* CSR programme.

Mr. George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marina Bay Sands, said: "Marina Bay Sands is privileged to contribute towards this historic event. Whether it's through our event hosting capabilities, volunteer outreach programme or inspirational visits by celebrities like David Beckham, we aim to deepen our engagement with the local community and bring the magical touch to events held at Marina Bay Sands."

For more information about the 8th ASEAN Para Games, visit www.aseanparagames2015.com

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