

Residents have a ball – and create a record

MORE THAN 440 residents of Pasir Ris spent yesterday morning making a bid to enter the Singapore Book of Records.

Their mission at the Pasir Ris Elias Community Club: to piece together the largest national flag formed out of glutinous rice balls.

Divided into groups of 10, they rolled up their sleeves and briskly got down to the task of shaping *tang yuan*, a popular Chinese delicacy made of rice flour that is mixed with some water to form balls.

The rice balls, usually served during the Mid-Autumn Festival, symbolise the strength of family bonds.

The ad hoc *tang yuan* “factory” churned out 44,000 rice balls during the two hours allotted for the task. Of these, 10,000 were used to form the national flag ahead of the 44th National Day celebrations in August.

The rest of the rice balls were cooked and served to those at the event, which

was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and his wife. DPM Teo is an MP for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC.

The flag was certified as being the largest ever to be made from *tang yuan*, by Mr Ong Eng Huat in his capacity as president of the Singapore Book of Records, which has a database of more than 40,000 records.

At the event, a cooking contest drew 10 three-generation family teams, each of which whipped up a “favourite family recipe”.

Mr Gary Ong, 30, was there with his mother and grandmother to cook a Thai-style curry chicken dish. The sales manager said such activities created ideal occasions for people to take time out and get together with their families.

He said: “My work life can be quite hectic. Often, I get home after a long day to find my parents already asleep.”

AMRESH GUNASINGHAM



Mr Teo (centre) snapping up the last *tang yuan* needed to finish off the rice ball masterpiece yesterday. More than 440 Pasir Ris residents helped to create the largest national flag made from *tang yuan* – 10,000 to be exact. It measured 2.75m by 1.65m. ST PHOTO: NURIA LING