



Press Release

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Blue Plaque unveils at Maha Bandoola Park

YANGON: A commemorative blue plaque was unveiled today at the Maha Bandoola Park which is located in Kyauktada Township between the Maha Bandoola road and Merchant road.

The park is one of the sites which has played critically in the history of the city and also important to the residents. It is adjacent to the famous Sule Pagoda and opposite of the Yangon City hall.

The park has always been a venue for cultural performances and public gathering. It is also associated with political movement since the colonial times. The national leaders, including Bogyoke Aung San, campaigned in the park for the Independence from British Empire. After Independence, the site and the environs were the epicentre of democratic movements such as 8888 Uprising and Saffron Revolution in 2007.

When the British planned the city in 1852, the site was left vacant and known as the Tank Square. In 1867-68, the swampy square was levelled and laid out as a public recreation ground. It was named Fytche Square after the Chief Commissioner of the British Crown Colony of Burma at the time.

The park was redesigned in 2012 and Yangon City Development Council should be commended for the renovation. Royal Phillips Corporation has installed modern lighting fixtures in the park. The entrance fee is dropped and much-needed children playground is also added. The park has become a popular destination for international visitors and city residents alike.

This is the tenth Blue Plaques that the Trust has unveiled in the city following the Government Technical Institute (GTI) as the 9th and the Lawkanat building as the 8th. The other sites that had received Blue Plaque commemoration are Govenal Central Press, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, General Post Office, Central Fire Station, the Armenian Church, headquarter of AYA Bank and the City Hall.

The commemorative Blue Plaque is a part of Yangon Heritage Trust's efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city. Yangon Heritage Trust believes that the introduction of commemorative Blue Plaques will make Yangon's history accessible to people of all age and backgrounds.

Royal Philips agreed to contribute US\$ 75,000 for the Yangon Blue Plaques initiative. Aside from the highlighting key cultural heritage locations, the contribution will also support the research and curation of historical sites, and creation and installation of Blue Plaques that will share the historical relevance and background of notable people and places across the city.

Yangon Heritage Trust is an independent centre of excellence working to promote and integrate Yangon's unique urban heritage into a 21st century vision of Yangon as one of Asia's most liveable cities. Yangon Heritage Trust advocates for heritage protection, develops clear and sustainable policy options, engages with government, business and civil society, communicates its ideas to the widest possible audience, undertakes specific conservation projects, and facilitates research and training.

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