

Major sporting building projects about to be opened

The Bahamas Football Association is pleased to announce the imminent opening of two of The Bahamas newest and most modern sporting facilities. The Malcolm Park Futsal and Beach Soccer Centre, situated at the foot of the Paradise Island bridges, is a brand new complex for the development and promotion of two of the worlds most popular variants of soccer, Futsal and Beach Soccer. This purpose built facility- the first in the Bahamas- is well served by it's central location and players, spectators and devotees alike are sure to be impressed by the attractive facilities afforded to them. Served by dedicated viewing areas, restrooms, and car parking, the enthusiast can feel as much a part of the experience as the players themselves. Indeed, players have the use of an internationally sized Futsal pitch, Beach Soccer pitch and a warm up area and can change and shower within facilities on site.

The site of the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium has also undergone a breathtaking new makeover. Having undergone an almost complete top-down redesign, the new arena sits right next to the famous old stadium site and will be The Bahamas' flagship sporting venue for the twenty first century. Shared with the BAAA (Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations), the stadium will now house 15,000 spectators- a capacity which has provision to be extended to 30,000- and will showcase national and international track and field athletics. The centrepiece of the stadium is a full sized natural grass soccer pitch, flanked by an international standard 400 metre running track, which will host international soccer matches and showpiece domestic matches.

The venue has been presented as a gift from the Chinese Government for the people of The Bahamas. The new stadium will feature modern facilities to cater for the sports crowd, including ample seating, restrooms, concession areas, parking and shelter facilities allied with an improved access infrastructure. Both ends of the stadium feature huge Jumbotron electronic scoreboards for matchday facts and for digital media. Such development means the ground meets The Bahamas is in good company, as it now has amenities to qualify as a FIFA Approved stadium.

'The importance of these two facilities cannot be overstated,' said President of The BFA Anton Sealey, *'As they demonstrate that we believe in providing a proper base to nurture our talent. Their construction is testament to how much we want to support our current and future generations of our sportsmen and sportswomen,'* he added. *'We want to give them every chance and every competitive advantage and provision of sporting arenas like these can only help to do that.'* The Malcolm Park complex and the Thomas A. Robinson stadium are scheduled to open in late January.

