



## **AI Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 12: Construction of new sports city gets underway (2014)**



Early on in the 2012-13 season, AI Shorta's president at the time, Ayad Bunyan, announced plans for a new sports city (including an all-seater stadium) to be constructed for the club, which would be constructed by AKG Engineering, a branch of the Swedish company Nordic Sport. On 20 December 2013, the chairman of Nordic Sport announced the initiation of construction of AI Shorta Sports City, and the construction started early in 2014 with the demolition of AI Shorta Stadium, the stadium that AI Shorta had been using since 1983. The stadium had a special place in AI Shorta fans' hearts and was home to many historic matches and some of the club's greatest victories, but the truth was that the facilities of the stadium were not good enough for a club of AI Shorta's size and stature. The stadium did not have seats, but instead had stairs that fans sat or stood on, and the stairs were often in poor condition.

So, the announcement that a new sports city would be built for the club was huge news for everyone associated with AI Shorta and it signalled a turning point in the club's history as they would be saying goodbye to the old-fashioned AI Shorta Stadium and saying hello to a modern sports city with fantastic facilities available for all sports.

On 7 January 2015, AKG Engineering released a video showing exactly what the design of the new sports city was and what it would look like once finished. The sports city will include an all-seater stadium of 10,218 seats. The stands will have purple and green plastic seats (a testament to the great Aliyat AI Shorta team of the 1960s and 1970s) and some white seats on the main stand will spell out the words 'Police Club' alongside the club's name in Arabic. The main stand will have a purple roof over it. Next to the stadium will be a training field where players will train every week and this training field will have an athletics track around it. Also at the sports city will be an indoor swimming pool with 1,500 seats, a multi-purpose closed hall with 2,500 seats, a full-quality relaxation club (with sports facilities), restaurants, theatres, meeting areas and a shopping centre among other things. To see this video for yourself, [click here](#).

Once finished, this sports city will hopefully turn AI Shorta into a much bigger and much better club, and Ayad Bunyan's idea of building this sports complex for 'Al Qeetharah' may change life the club forever.



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