

**Response of Hong Kong Tennis Association
to the Report of the Sports Policy Review**

Presented by Peter Hung, Executive Director of HKTA on 22 June 2002

Good Morning, Chairman, Members of the Council, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Hong Kong Tennis Association, I would like to present our comments on the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team. I am going to present them under six major items.

I. Promoting Public Participation in Sport:

- 1.1. Firstly, HKTA agrees in total *on the suggestion to expand the network of the community sports clubs (CSC's) and to foster regular social contact among members and encourage an interest in sport in the community*/. However, CSC's must be under the guidance, direction and control of NSA's. CSC's should also expand their membership base to serve the general public.
- 1.2. Secondly, HKTA supports the idea regarding *the suggestion to take a more client-oriented and innovative approach in the planning, design and management of public sports venues. On the suggestion to develop a more attractive and accessible public sports programmes, and to take a more pro-active approach in the organization of promotional campaigns and activities*, HKTA believes that NSA's should work in conjunction with LCSD to provide better structured and higher quality programmes.
- 1.3. Thirdly, *on the suggestion to provide funding for organizing more major international sporting events in Hong Kong*, HKTA supports this point whole-heartedly and request sufficient funding to be provided to assist NSA's to organize such events.

II More Sport for Students:

- 1.4. HKTA finds it encouraging to have LCSD bringing in both human and financial back up to NSA's in organizing sports activities in schools. Consideration should, however, be made to lengthening PE lessons in schools so as to accommodate the requirements of organizing tennis training to students in the public courts, as well as to providing sufficient financial support to enhance "facilities" such as coaching resources,

transportation, security issues etc. This will help achieve a higher utilization rate of courts in non-peak hours in the long run.

III. Planning, Design and Management of Public Sports Venues:

- 1.5. We support the building of more public sports facilities in particular on the issue of exploring the "Design-Built-Operate" concept. HKTA has planned to apply this concept in the setting up of our own center in the future.

IV. Better Prospects for High Performance Sport:

- 1.6. *On the suggestion to strengthen sports science and medicine support services to high performance athletes for all NSA's*, HKTA feels that these areas have been inadequately addressed in the past. This should be HKSI's role, which needed to be more pronounced, concrete and substantial. The number of beneficiaries should be increased.
- 1.7. In addition, the educational aspect for full time athletes should be closely monitored and better catered for.
- 1.8. HKTA contends that full time top athletes should be given more opportunities and wider exposures to training and competitions, especially overseas. Close ties with Chinese mainland counterparts should be strengthened as exchange between the two places are cost effective and mutually beneficial and can be held frequently.
- 1.9. HKSI should remain as the centralized facility provider for training elite athletes. HKSI Tennis Section in particular should be accountable to HKTA, and likewise HKSI should be accountable to NSA's.

V. Creating a More Clearly Defined and Effective Administrative Structure for Sports:

- 1.10. HKTA supports the Government's proposed establishment of a Sports Commission *provided that*:
 - i. its composition, terms of reference, mandate and funding are made known and spelled out,
 - ii. its new operation is more cost-effective and efficient so that the money saved could be channeled to NSA's,
 - iii. the new funding allocation could adopt a "one-line vote"

accounting system, and

- iv. NSAs as experts in their field of sports will have a significant role to play in partnership with the government, in the development and the raising of standard of their sports.

1.11. NSAs & HKSI should sign an annual Memorandum of Mutual Understanding (MOMU).so as to achieve better cooperation.

1.12. Before the final decision is made, HKTA thinks that apart from the three possible options proposed for the setting up of the Sports Commission, other options could be explored.

VI. Review of Public Funding for Sport:

1.13. HKTA supports the review of the subvention mechanism and criteria, stressing the importance of having one single funding body for NSA's. The allocation of funds according to different votes has created unnecessary workload and jeopardized efficiency. It is highly recommended that a one-line vote funding allocation be used. The Event Fund suggested is important to help NSA's to host international events to attract tourists. Finally, rebalancing and re-deployment of the \$2.43 billion spending is necessary.

This marks the end of my presentation. Thank you for your time.