

**Extract from the minutes of meeting of the
Panel on Home Affairs held on 14 January 2005**

Action

X X X X X X

VI. Capital works project on Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground
[LC Paper No. CB(2)595/04-05(05)]

46. Mr Albert CHAN asked whether the provision of the proposed Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (TKOSG) was a standard district facility or whether it was built just for holding the athletic events of the 2009 East Asian Games (EAG). Mr CHAN said that since the 2009 EAG was a major sports event for Hong Kong, there must be detailed overall venue arrangements and the Administration should provide such information to the Panel for consideration. Mr Patrick LAU shared Mr CHAN's concern and requested information on projected numbers of athletes and spectators as well as the overall planning of venues for hosting the event. Mr LAU added that although he had no strong views on the development of the TKOSG, the Administration should let LegCo Members know the overall picture of venue planning for staging the event.

47. Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3 (AD(LS)3) said that the TKOSG was originally planned as a district sports ground in Tseung Kwan O for the use of the local community and schools. In November 2003, Hong Kong succeeded in bidding for the right to host the 2009 EAG. After consultation with Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) and the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association, the Administration proposed to upgrade the project scope of the TKOSG to make it suitable for holding major international athletic events in future, including the track and field events of the 2009 EAG. AD(LS)3 said that SKDC had expressed full support for the proposal. AD(LS)3 further said that the TKOSG was not a standard district facility. After upgrading and with its secondary sports ground, the TKOSG would be up to the required standards for hosting international athletic events.

48. Acting Assistant Director (Leisure Services)2 (AD(LS)2(Atg)) said that although the competition events for the 2009 EAG would not be finalised by the East Asian Games Association until at a later stage, the Administration considered that the planning of venues should start early and had already conducted an assessment on venues. AD(LS)2(Atg) explained that the Administration found that with the proposed upgrading and renovation works to be done for existing facilities and venues, they would be able to cater for the needs of the 2009 EAG. AD(LS)2(Atg) added that the Administration aimed at reporting to LegCo in about six months' time with a more updated picture on the detailed works required and the capital costs involved which were still being worked out.

Action

49. Responding to Mr Patrick LAU, AD(LS)2(Atg) said that based on the experience of past EAGs conducted in other places, it was expected that there would be about 2 000 athletes and 200 overseas guests participating in the 2009 EAG. Besides, there would be about 300 working staff members and during the nine- to 10-day event period, there would be about a total of 230 000 spectators including about 80 000 spectators for the opening and closing ceremonies to be held at the Hong Kong Stadium. AD(LS)2(Atg) further said a stadium with 5 000 seats would be sufficient for holding the track and field events because the events would be held at different times on different days. AD(LS)2(Atg) added that there was no requirement for provision of an athletes' village for EAG.

50. Mr Albert CHAN said that he would not support the current proposal unless he was provided with information on the overall venue arrangements.

51. In response to the Chairman, AD(LS)2(Atg) said that the Administration would submit its funding proposal for the 2009 EAG to the Panel for consultation in mid 2005. AD(LS)2(Atg) further said that the Administration hoped that the Panel could first agree to the current proposal in principle.

52. Responding to the Chairman, Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Administration) (DDLCS(A)) said that the additional cost required for upgrading the proposed TKOSG was about \$70 million. DDLCS(A) explained that the Wanchai Stadium was considered not suitable for the track and field events of the 2009 EAG because there were no facilities which were essential for international events, such as media rooms, VIP facilities and other ancillary facilities, and it had no secondary sports ground also. In response to the Chairman's further enquiry, AD(LS)2(Atg) said that there would be vehicle parking spaces 60 private cars and 10 coaches at the TKOSG, and 900-odd vehicle parking spaces in the vicinity. AD(LS)2(Atg) added that the sports ground would be well served by public transportation including the Mass Transit Railway.

53. Mr Andrew CHENG said that he would not definitely oppose the current proposal. Mr CHENG, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's lack of an overall strategy on sports development in Hong Kong and long term planning for recreational and sports venues. Mr CHENG said that the Administration should resolve existing venue problems, such as that the Hong Kong Stadium had a large seating capacity but it had no track and field facilities. Mr CHENG further suggested that the Administration should first provide information on the overall planning of venues before submitting the current proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC). Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung also considered that LegCo could approve the current proposal only if it was provided with the full details including the overall budget for organising the 2009 EAG. Mr WONG Ting-kwong said that it was possible for Hong Kong to host international events, such as the Asian Games,

Action

in the future. He agreed that there was a need for the Administration to conduct long-term comprehensive planning of sports development in Hong Kong.

54. Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) (PAS(HA)(R&S)) explained that the timetable for construction of the TKOSG was very tight. PAS(HA)(R&S) said that even if the construction works could be started in December 2005, it could only be completed in December 2008 and some time was also required for the commissioning tests. Responding to Mr Andrew CHENG's comments on the Hong Kong Stadium, PAS(HA)(R&S) said that the Administration was already planning the development of a multi-purpose stadium complex in South East Kowloon. However, in the light of the recent Court ruling, the reclamation projects within the Harbour area would be reassessed and the overall planning of South East Kowloon was under review. PAS(HA)(R&S) further said that subject to the outcome of the review, the Administration would work out a revised timetable for the multi-purpose stadium project in South East Kowloon.

55. Mr Timothy FOK declared that he was the chairman of the EAG Planning Committee. Mr FOK appealed to members for their support for the development of the proposed TKOSG as the timetable for its construction was very tight and the TKOSG would have to be used for the track and field events of the 2009 EAG. Mr FOK added that the selection of sports venues for the 2009 EAG would depend on the competition events which had yet to be finalised. Mr LAM Wai-keung expressed support for the current proposal which would enhance Hong Kong's athletic venue facilities and he appreciated that the Administration had been able to take into full account the views of persons in the district in taking forward the project.

56. DDLCS(A) pointed out that it was quite sure that track and field events would be chosen for the 2009 EAG. She said that since there was a practical need to provide a sports ground in TKO, the Administration had seized the opportunity to propose upgrading the project scope of the TKOSG to make it suitable for holding major international events, including the track and field events of the 2009 EAG. DDLCS(A) explained that the Administration was working out a detailed plan on the necessary renovation works to be carried out for existing major sports venues and improvements for other smaller venues. DDLCS(A) said that the Administration would submit a more updated picture on the detailed works required and the capital costs involved to LegCo in mid 2005.

57. Mr Albert CHAN and Mr Andrew CHENG remained of the view that the Administration should first provide an overall plan of venue arrangements for the 2009 EAG instead of submitting the current proposal in isolation. The Chairman said that members shared a common view that since the current proposal was linked to the 2009 EAG, the Administration should first provide

Action

members with more detailed information on the overall venue arrangements planned for the EAG. He requested the Administration to take on board members' suggestions and requests.

Admin

[Post-meeting note : a supplementary paper on the overall venue arrangements for hosting the 2009 EAG provided by the Administration was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)730/04-05 on 21 January 2005.]

X X X X X X