

**Report at Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Friday, 11 May 2007**

1. Redevelopment of Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI)

The above proposal is supported by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) as the HKSI has provided a home base for the Hong Kong athletes' systematic training preparing for world-level competition. More importantly for medal winning chance, it offers a stepping stone for our elite athletes to receive a more intensive programme at overseas centres specially equipped for Olympic training. Taking TANG Yik Chun's example, a sprinter, through SF&OC's support, was awarded an Olympic Solidarity scholarship to allow him a 17-month period of training with the US Olympic Team at Trula Visla, California. Hence the redeveloped HKSI will certainly form a continuum from a home base for our athletes to highest overseas centre to perfect their skill for Olympic competition.

2. Athletes' Retirement Scheme

SF&OC has been entrusted by Home Affairs Bureau to develop a comprehensive retirement scheme for Hong Kong's top athletes after their retirement. Apart from studying the existing example in Australia, USA and UK, SF&OC has also approached the University Grant Committee (UGC) funded institutions, British Council and commercial sector for their support. The scheme is still in its experimental stage that requires inputs from athletes, coaches, ex-athletes, educationists, and NSAs. Because of the extensive research and study of this new topic involved, it may take sometime for its completion.

3. SF&OC supports the revised subsidized scheme to the athletes

The Equal Opportunities Commission might have eloquently presented the case, SF&OC had the following findings: Being a member of SF&OC, Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled (HKSAP) was approached on the above subject before this meeting. Mr. Martin LAM, Vice President of HKSAP, who incidentally undertook a study of this issue directed by the Association, has the ensuring views in his reply to my question in respect of the disabled athletes' subsidies:-

- (i) Since many of the disabled athletes are either working part-time or studying, they have a relatively stable source of income;
- (ii) Many of them are receiving public welfare fund and special allowance;
- (iii) Because most of them are part-time athletes, they do not have a permanent coach to train with them as the elite able bodies do. Thus the intensity and scope of the programme are relatively lower and smaller in comparison with the full time elite athletes;

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- (iv) They consider that their athletic achievement were increasingly accepted and recognized by the SF&OC and the HKSAR Government as expressed by the gesture and organized activities such as reception, or farewell parties offered to them before their taking off or home coming after the events;
- (v) What they are after is the provision of more suitable venues and facilities for the disabled athletes. At the present moment, they are insufficient.

Taking this account, HKSAR's view vide the attached and the international intensity scale of competitions in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (Olympic Games athletes pitched at 10,000 athletes level while Olympic Paralympic Games in 2000 and 2004 were maintained at 3000. It is considered that their disabled athletes in Hong Kong are treated adequately in terms of financial supports provided by the HKSAR Government and public organizations.

Reported by:

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Hon. Secretary General

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