

## **Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

### **Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau**

#### **Purpose**

The Chief Executive (CE) delivered his 2006 Policy Address on 11 October 2006. A full list of the new and ongoing initiatives in the 2006 Policy Agenda booklet under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is at **Annex A**. This note highlights the major new initiatives, with particular reference to enhancing the work of Government in districts which is the subject of the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA)'s letter to Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) dated 28 September 2006 announcing the Government's decision on the District Council (DC) Review and sports development which is mentioned in the CE's Policy Address, paragraph 32 refers.

#### ***Effective Governance: Enhancing the Work of Government in Districts***

2. We have launched a three-month public consultation on the role, functions and composition of District Councils (DC Review) earlier this year with a view to enhance government work in districts and better respond to the needs of the people. The proposals, including the involvement of DCs in the management of over 1 700 district facilities, were well received in the community. As set out in the implementation plan for the DC Review announced in September (details are set out in the LegCo Brief on District Council Review – Implementation In Light of Public Consultations issued on 28 September 2006 ref. HAD HQ CR/13/2/1(C)), we will establish in January 2007 a Steering Committee on District Administration (SCDA), to be chaired by the SHA or the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and attended by Heads of Departments (HoDs) with a major role in district management.

3. The SCDA will provide a forum for top management in government departments to resolve district management problems that require close inter-departmental collaboration and to provide steer to the

District Officers (DOs) on enhancing district work. By empowering the DOs to escalate longstanding district problems which cut across different policy bureaux to senior Government officers for resolution at the SCDA, the SCDA will serve to provide more systematic support to the DOs in discharging their role as the overall coordinator at the district level. The recent success in tackling on-street illegal used clothes collection cages illustrates the effectiveness of this approach.

4. In the DC Review, we recognised the need to enhance communication between the DCs and the Administration such that senior Government officers would have a better feel of the sentiments of DC Members on issues affecting the livelihood of local residents and development of the districts. In this regard, starting from January 2007, HoDs with a direct interface with the public would attend DC meetings on a regular basis. We envisage that each HoD will have to attend about four to five DC meetings in a year and complete the tour of all the 18 DCs in a DC term.

5. We believe that by establishing a more regular dialogue between senior government officials and DCs, government departments would be able to tailor their district services to better meet the needs and aspirations of the community. Thus, in addition to the proposal to arrange HoDs to attend DC meetings, we shall also take forward the proposal of an annual Chief Executive's District Administration Summit. The Summit will serve not only as a platform for DC Members to exchange views with senior government officials, with fellow DC Members and with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that have partnered with DCs, but it will also provide the opportunity for the pilot DCs to share their operational experience at the Summit and to discuss strategic issues relating to the District Administration Scheme. Our plan is to hold the first one in early 2008 upon the full implementation of the DC Review proposals in all 18 districts. As 2008 will be the first year of the new DC term from 2008 to 2011, hosting the Summit early in the year will serve to demonstrate Chief Executive's recognition and support for DCs.

6. We have proposed in the DC Review that DCs should be involved in the management of some district facilities. As DC Members have an intimate knowledge of the needs of the local community, the aim of the proposal is to expand the role of DCs in district management and to better meet district needs. During the public consultation, this proposal has the

overwhelming support from DCs and from the public at large. We therefore announced in September that a pilot scheme in four districts, namely Wan Chai, Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung and Tuen Mun, should be implemented from January 2007. The pilot scheme will help provide the needed operational experience to pave the way for smooth implementation in all 18 districts from the next term DCs starting January 2008. Additional resources will be provided to the pilot DCs to support them in assuming new responsibility in the management of district facilities.

7. We also propose to improve the remuneration package for DC Members put forward in the DC Review, namely to increase the honorarium and Operating Expenses Allowances (OEA) by 10%, to introduce a new monthly non-accountable allowance for miscellaneous expenses and new allowances on setting-up and winding-up of ward offices. Taking account of the views expressed by DC Members and the public during the public consultation period, we propose to raise the OEA (which is a fully accountable allowance) by 10% as soon as possible to address concerns from DC Members that the existing level of OEA is inadequate for them to cover the expenses they need to incur in order to discharge their duties effectively. We also propose to advance the implementation of the Winding-up Allowance to the current term. The other improvements will take effect from the next term. We will shortly be consulting the Home Affairs Panel on the new remuneration package for DC Members and subject to its endorsement, submit the proposal to the LegCo Finance Committee for approval by end 2006.

8. We put special emphasis on promoting district partnerships in the DC Review. Concurrently, HAB/HAD are tasked by the Commission on Poverty to implement the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme to reinforce its work in preventing and alleviating poverty through a district-based approach. The Programme has taken into account the renewed emphasis on district partnership highlighted in the DC Review launched in April this year. We believe that the district-based approach can help identify local needs, mobilize community resources more effectively and create employment opportunities and support services on a more sustainable basis.

9. As at 31 August 2006, 82 applications were received. An advisory committee comprising eight non-official members from various sectors (including academics, social workers and businessmen) has been

formed to assess the feasibility of the projects. We aim at approving funds for the first batch of projects by end October 2006.

10. We will continue to enhance our network at the district level for implementing Team Clean Initiatives. Specifically, we will continue to recruit volunteers as district hygiene squads, mobilise volunteers to promote cleanliness in public areas, and partner with NGOs and local groups to promulgate good hygiene practices.

### ***Enlightened People with a Rich Culture: Promoting Sports Development on All Fronts***

11. The 2008 Beijing Olympic & Paralympic Equestrian Events and the 2009 East Asian Games, both to be staged in Hong Kong, represent excellent opportunities to promote sports development in Hong Kong on all fronts. We will increase our investment in sports and work with all sectors of the community to promote three areas of sports development in Hong Kong – Sports for All, Elite Athletes and Major Sporting Events. Some of the key developments are highlighted in the following paragraphs. To inform our stakeholders as well as the wider community, we have published a dedicated leaflet on the subject for distribution. A copy is attached at **Annex B**.

#### ***Sports for All***

12. To develop and implement a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups – “Sports for All”, we have formulated a strategy covering six key directions –

- (a) formulating indicators to measure the effectiveness of the policy;
- (b) fostering collaboration among different sectors in sports promotion;
- (c) staging territory-wide “Hong Kong Games”;
- (d) intensifying the scope of School Sports Programmes;

- (e) developing district sports activities with local characteristics; and
- (f) introducing suitable sports activities to people of different age groups.

13. The proposed six strategic directions have the support of the Community Sports Committee and the Sports Commission. Specific to the first “Hong Kong Games”, our plan is to have it held in 2007.

#### Elite Athletes

14. Hong Kong’s competitiveness in the international sports arena depends very much on its ability to attract, retain and develop athletes. It is therefore important to develop a more integrated and comprehensive support plan for the pre-elite, elite and retired athletes in Hong Kong in order to encourage young people in Hong Kong to take up a career in sports and to sustain Hong Kong’s achievement in international sports arena. We recommend that a more comprehensive athletes support plan be developed with appropriate government funding support on four main areas – educational opportunities, vocational development, financial support as well as training and coaching support to athletes.

15. To enhance Hong Kong’s medal hopes in major Games, we intend to identify some up-and-coming sports outside the elite sports category for intensive development. On the basis of a framework on selection mechanism, our current plan is to select two to three up-and-coming sports for intensive development under a two-year funding cycle starting from 2007/08.

16. We also need to better training facilities and related infrastructure to achieve our goal. The existing facilities at the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) were built in the early 1980s and are old and deteriorating. To enhance the quality of elite training and to enable the expansion of squads of elite sports to excel in international competitions, we have earmarked resources for the redevelopment of the HKSI premises to provide more advanced facilities.

### Major Sporting Events

17. Since November 2004, the Major Sports Events Committee has developed the “M” Mark system and support packages to help National Sports Associations (NSAs), other sports organisations, appointed agents and business organisations organise sustainable major sports events in Hong Kong. A seed fund of \$30 million from the Arts and Sport Development Fund has been earmarked to provide financial support for recognised “M” Mark events.

18. A Core Sponsor Group (CSG) has been established under the Major Sports Events Committee in February 2006. The CSG invites potential commercial organisations to contribute to the “M” Mark events and to encourage them to become corporate partners with NSAs. The CSG provides a platform to facilitate more successful matching and collaboration between commercial sector and NSAs, so as to develop more sustainable, market-oriented and self-financed major sports events in Hong Kong. We shall continue to encourage the commercial sector to support more major sports events through the “M” Mark scheme.

19. To help promote “Major Sporting Events”, as well as to provide new training venues for local athletes and for community use, we are continuing in full speed the development of the proposed Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in South East Kowloon.

20. The proposed Multi-purpose Stadium Complex, which would comprise a 45,000 seats main stadium (with retractable roof), a 5,000 seats secondary stadium and a 4,000 seats multi-sport indoor arena with ancillary support facilities, has been included as a firm planning component in the Kai Tak Development. The public consultation exercise on Kai Tak Planning Review has been completed. There was general support for the proposed Multi-purpose Stadium Complex from the sports sector and the local community. Planning Department will seek approval from the Town Planning Board for gazettal of an Outline Zoning Plan which includes the proposed Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in the central location of Kai Tak.

21. Separately, we have involved the sports sector in the planning and public consultation stage, and have received useful comments on the future use of the venue and the facilities that should be included. We are also

conducting a consultancy study to assess, among other things, the financial viability for developing the Multi-purpose Stadium Complex. The study is now underway and is planned for completion later this year.

22. In 2008, Hong Kong will be staging the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events. There are fewer than 30 cities in the world that have the privilege to be host cities of the Summer Olympic Games. Hong Kong is honoured to be awarded the opportunity to be a co-host city of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games – the first Olympics ever held on Chinese soil.

23. In 2009, Hong Kong will be staging the 5<sup>th</sup> East Asian Games (EAG). Under the steer of the Planning Committee for preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> EAG, the 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited, as the executive arm to implement the event, is actively undertaking the various preparatory work including the development of a comprehensive public relations strategy and sponsorship packages for the Games.

24. We will make use of the opportunity of hosting these events to enhance our culture and standards in sports and will work closely with the sports sector towards this target. At community level, we will encourage collaboration between National Sports Associations and District Councils with a view to promoting active involvement of the community in sports and promoting the benefits of regular participation in physical activities.

### ***Enlightened People with a Rich Culture: Promoting Arts and Culture; Preserving Heritage***

#### ***Arts and Culture***

25. With the view to improving the operation and management of cultural services and venues, we have accepted in principle all the recommendations (on funding policy, venue support and programming) in the first report of the Committee on Performing Arts. We will endeavour to implement them according to the timetable proposed by the Committee. Specifically, we intend to seek the approval of LegCo for an injection of \$40 million into the Arts and Sport Development Fund to enable Hong Kong Arts Development Council to formulate new strategies and initiatives to support new and budding artists and small and medium scale arts groups.

26. To rationalise the use of existing performance venues, the Committee on Performing Arts has issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) for the proposed Venue Partnership Scheme in August 2006 to collect views from the performing arts sector on the establishment of partnership between the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (as venue operator) and performing arts groups (as programme providers). The ideas and suggestions gathered from the EoI exercise would form the basis for drawing up the Invitation for Proposals on the Scheme, which would be issued in early 2007. We would assess the proposals in the second quarter of 2007 and implement the Scheme from late 2007/early 2008.

27. To create a clustering effect for the development of creative industries in Hong Kong, we are actively pursuing the proposal to establish a creative arts centre at the former Shek Kip Mei factory building to help nurture budding artists. An entrustment agreement will be signed with the Hong Kong Baptist University before the end of this year for the latter to develop the Shek Kip Mei flatted factory building into a creative arts centre as well as to operate it. The Centre will be named after the Hong Kong Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre as the conversion works will be fully funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The Centre, with a gross floor area of around 9 200 square metres, will provide some 100 studios for artists.

28. On the way forward of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), the Government established in April this year the Consultative Committee (CC) on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities (CACF) of the WKCD and three Advisory Groups under the CC. The Advisory Groups, namely the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group (PATAG), Museums Advisory Group (MAG) and Financial Matters Advisory Group (FMAG) are to re-examine and re-confirm as appropriate, the need for the CACF of the WKCD as well as the financial implications of developing and operating these facilities.

29. There has been considerable progress in the deliberations on the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD since the establishment of the CC and its Advisory Groups. The Government will work out the way forward in developing the WKCD taking into consideration the recommendations of the CC and its three Advisory Groups, and draw up proposals on the establishment of an independent statutory body to take over the development of the WKCD from the Government at a suitable juncture.



30. Separately, we are in the process of identifying a suitable site in East Kowloon for the development a cross-district cultural performance facility both in response to the need of that region for performing arts facilities and to help address the venue shortage problem.

31. We will also continue to promote and develop Cantonese opera through the provision of adequate funding and venue support to the sector. The Cantonese Opera Development Fund, which was set up in November last year, will provide funding to support initiatives in promoting this traditional art form, particularly in nurturing new and budding artists.

### Heritage

32. The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which applies to Mainland China and Hong Kong formally entered into force on 20 April 2006. The Convention stipulates that each contracting party to the Convention shall draw up an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in its territory which should be safeguarded. In order to compile a comprehensive inventory of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage, we are planning to conduct a territory-wide survey, with reference to the experiences of the Mainland and other regions.

33. As an interim measure, the Division of Humanities of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has been commissioned to conduct a study on the 78 items inscribed on the first provincial list of intangible cultural heritage of Guangdong. Since Hong Kong shares the same cultural tradition with Guangdong, most of the 78 items can be found in Hong Kong though with some local variations. The result of this study will enhance cooperation and interface between Guangdong and Hong Kong in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage within the region. The study, which takes about four months, would be completed in early 2007. This study would form the basis of our comprehensive territory-wide survey. We shall take into account findings of the study and the future territory-wide survey to devise suitable measures on the preservation and promotion of our intangible cultural heritage.

34. In response to the UNESCO "Memory of the World" programme, we plan to launch a Hong Kong Memory Project to systematically collect

and preserve local historical and cultural heritage and to make them readily available to the public. A sponsorship of \$80 million was granted by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to fund the project.

35. The Hong Kong Memory Project aims at establishing a digital repository for the collection, preservation, presentation and dissemination of Hong Kong's unique historical and cultural heritage in multimedia format. The project will provide free and open access, through the Internet, to digital collections of information, stories, items and materials that reflect the collective memory of Hong Kong people. We are in the process of forming a steering committee involving academics, historians, museum experts and other concerned parties to take forward the project.

36. Separately, we are in the process of formulating the improvement measures for built heritage and in due course would consult LegCo, relevant stakeholders and the public as appropriate. Among the proposed improvement measures being considered, we are actively exploring how best to facilitate adaptive re-use of historic buildings and reviewing the systems for grading and declaration of historic buildings.

37. We shall also continue our work on heritage assessment and conservation of historical buildings in consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board. The Antiquities and Monuments Office has set up an expert assessment panel to assess selected pre-1950 historical buildings and we are making good progress.

### ***Caring and Just Society: Promotion of Human Rights***

38. We shall continue to promote public understanding of and respect for human rights through publicity/educational programmes and funding of community projects. A new funding scheme has been introduced earlier this year to support community projects for promotion of children's rights education.

39. Our Race Relations Unit will continue to promote integration of racial minorities through talks in schools and direct services including, for example, the operation of a complaints hotline and provision of language training classes for ethnic minorities. A "Culture in Motion" series has also

been initiated this year to showcase the cultural and artistic heritage of ethnic minorities.

40. We shall continue to maintain communication with our target groups through regular liaison and continued exchanges at the Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony, the Ethnic Minorities Forum and the Children's Forum.

41. We are now finalising the draft Race Discrimination Bill and we aim to introduce it into LegCo before the end of the year.

42. We shall also revive consultation with the Home Affairs Panel on the specific proposals of the Law Reform Commission on protection against intrusion of privacy. We do not have any preconceived ideas on the solution to the problem, which ultimately should be able to receive overall support in terms of striking the needed balance between personal privacy and freedom of the press. In view of the conflicting interests involved and the divergent views expressed, our imminent task is to facilitate broader discussions in the community, involving the media and other interested parties.

Home Affairs Bureau  
October 2006

**The 2006-07 Policy Address**

**Policy Agenda**

**[Extract: Policy Initiatives relevant to HAB]**

**Effective Governance**

**New Initiatives**

*We will:*

- Enhance the work of the Government in districts through more effective co-ordination by District Officers supported by the Steering Committee on District Administration. (**HAB-GN1**)
- Enhance communication between District Councils and the Administration through Heads of Departments attending District Council meetings on a regular basis. (**HAB-GN2**)
- Involve District Councils in the management of designated district facilities by implementing a pilot scheme from January 2007 which will pave the way for full implementation in all 18 districts from January 2008. (**HAB-GN3**)
- Co-ordinate celebrations for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. We will make use of this opportunity to highlight the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and create a festive atmosphere for community involvement and participation. (**HAB-GN4**)

**Ongoing Initiatives**

*We are:*

- Reviewing the issues involved in the existing system of advisory and statutory bodies, and exploring practical ways to streamline its structure and enhance its functions. (**HAB-GO1**)

- Improving arrangements for the next cycle of rural elections in 2007, in the light of experience gained in the 2003 elections and consultation with the rural community. **(HAB-GO2)**
- Implementing the existing gambling policy and regulating authorised gambling activities conducted by licensed operators. **(HAB-GO3)**
- Working closely with the Betting and Lotteries Commission to ensure proper regulation of authorised horse race betting, football betting and lotteries. **(HAB-GO4)**

## **Vibrant Economy**

### Ongoing Initiatives

*We are:*

- Providing a platform for and assisting the sports sector to engage business partners in organising international sports events. **(HAB-E01)**
- Further facilitating the development of creative industries, pursuant to consultation with local creative industries and organisation of various activities to arouse public interest. **(HAB-E02)**

## **Caring and Just Society**

### New Initiatives

*We will:*

- Strengthen the district-based approach and measures to help the disadvantaged through implementing the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme and other district co-ordination work. **(FS-CoP-SN1) (HAB-S01)**

### Ongoing Initiatives

*We are:*

- Enhancing our network at district level, which has proved invaluable in implementing Team Clean initiatives. (**HAB-SO1**)
- Working closely with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee on the use of the Ping Wo Fund to finance public education to prevent gambling-related problems, to provide counselling and support services to pathological gamblers, and to conduct research on studies on gambling-related issues. (**HAB-SO2**)
- Continuing our work on the promotion of human rights, including (among others) children's rights, racial harmony, and the rights of the sexual minorities. (**HAB-SO3**)
- Introducing specific legislation to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race. (**HAB-SO4**)

## **Enlightened People with a Rich Culture**

### New Initiatives

*We will:*

- Rationalise the use of existing performance venues and identify and develop new ones to address the venue shortage problem. (**HAB-CN1**)
- Commission a study to compile a comprehensive inventory of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage in accordance with the requirement of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, with a view to strengthening their preservation and promotion in Hong Kong. (**HAB-CN2**)
- Set up a central web-based "Hong Kong Memory" to archive information related to the collective memory of Hong Kong people. (**HAB-CN3**)
- Develop and implement a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups. (**HAB-CN4**)
- Encourage the growth and development of "up-and-coming" sports to

enhance Hong Kong's medal hope in the international sports arena. **(HAB-CN5)**

- Strengthen the financial, educational and career guidance support for elite athletes through a more structured and comprehensive "Athletes Development Plan". **(HAB-CN6)**
- Embark on the re-development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute. **(HAB-CN7)**
- Establish a creative arts centre at the former Shek Kip Mei factory building to help nurture budding artists and create a clustering effect for the development of creative industries in Hong Kong. **(HAB-CN8)**

### Ongoing Initiatives

*We are:*

- Reviewing the policy on built heritage conservation in Hong Kong with a view to drawing up a series of improvement measures. **(HAB-CO2)**
- Modifying the implementation mode for taking forward the leisure and cultural facilities in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O, which were originally planned as Private Sector Finance initiatives, with a view to better meeting the needs of the local community. **(HAB-CO3)**
- Planning the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in South East Kowloon. **(HAB-CO4)**
- Preparing for the organisation of the 5th East Asian Games (EAG) to be held in 2009. We will make use of the opportunity of hosting this event to enhance our culture and standard in sports, and to foster community involvement in sports activities. **(HAB-CO5)**
- Developing a cultural, arts and sports network in the Pearl River Delta, and at the same time supporting cultural exchange through the funding of outbound arts groups and signing Memoranda of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation with other countries to facilitate closer co-operation. **(HAB-CO6)**

- Facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, highlighting our status as an international city, with particular reference to the preservation and development of Cantonese Opera as a local indigenous art form. **(HAB-CO7)**
- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Performing Arts with a view to improving the operation and management of cultural services and venues, encouraging a greater degree of community involvement in the process, and supporting the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in formulating new strategies and initiatives to further promote and develop the arts in Hong Kong. **(HAB-CO8)**
- Devising a series of improvement measures to the management and operation of public museums in consultation with the Committee on Museums; devising a series of measures to strengthen the role and functions of public libraries in the promotion of reading and appreciation of literary arts, in consultation with the Committee on Libraries. **(HAB-CO9)**
- Conducting heritage assessment of and devising appropriate conservation approach for historical buildings in consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board. **(HAB-CO10)**
- Enhancing the work on the promotion of youth development in conjunction with the Commission on Youth, particularly on civic and social participation of young people. **(HAB-CO11)**
- Providing young people with appropriate non-formal education and training through supporting the activities of youth uniformed groups. **(HAB-CO12)**
- Enhancing the work on the promotion of civic education outside schools in conjunction with the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education, particularly on promotion of national education and corporate citizenship. **(HAB-CO13)**
- Joining hands with all sectors in the community to prepare for the staging of the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events. We will make use of this opportunity to showcase Hong Kong and enrich the sports culture in Hong Kong. We will make the Events a resounding success to bring pride to our home and our nation. **(HAB-CO14)**



- Re-examining the arts and cultural facilities to be built in the West Kowloon Cultural District and formulating the way forward. **(HAB-CO15)**

## **Environmentally Responsible Development**

### Ongoing Initiatives

*We are:*

- Implementing a comprehensive greening strategy to improve the living environment of Hong Kong as well as make it a green model for Asia. Apart from continuous efforts to meet annual planting targets and review current government procedures and guidelines, we are actively pursuing the development and implementation of Greening Master Plans (GMPs). Our intention is to develop GMPs for the vast majority of urban areas in around four years. In developing the GMPs, we will adopt an Enhanced Partnering Approach which involves consultation with District Councils and the local community at the early stage. In 2006-07, we will organize 40 garden courses for the Community Garden Programme in 18 districts and will continue to organize various greening and horticultural activities to promote greater public awareness and support for a green environment. **(HAB-DO1) (ETWB-DO1)**
- Refining the Building Management Ordinance to improve certain provisions in the legislation for the benefit of owners' corporations and property owners. **(HAB-DO2)**
- Continuing to closely work with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority to assist owners of older buildings to properly manage and maintain their buildings. We are also continuing our efforts to enhance building management and maintenance of private housing through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies. **(HPLB-DO1)(HAB-DO3)**





## Promoting Sports Development on All Fronts

Sports for All  
Elite Athletes  
Major Sporting Events



The 2008 Beijing Olympic & Paralympic Equestrian Events will be staged in Hong Kong. These will be followed by the East Asian Games that Hong Kong will host in 2009. Let's all make the most of these excellent opportunities to promote sports development in Hong Kong on all fronts.

We will increase our investment in sports and work with all sectors of the community to promote three areas of sports development in Hong Kong – **Sports for All**, **Elite Athletes** and **Major Sporting Events**.

We are committed to creating a strong sporting culture in the community. Through strengthening the training of elite athletes and presenting more major sports events, we are striving to raise Hong Kong's profile in the international sports arena. We will encourage partnerships among different sectors of the community and foster the spirit of sports entrepreneurship, thereby gathering various forces together to make Hong Kong a sports capital.

### Sports for All

Sports can strengthen social cohesion and enhance people's quality of life. Through implementing a community sports development strategy, we will promote "Sports for All" to encourage people of different ages to participate in sports, enhance the physical fitness of Hong Kong people, and identify and train athletes with potential for further development. We will:

- provide an additional cash subvention of \$30 million a year – an increase of about 25% – to the National Sports Associations (NSAs) from 2007/08 to help them promote community participation in sports and the implementation of the "School Sports Programme" (SSP). We will review and streamline the subvention mechanism to achieve better efficiency and effectiveness.
- enhance the SSP to cultivate the younger generation's interest in sport and encourage their participation in regular sports activities. We aim to increase the school participation rate from 70% at present to over 90%, and achieve the overall objective of "one student, one sport".
- collaborate with the relevant government departments and voluntary agencies in implementing programmes such as "Healthy Exercise for Longevity" to encourage the elderly to exercise regularly.
- work closely with NSAs, District Councils (DCs) and district organisations to attract more people in the districts to participate in sports, create a strong sporting culture and encourage districts to develop sports facilities and training bases with local characteristics. The collaborative projects in the pipeline include:
  - establishing a football academy at Tseung Kwan O Landfill
  - developing the tennis courts and squash courts in Kowloon Tsai Park into a training base for tennis

- transforming the Jockey Club Kwai Shing Public Squash Courts into a training base for airgun shooting
  - creating a training and competition base for shooting at Tuen Mun Pillar Point Valley Landfill
  - establishing a training and competition base for BMX cycling at Kwai Chung Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill
- collaborate with DCs to hold the Hong Kong Games biennially for representatives from the 18 districts starting in 2007.
- organise various large-scale sports activities for the community in 2007 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
- proceed with our plan to provide funding of nearly \$9 billion in five years to develop district recreation and sports facilities to promote and sustain the community's participation in "Sports for All".

### Elite Athletes

Hong Kong's elite athletes are known for their commitment and hard work. Some of them have suspended their studies or work in order to undergo long and hard training. By pushing themselves to the limit, they have achieved significant results in many international sports events. Their achievements speak for themselves. To encourage and train more young people with the potential to compete for Hong Kong in the international sports arena, and to support the development of elite athletes in Hong Kong, we will:

- provide additional funding of \$40 million annually from 2007/08 for formulating a more systematic and comprehensive support scheme for elite athletes. Funding will be provided in key areas, including education opportunities, career development, financial assistance, and athlete training and coaching support. This scheme will also benefit disabled athletes and young people with potential in sport by providing them with more development opportunities.
- focus on the development of sports that have the potential to reach an elite level to increase Hong Kong's chances of excelling in major sports events.
- redevelop the Hong Kong Sports Institute to provide elite athletes with a more modern training environment.



Photo courtesy of SF&OC



## Major Sporting Events

In recent years, Hong Kong has hosted various international sports events, such as the Hong Kong Marathon, Hong Kong Rugby Sevens and the 6-star Badminton Championships. These events have been well received in the community. In coming years, Hong Kong will continue to organise more such events, including:

- the **Hong Kong Games** to be held biennially starting from 2007
- the **Olympic Equestrian Test Events** to be held in 2007
- the **2008 Olympic & Paralympic Equestrian Events**
- the **2009 East Asian Games**

We introduced the "M" Mark Scheme in 2004 to recognise and support high-standard sports events. The Arts and Sport Development Fund has reserved \$30 million for events accorded the "M" Mark status. We also established a "Core Sponsor Group" (CSG) in 2006 to promote collaboration between commercial organisations and NSAs. These measures will lead to more major sports events in Hong Kong. To further strengthen Hong Kong's status as a major sports events capital in Asia, we will:

- continue to implement the "M" Mark Scheme and encourage commercial sponsorship through the CSG, enabling more major local sports events to evolve into market-oriented and sustainable international sports events.
- allocate over \$1 billion to construct new sports facilities and upgrade existing sports facilities to support the **East Asian Games** and provide an environment more conducive to the hosting of international competitions in Hong Kong.
- pursue the planning of a mega multi-purpose stadium complex in South-east Kowloon. This will not only help promote "Major Sporting Events", but also provide local athletes with new training venues that meet international competition standards. The project would have a profound and lasting impact on the promotion of "Elite Athletes" and "Sports for All" in Hong Kong and would provide a more favourable environment for sports entrepreneurship.



## Collaborating with All

### Sports Commission

The Sports Commission advises the Government on the policies, strategies, allocation of funding, resource development and the implementation framework pertaining to sports development. The three committees under it, namely, the Community Sports Committee, the Elite Sports Committee and the Major Sports Events Committee, have been putting specific proposals to the Government for consideration.

### The Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC)

The SF&OC is responsible for coordinating the development of sports in Hong Kong by local sports organisations. We will strengthen our support to the SF&OC and work with it to further promote sports development in Hong Kong. We will collaborate with the SF&OC to ensure the successful organisation of the **2008 Beijing Olympic & Paralympic Equestrian Events** and the **2009 East Asian Games**.

### Hong Kong Sports Institute

The Hong Kong Sports Institute is committed to providing elite athletes with a quality training environment and support services relating to sports science and medicine with the aim of grooming the athletes to achieve good results for Hong Kong in international sporting events. We will work with the Institute to further drive the development of elite sports, proceed with the redevelopment of the Sports Institute complex and support Hong Kong athletes in striving for excellence on behalf of Hong Kong in the international sports arena.

### National Sports Associations

NSAs, local governing bodies of individual sports, are responsible for the promotion and development of their respective sports in Hong Kong. Affiliated to their respective international federations and as members of the SF&OC, NSAs represent Hong Kong in international events of the respective sports. NSAs play an indispensable role in sports development. We will provide NSAs with additional resources to strengthen their administration and governance, and enhance their ability to organise sports development programmes.

### District Councils, District Sports Associations, Schools and other District Sports Organisations

We are committed to promoting partnerships among the NSAs, DCs, district sports associations, schools and other district sports organisations to jointly promote sports development at the district level and to encourage members of the public to participate in various types of sporting activities.

With the cooperation of all sectors in the community and the concerted effort of the sports sector, we will strive to create a strong sporting culture in Hong Kong to promote sports development on all fronts.

### Promoting Sports Development on All Fronts

- Ensuring the success of the 2008 Beijing Olympic & Paralympic Equestrian Events and the 2009 East Asian Games
- Redeveloping the Hong Kong Sports Institute complex
- Pursuing the construction of a mega multi-purpose stadium complex in South-east Kowloon
- Investing \$1 billion in constructing new sports facilities and upgrading existing ones for the East Asian Games
- Investing nearly \$9 billion in five years to construct district recreation and sports facilities
- Providing additional annual funding of \$40 million to support elite athletes
- Providing additional annual funding of \$30 million to support NSAs to enhance community participation in sports and the implementation of the "School Sports Programme"

