

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Promoting the development of local football”
moved by Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 4 June 2008**

Motion as amended by Hon CHOY So-yuk and Dr Hon YEUNG Sum

“That football sport in Hong Kong has developed for a period of time and is a very popular sport in the territory, which is well liked and widely supported by the community, the Government should capitalise on this favourable condition to promote the development of local football and establish team brands, which will not only raise the standards of sports activities, but can also promote social integration and enhance social cohesion; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) immediately conduct a detailed study to position the development of local football, formulate an overall development plan, set long-term and short-term goals, and implement the relevant initiatives, etc;
- (b) develop football training schemes for local youngsters, encourage renowned overseas football clubs to establish football academies in Hong Kong, and enhance the training for young football players with potential, so as to lay a good foundation for the development of local football;
- (c) apart from supporting the Football District League and the Young Athlete Training Scheme, consider giving more funding support to football teams with outstanding performance, and formulate a long-term funding policy;
- (d) provide support to promote the professionalization of local football, such as assisting the football sector in drawing up a clear framework and targets for the development of professional football players as well as career paths for coaches and managers, etc to be promoted to the management of football teams, thereby encouraging more football players to take up the sport as their career, and strengthen the training of referees, so as to facilitate the enhancement of the overall professional standards of the football sport;
- (e) in order to meet their education needs, recommend young football players with outstanding performance in football matches for admission to universities and tertiary institutions so as to broaden the prospects of retired football players;
- (f) provide support for football teams to conduct overseas training and participate in overseas matches, so as to encourage exchange of experience and learning, and become stronger teams;

- (g) draw reference from successful examples in Europe and America to create a favourable environment for establishing local football team brands;
- (h) build more football pitches across the territory and upgrade the facilities of existing football pitches, including converting the existing concrete pitches into natural turf, plastic or artificial turf pitches, so as to reduce the chances of football players sustaining injuries; and
- (i) encourage local radio and television stations to conduct live broadcast of football matches to cultivate the community's interest in watching local and overseas football matches;
- (j) deploy resources to support the future day-to-day operation of the Football Academy to be built in Tseung Kwan O; and
- (k) include football as an elite sport to attract more talents.”