

The Legislative Council Meeting commencing on 5 January 2011

Motion Debate on “Promoting Long-term Sports Development”

Progress Report

Purpose

At the Legislative Council meeting on 6 January 2011¹, the motion on “Promoting Long-term Sports Development” moved by Hon KAM Nai-wai and amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon Tanya CHAN was carried. The wording of the motion is at **Annex I**. This report briefs Members on the follow-up actions taken by the Government on the motion.

Formulation of sports development policy by the Government

2. In 2002, the Government published a report entitled “Towards a more sporting future” which set out the long-term strategic objectives for sports development, i.e., “develop a strong sporting culture in the community, achieve greater excellence by our elite athletes and raise our international profile on sport”. To implement these objectives, the Government has set up the Sports Commission (SC), underpinned by the Community Sports Committee, the Elite Sports Committee and the Major Sports Events Committee, to study and advise on policy measures in the light of the actual circumstances in Hong Kong, with a view to promoting the long-term development of sport. The SC and its three Committees comprise professionals and members of the community from the sports and other sectors, there are also current and retired athletes sitting on them. Their mixed composition enables these Committees to give full consideration to the views of different stakeholders when formulating policy measures on sport. The membership lists of the SC and its committees are at **Annex II**.

3. Currently, the annual estimate of the Government for sports development is close to \$600 million which mainly covers the following areas:

¹ The relevant Legislative Council meeting commenced on 5 January 2011, and adjourned on 6 January 2011.

- Every year, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) allocates resources for promoting sport and organising different sports activities for the public. In the 2010-11 financial year, LCSD allocated a total of \$124 million for organising 36,700 community recreation and sports programmes with the participation of about 2 million people.

- On training of athletes, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) provides funding to the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) every year to support the development of elite athletes. This includes the provision of direct financial support, training programmes, accommodation, educational and career counselling. The relevant recurrent subvention for 2010-11 is close to \$160 million. An additional one-off allocation amounted to \$62 million was also made in the same year to the HKSI for strengthening its support for athletes. With the Talent Identification Programme introduced by the HKSI in 2010 and the feeder system implemented by the Government in collaboration with national sports associations (NSAs), including the two sports associations for disabled athletes, more young athletes with potential can be identified and selected to pursue a sporting career. In 2010-11, the Government provided funding of around \$12 million to NSAs to implement the feeder system.

- LCSD promotes various sports, identifies and trains athletes through the Sports Subvention Scheme. In 2010-11, the Government provided funding of \$213 million to NSAs and sports organisations for such activities as competitions, training programmes and training for officials. In 2010-11, NSAs and sports organisations organised about 10,600 sports activities in total.

- In 2010-11, we allocated about \$23 million under the Arts and Sport Development Fund (ASDF) to support Hong Kong athletes to prepare for and participate in national and international multi-sport games, and to subsidise major sports events held in Hong Kong that have been awarded the “M” Mark major sports event status. We also allocated more than \$10.3 million under the

Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation to support sports organisations and district sports associations in developing and upgrading district sports facilities.

The Government will continue to deploy substantial resources in sports development. For the next decade, the estimated expenditure on promoting sport for all, elite sports and major sports events will not be less than \$6 billion.

4. Apart from recurrent expenses, the Government also deploys resources to support sports development where the situation warrants. In July 2010, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the injection of \$1.5 billion into the sports portion of the ASDF as seed money, and the investment return of which can be used to support various sports, in particular team sports and football, and to organise more community sports programmes. The new resources available will contribute to the long-term and sustainable development of sport. Meanwhile, in his 2011-12 Budget, the Financial Secretary has proposed to set up a \$7 billion “Elite Athletes Development Fund” (EADF) and to make use of its investment return to replace the current mode of providing subvention to the HKSI. The proposed EADF would help develop the HKSI into a world-class training centre, providing more comprehensive support to elite athletes, and strengthening our efforts to identify and train young athletes with potential.

5. At the meeting, Members have expressed concern over Hong Kong’s sports development, and have also commented on those aspects including provision of sports facilities, promotion of sports for all, education and career support for athletes, opportunities for students to participate in sports, transparency and governance of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) and NSAs, reward mechanisms for disabled athletes and able-bodied athletes, salaries and fringe benefits of sports coaches, instructors and other staff, as well as support of the business sector for sports activities. The latest progress of these issues is reported below.

Provision of Sports Facilities

6. The Government is committed to providing sports facilities to address the needs of athletes and general public. At present, LCSD provides different types of sports facilities, including 38 swimming pools (a new swimming pool in Tung Chung has been opened since April 2011), 25 sports grounds, 81 turf pitches and 5 water

sports centres, in various districts.

7. Since 2005, the Government has completed more than \$3.5 billion worth of construction or upgrading works for sports facilities. Work on 15 sports facilities with a total investment of more than \$9 billion are now in progress. On the upgrading of existing sports facilities, we are implementing such capital projects as redevelopment of the Victoria Park Swimming Pool Complex, redevelopment of the Kwun Tong Swimming Pool Complex and the Kwun Tong Recreation Ground, improvement works for the Mong Kok Stadium and conversion of the secondary pool of the Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool into an indoor heated pool.

8. On the construction of new sports venues, we are now planning works projects as district open space, sports centre and library in Area 74, Tseung Kwan O; sports centre, community hall cum public library in Area 14B, Sha Tin; open space in Area 117, Tin Shui Wai; and indoor recreation centre in Area 14 (Siu Lun), Tuen Mun. We will continue to build and upgrade sports facilities in a strategic manner, with special focus on facilities or areas with clear shortages.

Promoting Sports for all

9. The Government will continue to implement the strategic direction of promoting sport in the community. LCSD has formulated a five-year action plan to provide more activities suitable for people of different ages, and to advise the public of the importance and benefits of regular participation in sports. The Department has focused on middle-aged people as its main service target by offering them a variety of tailor-made sports activities. For example, it will provide walking trails at its venues in 18 districts and/or on spacious road sections in the community. All such trails will have information such as physical fitness and energy consumption in order to encourage the public to participate in walking activities.

10. To take forward the recommendation of conducting a territory-wide physical fitness test every five years, LCSD has launched the second territory-wide physical fitness test this year with a view to identifying the relationship between the physical exercise pattern and the physical condition of Hong Kong people, so as to build up a database of the physical fitness of Hong Kong people. The project will conduct tests for about 10,000 members of the public aged 3 to 69. Data collection is expected to be completed by end of this year. The Department will analyse the

data collected to identify priority areas for improvement and formulate appropriate strategies for promoting sport for all.

11. LCSD will also continue to organise different types of sports programmes. The Third Hong Kong Games, a biennial event, has been scheduled to be held between May and June this year. It is expected that the event will attract the participation of more than 3,000 athletes from 18 districts, thereby enhancing public interest in participating in sports at district level and facilitating the identification of athletes with potential in the community.

Education and Employment Support to Athletes

12. We attach great importance to the development pathways for retired athletes. Since 2008, the HKSI has launched the Enhanced Athletes Educational and Vocational Development Programme to provide diverse education and career development support to elite athletes. Since the introduction of the programme, as many as 850 athletes have received relevant training and support. Among them, 250 athletes have received scholarships for further studies. Moreover, the Hong Kong Athletes Fund also provides subsidy for higher education to current and retired athletes. Subsistence allowance is also available to retired athletes. In the same year, the Government supported the SF&OC in launching the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme which provided education and career development support to current and retired athletes (up to four years after retirement). At present, over 10 business organisations have rendered their support to the programme. The programme also offers scholarships for athletes to enrol in language courses, certificate, diploma, higher diploma, associate degree and undergraduate courses. So far, more than 130 athletes have benefited from the programme.

13. Currently, the eight tertiary institutions funded by the University Grants Committee accept athletes nominated by the HKSI or SF&OC for admission. These institutions also provide counselling services to student athletes. Some institutions also have designated programmes for student athletes, arranging tutors and coaches to monitor their performance and give advice on their studies and other aspects. The institutions also make flexible study arrangements for student athletes, such as allowing them to extend their studies under special permission, arranging make-up classes or examinations and allowing student athletes to take study leave for training and competition. All these institutions provide special student assistance,

scholarship or awards as well as accommodation to student athletes.

Better Opportunity for Students to Participate in Sports

14. Schools play an important role in promoting a sporting culture in the society. LCSD will continue to promote and intensify the School Sports Programme by providing information and training on sports to students in primary, secondary and special schools. Every year, more than 7,800 sports activities are organised for schools with the participation of over 600,000 students. LCSD will continue to encourage schools to participate in the programme with a view to maintaining the school participation rate at above 90%.

15. In 2010, LCSD extended the concept of promoting sports to early childhood education by encouraging in-service kindergarten teachers to promote the concept of physical activities in kindergartens. To promote “one student, one sport”, LCSD introduced the “sportTAG Award Scheme” in January this year, so that students may receive training in their favourite sport and test their skills with assessments provided by NSAs.

16. Furthermore, “to lead a healthy lifestyle and develop an interest in and appreciation of aesthetic and physical activities” is one of the learning goals of the school curriculum. The Government encourages schools to adopt a life-wide learning approach. Apart from allocating at least 5% of the total lesson time to physical education (PE) lessons (i.e. two lessons per week/cycle and 35 to 40 minutes for each lesson), schools should provide various co-curricular activities to increase opportunities for students to participate in sports in order to broaden their horizons and develop their potential.

17. To tie in with the systematic training and competitions organised in schools, LCSD has devised a leisure facility booking system which accords priority to schools for reserving facilities one academic year in advance. Full-time students may enjoy half-fare concessionary rate for hiring most of the leisure facilities. LCSD also allows schools to use specified sports facilities free of charge during non-peak hours to encourage schools and organisations concerned to organise more sports activities for students and young people. Besides, 60 schools have agreed to open up their sports facilities after school hours for joint-school training or competition.

Enhancing the Transparency and Governance of the SF&OC and NSAs

18. The SF&OC and NSAs are committed to promoting sports development in Hong Kong. The SF&OC promotes sports in accordance with the Olympic Charter and is not subject to political, religious, economic or other pressures. NSAs are non-profit making bodies, many of them are registered limited companies while the remaining associations are registered societies under the Societies Ordinance. NSAs may conduct their internal affairs with full autonomy in accordance with their Memorandum and Articles of Association. While the Government respects the autonomy and independence of SF&OC and NSAs, it will monitor the effective use of public money.

19. In January 2010, LCSD set up a steering committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing subvention mechanism for NSAs. In 2011-12, the Department has implemented a series of measures, including personnel arrangement, subvention allocation, and funding arrangement. It has also been proposed to increase the level of subvention to help NSAs improve their internal control and corporate governance, as well as strengthen their knowledge and manpower in financial management. LCSD also assists NSAs to define their performance target in the key performance areas (including organisation of activities, athletes' performance, development of the sport, corporate governance and compliance with relevant requirements) so that the level of subvention is more closely linked to their governance and compliance with relevant guidelines.

20. On the selection of athletes for international events, the SF&OC and NSAs select athletes to represent Hong Kong to take part in international events. To enhance transparency, however, LCSD has requested NSAs to publicise their athlete selection criteria and mechanisms, and will also incorporate a set of good practice in corporate governance being prepared by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) into the internal control guidelines of NSAs. At the same time, we have referred the motion carried by the Legislative Council to the SF&OC for reference.

Incentive Awards for Able-bodied Athletes and Disabled Athletes

21. In 2009, the SC, after deliberation, agreed to substantially increase the incentive awards for Hong Kong athletes participating in major international

multi-sport games. The adjusted incentive awards have been implemented since the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games and Asian Para Games. In reviewing and setting the incentive award standards, the SC has taken into account a number of factors which include the similar awards for athletes in other countries and the financial implications.

22. The rationale for the different incentive awards for able-bodied athletes and disabled athletes who have won medals is not due to their physical difference, but because of the varying level of participation and competitiveness of different sports events. Such considerations have been generally recognised by the sports community and are considered practical considerations. For such reasons, the incentive award for a gold medalist at the Asian Games (\$400,000) or a gold medalist at the East Asian Games (\$50,000) would be lower than that received by a gold medalist at the Olympic Games (\$3,000,000), but the award for the gold medalist at the Paralympic Games (\$300,000) is higher than that received by a gold medalist at the East Asian Games. Moreover, the SC will review the incentive awards after the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

23. Currently, the HKSI provides support on many fronts to disabled elite athletes. Regular funding support is provided to the two sports associations for disabled athletes under LCSD's Sports Subvention Scheme - the subvention will exceed \$12 million in 2011-12. Moreover, we have been providing financial support under the ASDF to help disabled elite athletes prepare for and participate in major sports games and international competitions held in Hong Kong and to promote the development of sport for the disabled. Such subvention in the past three years has reached \$5.7 million. The Government will continue to provide support to disabled athletes through the HKSI and the sports associations for disabled athletes.

Improving the Salaries and Fringe Benefits of Sports Coaches, Instructors and Other Staff

24. In 2010, LCSD conducted a survey on the hourly rates of part-time sports coaches and staff. While appropriate adjustments have been made in the light of the survey results, the Department will continue to follow up the matter to maintain their salaries at a competitive and reasonable level. In addition, the HKSI will conduct a global recruitment exercise for elite sports coaches. In order to attract talents, the salaries and fringe benefits will be adjusted having regard to the market demand at

that time.

Encouraging the Business Sector to Support Sports Activities

25. We have been encouraging the business sector to support sport. Since the introduction of the “M” Mark system by the Government in 2004, a total of 46 major sports events, including the Hong Kong Marathon, the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens and the Hong Kong Golf Open Championship have been awarded the “M” Mark status. The total government subvention totalled for these events has exceeded \$32 million. The SC has recently endorsed the enhanced support for “M” Mark events by extending the duration of event funding from six to eight years and increasing the maximum amount of matching funds for an event from \$ 9 million to \$ 11.5 million, with a view to facilitating the staging of more major sports events and attracting more sponsorship from the business sector.

Conclusion

26. The Government is committed to promoting sports development in Hong Kong. To this end, we will continue to follow the clear policies and objectives that have been established, and deploy resources gradually to implement various policy initiatives. We will also continue to provide and upgrade local recreational and sports facilities in the light of the needs of the community.

Home Affairs Bureau

April 2011

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Promoting long-term sports development”
moved by Hon KAM Nai-wai
at the Legislative Council meeting commencing
on Wednesday, 5 January 2011**

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon Tanya CHAN

That, as the Hong Kong Government has decided to bid to host the 2023 Asian Games, but all along, it has not put forward any blueprint for long-term and comprehensive sports development, in that it lacks commitment to promote community-wide participation in sports and has no plan to improve training for local athletes, this Council expresses disappointment in this regard; following the Government’s failure to bid to host the 2006 Asian Games 10 years ago, it has failed to honour its undertaking of building sports venues, and the hosting of the 2009 East Asian Games did not foster a culture of promoting community-wide participation in sports, this Council considers that the Hong Kong Government should formulate and implement a long-term and comprehensive policy on sports, enhance training for local athletes and treat them well, take concrete steps to promote sports for all, and establish a sound administrative structure for sports; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to implement the following measures:

- (a) by way of extensive consultation and mobilizing public participation, to draw up a 10-year blueprint for sports development, set objectives for community-wide participation in sports, and undertake planning for local athletes’ training; regardless of whether the bid to host the Asian Games is successful or not, the Government should allocate \$6 billion for establishing a ‘Sports Fund’, with a view to promoting the policy on community-wide participation in sports and enhancing training for local athletes;
- (b) to conduct extensive consultation with the Hong Kong sports sector and athletes, and on this basis, to establish a mechanism for protecting current and retired athletes, and at the same time provide scholarships for their pursuit of further studies overseas or locally, and put in place measures to ensure their employment; and by making reference to overseas experience, to provide commercial organizations with tax concessions, so as to encourage the trades to employ current or retired athletes;

- (c) to allocate funds for supporting athletes' after-training academic learning, with a view to providing them with learning assistance in foundation academic subjects, and to hold discussions with universities on allocating additional resources for providing places specifically for athletes;
- (d) to construct more district sports facilities and venues, and allow members of the public and students to have priority in using such utility-based district sports venues, and at the same time to extensively install simple fitness facilities suitable for people of different ages in parks and public housing estates throughout the territory, thereby promoting sports for all;
- (e) to improve students' opportunities to participate in sports, including increasing the number and duration of physical education lessons in secondary and primary schools, so as to cultivate students' interest in sports;
- (f) to make accurate and precise estimation on the costs of constructing sports venues and expeditiously submit information about all the sports venues and facilities proposed to be constructed or improved under the plan to bid to host the Asian Games to the Legislative Council for scrutiny, so that this Council can scrutinize the Government's applications based on the needs for the development of sports for all and elite sports in different districts and their relevant timetables;
- (g) to urge the relevant authorities to study how to reform the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and the various National Sports Associations by requiring them to introduce professional administrative management and increase transparency of their finances, as well as to establish reasonable selection and appeal mechanisms, so as to ensure fair treatment of all athletes; and
- (h) to urge the relevant departments and sports institutions to undertake studies on the salaries and fringe benefits of sports coaches, instructors and counsellors, etc., and conduct timely reviews, so as to facilitate the retention and nurturing of local sports elites;
- (i) by making reference to the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team entitled 'Towards a more sporting future' published in 2002, to implement the feasible recommendations made therein, and at the same time conduct studies on those areas not covered by the Report for the purpose of formulating a long-term sports policy on sports;

- (j) the Government should split the 'Arts and Sports Development Fund' and enhance training for local athletes and invest more resources, so as to promote sports development;
- (k) to standardize the present reward mechanisms for able-bodied athletes and disabled athletes participating in international events of equivalent levels, so as to give fair recognition to the achievements of all athletes; and
- (l) to review the terms of reference and composition of the Sports Commission, enlist the participation of more athletes, and enhance the transparency of the Commission.

Sports Commission Membership List

Mr TSANG Tak-sing (Chairman)
The Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting
(Vice-Chairman)
Mr TONG Wai-lun
Professor Frank FU Hoo-kin
Mr William KO Wai-lam
Mr David YIP Wing-shing
Mr HUNG Chung-yam (*Retired Athlete)
Mr Terry SMITH
Dr Eric LI Ka-cheung
Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-yee
Mr CHAU How-chen
Mr Victor HUI Chun-fui
Mr Herman HU Shao-ming
Ms Ann CHIANG Lai-wan
Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping
Mrs Jenny FUNG MA Kit-han
Miss Leonie KI Man-fung
Mr Tony YUE Kwok-leung
Mr Wilfred NG Sau kei
Miss Amy CHAN Lim-chee (*Retired Athlete)

Community Sports Committee Membership List

Mr TONG Wai-lun (Chairman)
Mr David YIP Wing-shing
(Vice-Chairman)
Mr Daniel CHAM Ka-hung
Mr Henry CHAN Chi-chiu
Mr CHENG Shu-ming
Mr LAM Hong-wah
Mrs Stella LAU KUN Lai-kuen
Ms Peggy LEE Pik-yee
Mr Philip LI Wing-kuen
Mr LIU Ah-chuen
Dr LO Wing-lok
Mr Lawrence LO Wing-man
Mr Raphael TONG Tai-wai
Professor Stephen WONG Heung-sang
Mrs Cecilia WONG LAM Siu-ling
Dr Simon YEUNG Sai-mo
Mr George YIP Chi-wai
Mr CHU King-yuen
Professor LEUNG Mee-lee (Representative
of Sports Federation & Olympic
Committee of Hong Kong, China)
Representative of Education Bureau
Representative of Department of Health
Representative of Home Affairs Bureau
Representative of Home Affairs
Department
Representative of Social Welfare
Department
Representative of Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Elite Sports Committee Membership List

Professor Frank FU Hoo-kin (Chairman)
Mr HUNG Chung-yam (Vice-Chairman) (*Retired Athlete)
Miss Amy CHAN Lim-chee (*Retired Athlete)
Ms Danielle CHAN Tan-lui (*Retired Athlete)
Mr Tony CHOI Yuk-kwan (*Retired Athlete)
Mr HE Yi-ming
Mr HUI Yung-chung
Mr Daniel LAM Wing-chung
Miss Emba LEUNG Wun-man
Professor LUI Tai-lok
Ms YU Chui-yee (*Current Athlete)
Mr PANG Chung (Representative of Sports
Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong
Kong, China)
Representative of Home Affairs Bureau
Representative of Leisure and Cultural
Services Department
Representative of Education Bureau

Major Sports Events Committee Membership List

Mr William KO Wai-lam (Chairman)

Mr Terry SMITH (Vice-Chairman)

Ms Shirley CHAN Suk-ling

Ms Judy CHEN Qing

Ms CHIU Wing-yin (*Current Athlete)

Mr Kenneth FOK Kai-kong

Mr KWOK Ka-ming (*Retired Athlete)

Ms Lilian LEONG

Mr Henry LIM

Ms Malina NGAI Man-lin (*Retired Athlete)

Mr Jimmy TANG

Mr Vincent WONG

Mr Dennis WONG Tat-tung

Mr Ronnie WONG Man-chiu

Mr Karl KWOK Chi-leung (Representative
of Sports Federation & Olympic
Committee of Hong Kong, China)

Representative of Home Affairs Bureau

Representative of Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Representative of Information Services
Department

Representative of Tourism Commission