

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)801/10-11(04)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Background brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 14 January 2011

Support for elite athletes

Purpose

This paper highlights the major views and concerns expressed by members of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") since 2010 on the Government's support for elite athletes. The relevant discussion on the subject before 2010 is contained in LC Paper No. CB(2)1493/06-07(04).

Background

2. Providing support for elite athletes has been one of the Government's three strategic directions¹ for the long-term sports development in Hong Kong since 2002. Under the policy direction of the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA"), the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") is the key delivery agent for providing training and other elite athletes.

3. According to the Administration, the Government provides an annual recurrent funding of about \$160 million to HKSI to train elite athletes. HKSI has identified four critical success factors for the promotion of a sustainable elite sports system, namely world-class training facilities, high-performance coaching, evidence-based scientific/medical support system to facilitate coaching/training, and support system for elite athletes. To improve Hong Kong elite athletes' prospects for achieving good results at major sports events, HKSI has adopted an outcome-based approach to allocate funding strategically to high-performance sports in which the elite athletes have regularly performed well at the Asian and world level.

¹ The other two strategic directions are developing a strong sporting culture in the community and raising Hong Kong's profile as a centre for international sports events.

4. To enhance HKSI's position as a base for elite sports training and development, a funding of \$1.8 billion has been approved for HKSI's redevelopment project scheduled for completion in late 2013. HKSI has provided support to elite athletes on various fronts, including direct financial support, educational support and support for career development after retirement, as shown in **Appendix I**.

5. According to the Administration, the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC") and the National Sports Associations ("NSAs") have the prerogative to select Hong Kong elite athletes to compete in international multi-sports competitions in accordance with the Olympic Charter and the selection criteria laid down for respective competitions. As advised by the Administration, it has never interfered in the selection process of athletes.

Panel's discussion

6. The relevant views and concerns expressed by members of the Panel since 2010 are highlighted in the ensuing paragraphs.

Funding allocation for elite sports training

7. A member opined that HKSI's outcome-based approach to funding allocation for elite sports training was problematic, as it might overlook the developmental needs of potential athletes at schools or in local communities. She suggested that an audit on the sports facilities/programmes in the community should be conducted, with a view to identifying potential sports for inclusion in the strategic funding plan, in particular those sports which suited the local circumstances and developmental needs of Asian athletes.

8. HKSI responded that the funding approach had been steered towards activities for enhancing the four critical success factors as mentioned in paragraph 3, with a view to encouraging high-level performances and yielding the best outcome from elite athletes. The Administration stressed that it attached significant importance to the nurturing of young athletes. In 2009-2010, \$10 million had been earmarked for 21 NSAs and the sports associations for disabled athletes to enhance their feeder programmes to identify and train more young athletes with potential.

Subsidies for elite athletes

9. Some members expressed concern about the substantial disparity in the amount of monthly subsidy provided to non-disabled elite athletes and disabled elite athletes. The Administration explained that the disparity was largely attributed to the different historical backgrounds under which the respective

schemes were drawn up, and adjustments had been made to narrow the gap over the years.

Support for retired athletes

10. Some members pointed out that the uncertain prospect for elite/professional athletes after retirement had deterred parents from encouraging their children to pursue a career in sports. The Administration advised that support for retired athletes had been enhanced. For example, a total of 13 and 19 elite athletes were admitted to the University Grants Committee-funded institutions in 2008 and 2009 respectively on the recommendation of HKSI and SF&OC. In addition, seven Hong Kong athletes had completed degree courses on sports training offered by the Beijing Sport University and eight athletes were undertaking such studies.

Sporting culture

11. A member considered that a strong sporting culture was a prerequisite for the effective promotion of elite and community sports in Hong Kong. The Administration should take a leading role in the cultivation of a sporting culture in the community, so that participation in sports activities and viewing of sports events would become part of the public's daily life.

Latest development

12. At the Panel's special meeting on 17 December 2010, a motion in **Appendix II** was passed urging the Government to set up a "Sports Fund" for, among others, enhancing the training and retirement arrangements for local elite athletes.

13. On 5 January 2011, LegCo also passed a motion on "Promoting long-term sports development" urging the Government to implement a number of measures including:

- (a) allocating \$6 billion for establishing a Sports Fund, with a view to, among others, enhancing training for local athletes;
- (b) allocating funds for supporting athletes' after-training academic learning;
- (c) studying how to reform SF&OC and various NSAs by requiring them to establish reasonable selection and appeal mechanisms to ensure fair treatment of all athletes;

- (d) urging 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; and
- (e) standardizing 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.

14. The Administration will discuss with the Panel on the Government's measures to enhance the support to and prospects of elite athletes at the Panel's meeting on 14 January 2011.

Relevant papers

15. A list of relevant papers with their hyperlinks at the LegCo website is in **Appendix III**.

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Legislative Council Secretariat
13 January 2011

Hong Kong Sports Institute's support for elite athletes

I. Direct financial support

1. Elite Training Grant

This grant is awarded to scholarship athletes in the 14 elite sports² as well as to athletes who have achieved outstanding results in other Olympic Games and Asian Games Sports, for example, equestrian sports and shooting.

2. Sports Aid Grant

This grant is awarded to athletes who have achieved outstanding results in non-Olympic Games and non-Asian Games Sports, such as cricket and rugby.

3. Sports Aid Grant for Athletes with Disabilities

This grant is awarded to elite athletes with disabilities.

4. Individual Athlete Support Scheme

Funding is provided to individual athletes in sports that are not among the 14 elite sports through their respective NSAs.

II. Support for elite athletes' educational and career development

1. Hong Kong Athletes Fund

Athletes enrolled in approved certificate, diploma or degree courses offered by Hong Kong educational institutions may apply for tuition grants and subsistence allowance from this fund.

² The 14 elite sports include athletics, badminton, billiard sports, cycling, fencing, karatedo, rowing, squash, swimming, table tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu.

2. Elite Athletes Education Subsidy

Athletes studying in approved continuing education institutions and vocational training institutes (for degree, diploma or certificate courses) may receive reimbursement of the tuition fees.

3. Elite Athletes Tutorial Support

Flexible arrangements are provided for athletes requiring tuition in languages, mathematics, and other arts, science and business subjects. Subject tutors align classes with athletes' training schedules and provide one-to-one study guidance.

4. Athlete Development Programme

The programme provides athletes with extra learning opportunities. It offers workshops on themes such as communication and public speaking skills, goal-setting and time management, financial planning and image building. Athletes receive help in developing personal management skills through learning experiences, and the programme aims to enrich athletes' life as sportsmen and women and improve their professionalism.

5. Elite Athletes Apprenticeship Programme

The programme is for athletes who will retire from competition in two years. Under the programme, athletes gain actual work experience, thus preparing them for life after retirement.

6. Enhanced Athletes Educational and Vocational Development Programmes

The programmes provide diverse educational and career development support to athletes with a view to catering for the needs of retired elite athletes and helping them integrate into society.

7. Elite Coaching Apprenticeship Programme

The coach training programmes are to help elite athletes wishing to become coaches after retirement.

(Note: Information extracted from the Administration's paper on promotion of sports development (LC Paper No.: CB(2)652/09-10(03) and the reply from the Secretary for Home Affairs to the written question raised by Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai at the Council meeting of 27 January 2010.)

民政事務委員會
在2010年12月17日會議上通過的議案

經王國興議員修正的議案措辭

本會促請香港特區政府無論是否成功提出申辦或是否獲得申辦成功都會將相若預備主辦2023年亞洲運動會直接成本的60億元成立"體育運動基金"，以推動全民參與體育的政策，加強本地精英運動員的培訓及退役安排，並立即製訂十年體育發展藍圖。

動議人：甘乃威議員
和議人：張文光議員

(Translation)

**Motion passed by the Panel on Home Affairs
at the meeting of 17 December 2010**

Wording of the Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

That this Panel urges the HKSAR Government to set up a "Sports Fund" with a sum equal to the \$6 billion direct cost to be earmarked for staging the 2023 Asian Games, regardless of whether it is successful in submitting the bid or whether it is successful in bidding to host the Games, for the purpose of promoting the policy of sports for all and enhancing the training and retirement arrangements for local elite athletes, and to draw up immediately a ten-year blueprint for sports development.

Moved by : Hon KAM Nai-wai
Seconded by: Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Panel on Home Affairs

Relevant documents on measures to support elite athletes

Committee	Date of Meeting	Papers/Minutes/	LC Paper No./Website
Panel on Home Affairs	13.4.2007	Background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat on sports development in Hong Kong	CB(2)1493/06-07(04) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/papers/ha/papers/ha0413cb2-1493-4-e.pdf
		The Administration's paper on sports development in Hong Kong	CB(2)1493/06-07(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/papers/ha/papers/ha0413cb2-1493-1-e.pdf
		Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1980/06-07 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/papers/ha/minutes/ha070413.pdf
Council meeting	25.11.2009	Written question on "Bidding for the 2019 Asian Games" raised by Hon Tanya CHAN	http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200911/25/P200911250157.htm
Council meeting	6.1.2010	Motion on "Promoting the sports development in Hong Kong" moved by Hon IP Kwok-him as amended by Hon LEE Wing-tat and Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po. The motion was passed.	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0106-translate-e.pdf (Page 264)
		Progress Report provided by the Administration in April 2010	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/counmtg/motion/cm0106-m3-prpt-e.pdf

Committee	Date of Meeting	Papers/Minutes/	LC Paper No./Website
Panel on Home Affairs	8.1.2010	The Administration's paper on promotion of sports development	CB(2)652/09-10(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/papers/ha/papers/ha0108cb2-652-3-e.pdf
		Background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat on promotion of sports development	CB(2)652/09-10(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/papers/ha/papers/ha0108cb2-652-4-e.pdf
		Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1063/09-10 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/papers/ha/minutes/ha20100108.pdf
Council meeting	27.1.2010	Written question on "Support to elite athletes" raised by Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai	http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201001/27/P201001270169.htm
Panel on Home Affairs	20.10.2010	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)455/10-11 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/papers/ha/minutes/ha20101020.pdf
Council meeting	24.11.2010	Written question on "Selection and training of elite athletes" raised by Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah	http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201011/24/P201011240100.htm
Council meeting	5.11.2011	Motion on "Promoting long-term sports development" moved by Hon KAM Nai-wai as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon Tanya CHAN. The motion was passed.	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/legco_rpt/legco_motion01072-e.pdf

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