

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1720/99-00
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/BC/35/98

**Bills Committee on
Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Amendment) Bill 1999**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 6 December 1999 at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members Present : Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon HO Sai-chu, SBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon Christine LOH Kung-wai
Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Members Absent : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon NG Leung-sing
Hon MA Fung-kwok
Hon Ambrose CHEUNG Wing-sum, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP

Public Officers Attending : Mr Peter CHEUNG
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr William SHIU
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Task Force)

Mr Jonathan McKinley
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport)

Ms Phyllis POON
Government Counsel

Clerk in Attendance : Ms Doris CHAN
Chief Assistant Secretary (2) 4

Staff in Attendance : Mr Stephen LAM
Assistant Legal Adviser 4

Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Assistant Secretary (2) 4

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I. Meeting with the Administration
(LC Paper No. CB(2)502/99-00(01))

The Chairman referred to the above paper provided by the Administration in response to the points raised by members at the last meeting and invited questions from members on the paper. Mr Andrew CHENG Kar-foo referred to item (a) of the paper and requested the Administration to elaborate its views on the definition of "sports background". Noting that the Hong Kong Football Association had indicated their wish for stronger representation on the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB) for "focus sports" and "most popular sports" and the Administration had agreed to take this into consideration when making appointments, Mr CHENG asked should SDB create more categories of sports in the future, whether there would also be representation on SDB for each of the additional categories. He further asked what measures the Home Affairs Bureau would take to ensure the representativeness of SDB.

2. In response, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (DSHA) said that all along the Administration intended to appoint more members with sports background to SDB. However, as explained in the paper, it was difficult to give a clear definition of the term "sports background". He explained that it would not be desirable to define the term in a narrow sense as this would reduce the flexibility in making appointments.

3. DSHA further said that the Administration did not want to mechanically divide the number of seats amongst interested groups. He said that in making appointments, the Administration would seek to ensure the accountability of SDB to the public and also the Board's representativeness. He explained that the Administration adopted a common sense approach in defining "sports background", which was generally taken to include athletes, staunch supporters of sports, administrators in the sports field and persons believed to have contributions to make

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to the development of sports. Based on the above principles, DSHA said that the Administration would not agree to the Football Association's suggestion, which would put many restrictions on the Government in making appointments and was not a satisfactory approach to handling the matter. Mr CHENG supported the Administration's stance towards the Football Association's suggestion. However, he suggested that the Administration should make an effort to provide clear guidelines on the definition of "sports background" as far as possible to avoid allegations of the Government being unfair in making appointments.

4. Miss CHOY So-yuk asked why the two representatives from the Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs) were not replaced by representatives from LegCo and the District Councils to ensure that there were members to reflect the views of the community. DSHA replied that while it did not rule out the appointment of members of LegCo or the District Councils to SDB, it did not wish to institutionalize the arrangement which would be too rigid. Mr Gary CHENG Kai-nam asked whether the Administration would undertake to ensure that the elected component of SDB would not be smaller than at present. In response, DSHA only agreed to undertake that the community representation would not be smaller than at present. He also assured members that as a general rule the Administration would ensure a balanced and fair representation of various parties in making appointments.

5. However, Miss CHOY So-yuk was dissatisfied with the Administration's reply. She recalled that in discussing the Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganization) Bill, the Administration had undertaken to enlarge the power of the District Councils and that community representation would be included in the new administrative framework for the provision of municipal services after abolishing PMCs. She considered that if the Administration did not specify in this Bill the number of SDB members to be appointed from LegCo and the District Councils, it was not living up to its promise. DSHA responded that as he had explained at the last meeting, the Administration did not intend to specify in law which organizations would be represented on SDB as this was not the normal practice.

6. Miss CHOY said she would consider to move an amendment to include two representatives from LegCo and the District Councils. Members requested that the draft amendment to be moved by Miss CHOY should be circulated to members first before submission to the Administration. If members had any strong views, a meeting would be held to discuss the amendment. DSHA said he would explain more about the Government's position to Miss CHOY after the meeting.

II. Clause-by-clause examination of the Bill

7. Members had no comments on the clauses of the Bill.

8. DSHA advised that the Administration wished to resume the Second Reading debate on the Bill on 12 January 2000. The Chairman said that since the Bills

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Committee had completed scrutiny of the Bill and members had no further questions, a report would be made to the House Committee on 17 December 1999 to recommend resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill on 12 January 2000.

9. The meeting ended at 11:30 am.

Legislative Council Secretariat

13 April 2000