

Letterhead of HONG KONG TENPIN BOWLING CONGRESS LTD.

Affiliated to Federation Internationale Des Quilleurs

November 2, 1999

The Hon. Timothy Fok, S.B.S., J.P.
Chairman, Bill Committee on
HKSDB (Amendment) Bill 1999
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Fok

Re: Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Amendment) Bill 1999

Thank you for the letter dated October 26, 1999 inviting our Congress to submit our view on the captioned Amendment Bill.

Ever since the establishment of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board in 1990, the Board Members appointed were mainly from the commercial sector of the community. We could understand that Government wanted to have impartial people forming sports policies but we felt that most of these appointed members lacked adequate knowledge and insight on sports development in Hong Kong. Our Congress as with many other NSAs were often frustrated by policies formulated by the Board and its management. Even though at times, there were "consultation sessions" with NSAs, these were seen to be just for show and the views of NSAs were simply ignored.

I personally had been appointed by our past President of the then Amateur Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong who was an Ex-officio Member of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board to represent him in SDB Board meetings for more than four years from 1993-1998. During these meetings, views from the Amateur Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong/NSAs were always only "noted" and rarely ever taken into consideration.

Meanwhile, representing our Congress, I also had, during the past nine years on many occasions together with our fellow NSAs reflected our views to the former Recreation and Culture Branch and the present Home Affairs Bureau. However, there had not been any productive response. With the announcement by Government of the abolition of the two Provisional Municipal Councils, we have high hopes that Government would take this opportunity to establish a new sports structure that could cater truly to the needs of NSAs and assist them in the development of their sports. The consensus view of NSAs was that there should be more members in the Board truly representing the views of NSAs as well as reflecting their needs so that SDB could co-ordinate with the effort of NSAs in sports development.

The Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Amendment) Bill expands the membership of the Board from the original 13 to 17 with an increase of only one member from SF & OC, but three more appointed members and two more Ex-officio members from the Government. Our Congress is of the opinion that the increase of one more member from SF & OC will not be effective. If Government truly wants to solve the longstanding conflict between SDB and NSAs, they should take this opportunity to include more representatives of NSAs into the Board.

On August 19, there was a meeting with Mr. David Lan, Mr. Arthur Ng and Mr. Peter Cheung of the Home Affairs Bureau. The minutes of this meeting would be submitted by the Hon. Secretary General of SF & OC and members of your Bill Committee would have noted that the nearly all NSAs were of the view that there should be more representation of SF & OC/NSAs in the Board. This is the only and best solution to solving the many differences and conflicts existing between SF & OC/NSAs and the SDB. All of us felt that there should be elected NSAs representatives (at least one third) sitting in the Board. However, the response from the HAB was not promising. Again our views were “noted”.

Taking into consideration that the present members of the two Provisional Municipal Councils and the Legislative Council are all elected, we could not see why Government refused to adopt this system in the Hong Kong Sports Development Board and insisted on retaining the legacy of the Colonial System.

Although Government claimed that this Amendment Bill was only a “minor issue” in the new sports structure, our Congress felt that already the future sports structure was not very clearly defined to us, this issue could not be treated lightly. If there is to be a change for the better, it should be now and not later after the new sports structure has been put in place.

Our Congress sincerely hopes the members of the Bill Committee would consider the above points and alter the proposed Amendment Bill accordingly. If appropriate, I am prepared to present our proposal in person and answer any query the Bill Committee may have on this issue.

Yours respectfully,
Hong Kong Tenpin Bowling Congress

Vivien Fung
Chairman

c.c. Mr. Pang Chung, Hon. Secretary General, SF & OC
All Members of SF & OC