

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

New Administrative Framework for Sports and Recreation Services

(Translation)

I Background

During the public consultations held in mid 1998 on the Review of District Organisations, some sports bodies expressed concern over the problems of overlapping responsibilities, poor coordination and the lack of a territory-wide policy in the current structure for the provision of sports and recreation services. They held the view that given that the Provisional Municipal Councils and Departments, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and other bodies such as the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (HKSDB) were working separately in discharging their duties and managing their resources, responsibilities and resources in these areas were too fragmented. This has posed an obstacle to the implementation of a territory-wide policy and undermined the cost-effectiveness in pursuing strategic plans and coordinating the work.

2. In his Policy Address delivered in October 1998, the Chief Executive announced that there was no need to retain the Provisional Municipal Councils after the terms of office of their members expired at the end of 1999. The Government would develop a new administrative framework for the provision of sports and recreation services in consultation with the relevant sports bodies and commissioned an independent Consultant to make recommendations relating to the set-up of the new framework. The Consultant's Report and the Administration's Initial Responses were published in March 1999. An HAB Task Force was set up in late April 1999 to follow up and implement those proposals of the Report which the Government has accepted, and to bring the new administrative framework into being.

3. Through the efforts of the Task Force and with the assistance from the different quarters of the society, including the bodies and individuals from

the sports community, the HAB has now come up with a blue-print for implementation next year with a view to opening a new chapter for the sports and recreation.

II The Government's Objectives and Principles

4. In discharging a new administrative framework for the provision of sports and recreation services, Government abides by the following principles and objectives:

- (1) Pursuit of **sports for excellence** and **sports for recreation** in parallel.
- (2) **Focused strategic planning and funding** to ensure coherence of objectives and avoid duplication of efforts.
- (3) **Multi-agency approach** respecting the established institutions and their autonomy.

5. In pursuit of **sports-for-all**, Government wants to set up a mechanism for the formulation of policy objectives and allocation of resources that is compatible with the environment of Hong Kong and heavily involves the participation of the professionals. Under this mechanism, the Government aims to allocate funds for sports activities, work in cooperation with the professionals and the sports bodies, minimize its role in direct management and encourage the participation of the general public and over the long term, to achieve a diversified and well-balanced development.

6. Based on these principles and the assumption that the current Municipal Councils will have fulfilled their mission by 2000, Government is gearing itself up to achieve the following on the sports and recreation front:

(1) The setting up of a new Department

A new Government Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), will be set up under HAB from 1 January 2000 to take up the duties of the Provisional Municipal Councils and Departments in respect of the arts and culture, sports and recreation.

(2) The expansion of membership of HKSDB

The membership of HKSDB will be expanded to bring in more expert and community input and increase representation of Sports Federation & Olympic Committee, China, Hong Kong (SF&OC) on the board. In the development of sports and the provision of services, HKSDB will work together with the new Department according to the division of responsibilities. HKSDB will focus on long-term strategic planning for sports, elitist training and development activities; which can all be classified as sports for excellence. The new Department will concentrate its efforts on sports for recreation, namely, the sports at the grassroots level, aiming for improving the health and enriching the social life of the public.

(3) The enhanced involvement of the sports organisations and district bodies

SF&OC will continue to lead various national sports associations (NSAs) and represent Hong Kong on the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Within the whole institutional framework for sports and recreation administration, the NSAs, schools and youth sports groups, district sports bodies and District Councils (DCs) will join forces and each discharge their respective responsibilities for the development of local sports. The new Department will play a coordination role and provide venues and staffing support.

(4) The strengthened cooperation at district level

With the strengthened cooperation of LCSD, Home Affairs Department, the District Councils and the District Sports Associations and through the assistance of NSAs, sports activities and community programmes for beginners will be greatly increased. Our ultimate goal is to provide an opportunity for people of different ages and interests to participate in sports. Moreover, we also envisage more venue-based clubs in the future. Through the NSA network, sports talents at the community level can be channelled to ‘elitist training’ under HKSDB and to ‘international representation’ under SF&OC.

7. To practise the guiding principles and realize the targets, we anticipate the basic operation of the new administrative framework will be as follows:

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)

- Co-ordinates and directs government policy on sport and recreation.
- Plans and provides major venues and facilities.
- Allocates resources to LCSD, SDB and SF&OC.
- Co-ordinates the application of resources by principal agencies.

Hong Kong Sports Development Board (HKSDB)

- Advises Government on policy objectives for the development of sport and on recreational programmes and facilities.
- Prepares 5-year plan for strategic sports development with HAB and in consultation with NSAs.
- Runs elite training programme at Hong Kong Sports Institute.
- Provides financial support to NSAs.

- Promotes 'sport for excellence'.

Sports Federation and Olympic Committee, China, Hong Kong (SF&OC)

- Represents SAR on International Olympic Committee.
- Organises SAR's participation in national and international major games.
- Provides advice to NSAs on matters concerning international events, funding, standards, etc.
- Represents NSAs' interests on SDB.
- Promotes Hong Kong's sporting profile internationally.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

- Manages sports and recreation venues.
- Runs recreational programmes and competitions at the district level, in conjunction with district bodies or NSAs.
- Provides "entry-level" training in different sports, in conjunction with NSAs.
- Consults District Councils on plans for recreational programmes and new district-based facilities.
- Liaises with schools.
- Promotes 'sports for recreation'.

Home Affairs Bureau

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