

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

Public Consultation on the Administrative Framework for Arts and Culture and Sport and Recreation Services

Purpose

This paper briefly introduces how the Government will consult the relevant bodies and the public on the new framework for arts and sport services.

Background

2 In his Policy Address of October 7, the Chief Executive stated that the Government does not see the need to retain the Provisional Municipal Councils after the terms of office of their members expire at the end of 1999. As for the arts and sport, the Government will develop a new administrative framework for the delivery of these services with the Arts Development Council, the Sports Development Board and other concerned parties before finalising the details of the new structure, so that the Government can put this in place before the end of 1999 (paras 148 and 150).

3 At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs on October 12, the Secretary for Home Affairs stated that the Government would consult people in the spheres of arts and sport as well as other concerned parties for the development of the new framework.

Public Consultation

4 During the public consultation period for the review on district organisations conducted by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in the middle of this year, members of the public had already had the opportunity to express their views on the framework for arts and culture and sport and recreation. Having considered these views as well as the experience of overseas countries and regions, we do not find it

sensible to retain a down-sized Municipal Council which will assume responsibilities over only sport and culture. We are studying how to put in place an arrangement which will meet the long-term requirements of Hong Kong. Our aims are: to ensure the effective use of resources and avoid the conflict of interest; to strengthen both professional and community input (and to ensure both are in proper balance) and to facilitate the formulation and implementation of overall arts and sport policies.

5 In November and December this year, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) will consult the main bodies in the spheres of arts, culture and sport on the above matter (the arts sphere includes the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Antiquities Advisory Board; the sport sphere includes the Hong Kong Sports Development Board and the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China). We are going to attend their meetings to solicit their opinions.

6 In these two months, five public forums will be held to solicit the opinions of the professionals and the community. The arrangements of the forums are as follows:

Territory-wide Forums (Two)

(i) Arts and Culture

Date: November 14 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm

Place: Drama Theatre of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

(ii) Sport and Recreation

Date: November 21 (Saturday)

Time: 11:00am to 1:00pm

Place: Lecture Theatre, Sports House of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board

Forums at District Level (Three)

- (i) Date: November 27 (Friday)
Time: 7:30 to 9:30pm
Place: Southorn Stadium of the Hong Kong Playground Association

- (ii) Date: December 4 (Friday)
Time: 7:30 to 9:30pm
Place: Tai Wo Neighbourhood Community Centre, Tai Wo Estate, Tai Po

- (iii) Date: December 11 (Friday)
Time: 7:30 to 9:30pm
Place: Lai Kok Community Hall, Lai Kok Estate, Shamshuipo

7 We will write to the relevant bodies to invite their participation in the above forums. For the two territory-wide forums, our targets of invitation are the representatives of the related fields; as to the three forums at district level, we are aiming at the arts and sports associations of the eighteen districts (they can choose to attend any one of the forums). We will notify the members of the Provisional District Boards in the eighteen districts and the Provisional Municipal Councils of the details. They will be most welcome to attend these forums.

8. The above forums are also open to the public. We will advertise in the newspapers to invite interested persons to attend. Members of the public may also send their written views to HAB before December 15.

Consultant

9 HAB has appointed Mr. C.C. LAM, J.P. as the consultant to assist the Government in the devise of the new framework. The consultant starts the work in November and will submit his study report to HAB early next year.

Conclusion

10 We hope that the new framework can be finalised early next year for the decision of the Executive Council. We will then go ahead with the legislative proceedings so that the new framework can be put in place before the end of next year.

Home Affairs Bureau

November 2, 1998