

Legco Panel on Home Affairs

Provisional Urban Council's Policy and Strategies on Sports Development

PURPOSE

This paper sets out for Members' information the Provisional Urban Council's policy and strategies on sports development in Hong Kong.

LEGAL PROVISION

2. The Provisional Urban Council is empowered under the Urban Council Ordinance (Cap. 101) to provide, promote, sponsor, assist or collaborate with sports associations in organizing recreation and sports activities. The Council is also empowered under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) to establish, maintain and manage recreation and sports facilities.

MISSION

3. In promoting recreation and sports in Hong Kong, the Provisional Urban Council aims at catering for the public by:

- (i) organizing and subventing recreation and sports programmes at the "community" or "grassroot" level.
- (ii) providing and managing recreation and sports facilities for their pursuit of leisure.

RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

(a) Community Recreation and Sports Programmes

4. The Provisional Urban Council introduces and promotes grassroot sports to a wide sector of the community and encourages participation at all ages. To achieve this, the Council organizes a diversified range of recreation and sports programmes ranging from district-based recreational events to territory-wide tournaments and from training courses at elementary and intermediate levels to competition at local and inter-district levels. These vast programmes allow for a broad base from which young and potential athletes can be identified for further elite development. In 1997/98, the Council spent \$41.8 million in organizing 9,360 programme with 646,293 participants. For 1998/99, the Council will spend \$48.8 million in organizing 9,960 programmes for about 660,000 participants.

(b) Sports Promotion Scheme

5. Apart from organizing its own recreation and sports programmes, the Council provides subventions to National Sports Associations and District Sports Associations for organizing joint sports training programmes at elementary and intermediate levels. The Council also sponsors competitions and international sports events with spectator appeal held in Hong Kong. In 1997/98, the Council spent \$22.81 million to subvent 3,100 programmes with 320,000 participants. For 1998/99, the Council will spend \$26.4 million to subvent 3,200 such programmes for about 330,000 participants. The Council will continue to give financial support of \$1 million for 1998/99 to the ten District Sports Associations (at \$100,000 for each District Sports Association) to assist them to organise their community programmes.

RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES

6. The Provisional Urban Council is one of the biggest providers of recreation and sports facilities in Hong Kong. The Council now provides and manages stadia, indoor games halls, natural and artificial turf pitches, athletic grounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, squash courts, badminton courts, hockey pitches, rugby pitches, children's playgrounds, parks, gardens, swimming pools, beaches and water sports

centre etc.

7. These facilities are all built to meet internationally accepted specifications and safety standards for recreation, sports training and activities. Many of these facilities are provided on a district basis to cater for both the recreation and sporting needs of the community.

8. In considering the types and design of facilities to be provided, it is always the Provisional Urban Council's policy to keep abreast with the changing trends and needs of the public. The Council is also conscious of the need to upgrade its existing leisure facilities as well as their management in order that a higher standard of service is provided to the public.

STRATEGIES

9. To accomplish its Mission, the Provisional Urban Council adopts the following strategies in implementing its policies:

(a) **Formulation of a Five-Year Plan**

The Recreation Select Committee formulated the Five-Year Plan in 1997 which sets out guidelines and scopes of development in recreation and sports programmes and facilities. To foster sports development, the Plan has specifically spelt out the needs to enhance the intermediate training programmes with National Sports Associations in terms of subvention and facility support. Besides, the Council also sets the target for completion of new capital works projects within five-year to meet the needs of the public.

(b) **Diversification of Programmes and Facilities**

The Council also conducts regular reviews on the existing provision of programmes and facilities to encourage higher usage and participation rate. Facilities and activities with new interest and concepts are introduced to meet the public's expectation.

(c) **Encouraging Sport-For-All**

To encourage participation at all ages from a wide sector of the community, the Council reviews from time to time and sets the hire charges of leisure services at a price affordable by the general public and to offer concessionary rates to those that maybe in need such as elderly, people with disabilities and full-time students.

(d) **Liaison and Consultation**

The Council is in close liaison with other stakeholders in sports development such as the Provisional Regional Council, the Hong Kong Sports Development Board, the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, and the National Sports Associations so that those involved may complement each other in promoting sports development in Hong Kong. The Council keeps in close contact with the National Sports Associations so that policies can be updated from time to time to cater for their needs.

CONCLUSION

10. The Provisional Urban Council's main contribution in sports development in Hong Kong is to promote active participation in recreation and sports by providing opportunities for people from all walks of life, with an aim to encourage a fuller use of leisure time, and hence enhancing their well-being.

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