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**Provisional Regional Council's Policy on
Sports Development Strategy and Programmes in Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper outlines for Members' information the Provisional Regional Council's policy on sports development, strategy and programmes.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

2. The Provisional Regional Council (Pro RC) is authorized under the Regional Council Ordinance (Cap. 385) to provide, promote, sponsor, assist or collaborate with any person or group of persons in the organisation of demonstrations, displays, or competitions of and training for sports for the general public; and to establish and maintain facilities for recreation and sports activities. A copy of the relevant provision is at the Appendix.

POLICY ON SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

3. In the continuum of sports development ranging from the beginners' level to elite sport, the Pro RC's policy is to promote sports-for-all by introducing a wide range of grassroots sports to different sectors of the community and to encourage participation at all ages. The aim

of the policy is to enable members of the public to make use of their leisure time to the benefit of their physical and mental well-being.

SPORTS STRATEGY

Mass Participation

4. As one of the major providers in the sports community, the Council organises or subsidizes sports training at the grassroot level for mass participation. The Council is also committed to holding or subventing programmes such as district competitions, multi-district events, special projects of regional scale and international spectator events.

Progressive Training

5. Apart from organising activities for people of all ages, the Pro RC also provides progressive sports training for those in need. In consideration of the factors like the popularity of individual sports and the provision of related sports facilities, the Pro RC has selected several sports for development with the National Sports Associations (NSAs) e.g. swimming, soccer, basketball, badminton and table-tennis. This serves to provide a broad base in the selected sports from which talents can be identified for further development.

Recreation and Sports Facilities

6. In order to provide opportunities for the casual users to keep fit, the Pro RC builds and manages a comprehensive range of active and passive recreation and sports facilities. These include swimming pools, indoor recreation centres, water sports centres, camps sites, golf driving ranges, sports grounds, beaches and parks. These facilities serve to support the provision of direct services with the Council organising its own activities and indirect services

which offer opportunities for persons or groups to run their own programmes in the Pro RC venues.

Pricing for Services

7. It is the Council's policy to set enrolment fees for sports activities and hire charges of sports facilities at an affordable level. To assist the NSAs in the training of elites, the Council offers concessionary rates and priority booking to them in addition to the subvention provided through the sports subsidy scheme. Concessionary rates are also given to the elderly, students and the disabled. The overall subsidy level for the Council's programmes is about 89% and the subsidy level for hire of sports facilities ranges from 38% to 96% in 1997/98.

RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

8. To carry out its statutory functions in providing recreation and sports services, the Pro RC offers direct as well as indirect services to the community within its jurisdiction.

Direct Services

District Programmes

9. The Council organises a wide range of recreation and sports activities in the districts. In 1997/98, \$43 million was spent to organise 9,778 programmes for some 497,000 participants, which were mainly elementary sports training courses, including programmes specially designed for the elderly and people with disability. Other large scale events such as masters games, corporate games, recreation and sports carnivals and sports celebration programmes were also organised by Pro RC to promote mass participation at the grassroots level. In

1998/99, the Council has set aside an amount of \$61 million for various form of direct services, including sport events in the Regional Council Festival 98.

Sports Development Scheme

10. As a catalyst for promoting sports at the beginners' level, the Council jointly organises intermediate sports training courses with NSAs. In 1998/99, swimming, soccer, basketball, badminton and table-tennis have been identified for further development and some \$6 million is allocated for such purpose.

Indirect Services

Subsidy Scheme

11. Apart from directly providing physical recreation and sports programmes for the public, the Council also plays an active role in facilitating sports organisations to promote sports through the Sports Subsidy Scheme. In 1997/98, the Council spent \$10 million in subsidizing 3,089 sports events with the participation of some 256,700 people. The Council also financed the district organisations to organize 19 sports festival events with 397,000 participants through the District Festivals Subsidy Scheme. In 1998/99, an amount of \$7 million has been allocated for these sports festivals.

Other Assistance

12. Concessionary rates at 50% of the normal charges for use of facilities such as indoor recreation centres, tennis and squash courts, sports grounds and grass pitches are offered to NSAs during non-peak hours. These concessions also apply to full time students, the elderly and the disabled.

CONCLUSION

13. The Council will continue its policy to promote sports-for-all through direct and indirect services, setting fees for its facilities and activities at a level affordable to the public.

It

will also maintain a close relationship with the other major providers in the sports community
in
order to enhance the overall development of sports in Hong Kong.

Regional Services Department

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LAWS OF HONG KONG

REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINANCE

CHAPTER 385

Revised Edition 1986

Part V

Section 26(1) The Regional Council may-

- (a) establish and maintain places and facilities for recreation, relaxation, the performance of sport of any kind and the conduct of literary, artistic, musical or other cultural activities of any kind;
- (b) provide, promote, sponsor, assist or collaborate with any person or group of persons whether incorporated or not in the organizing or presenting of-
 - (i) dancing, musical, dramatic or theatrical performances of any kind;
 - (ii) cinematograph displays;
 - (iii) literary, historical, artistic, scientific or other cultural exhibitions or competitions;
 - (iv) demonstrations, displays or competitions of, and training for, sports;
- (ba) provide recreational and cultural activities; (Added, 8 of 1986, S.4)