

LEGCO PANEL ON HOME AFFAIRS
HONG KONG'S SPORTS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines the current government policy on sports development, the set-up for formulating sports development strategies and provision of related programmes, and briefly discusses the way forward.

SPORTS POLICY

2. In the policy area of sports development, Government's broad aims are-
 - to provide support to the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB) in the implementation of its five-year strategic plan for promoting sport in Hong Kong
 - to provide support to enable the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) to meet the training and competitive needs of our top athletes
 - to make available a wide choice of sports facilities to the general public and to competitive sportsmen and women.

3. In the coming year and as presented as our 1998 policy objectives, we will continue to-

- promote the development of, and community participation in, all forms of sports activities

- provide an environment in which sporting excellence is to flourish

- examine the need for additional major sports venue to meet the needs of the community

- support the strategic plan of the SDB, and strengthen co-operation with the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, to promote the well-being of Hong Kong through sports endeavors.

4. The two main planks of Government's policy with regard to sports development are the funding of sports organizations and programmes through subvention to the SDB and the co-ordination and monitoring of the provision of major new sports facilities through liaison with the Provisional Municipal Councils and the SDB.

5. In order to help us meet the broad aims set out in paragraph 2 above, we have committed to the following initiatives for 1997-98 and 1998-99-

- to help the SDB implement its strategic plan by identifying appropriate sources of income
- to financially support the elite training programme at the HKSI for 12 focus sports
- to study, in consultation with other government and non-government agencies, the feasibility of building a major new sports and recreational venue for Hong Kong.

Funding of the SDB and HKSI

6. To help achieve the first two targets set out in paragraph 5 above, we have increased funding to the SDB in the following areas-

- (a) recurrent subvention: the recurrent subvention provided to the Board for the current financial year amounts to \$192.78 million, which includes additional provision for funding the elite training programme at the HKSI. The Board is expected to allocate at least \$60 million to the elite training programme; and

(b) Arts and Sport Development Fund (ASDF): the Fund was set up in January 1997 with a Government contribution of \$300 million. Up to \$40 million has been earmarked to help the Board implement initiatives of an one-off nature in its strategic plan in 1997-98 and 1998-99.

7. In the coming year, we intend to maintain a consistent supply of funding for the SDB's strategic initiatives and the elite training programme of the HKSI to ensure the continued viability of the programme for our top athletes. We also intend to allocate up to \$40 million from the Arts and Sport Development Fund in 1999-2000 to help finance new, one-off sporting activities.

Additional major sports venues

8. According to the revised Chapter 4 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, the provision of additional indoor or outdoor stadia is to be based on need. In the coming year, the need for strategic sports and recreational venue requirements in Hong Kong will be examined, including the viability of a major new stadium.

THE WAY FORWARD

9. The Provisional Municipal Councils, having full financial autonomy, organize sports development programmes mainly at a "recreational" level, making use

of their own facilities. The SDB, with Government subvention as the main source of funding, runs its own development programmes, and distributes subvention to help fund the programmes of the NSAs. Whilst the Councils' programmes and activities concentrate on sport as public recreation, the SDB and the NSAs seek to enhance the broad appeal of and technical expertise in particular sports.

10. The government is aware of the general concerns long expressed by the sports community over the problems of overlapping responsibility and co-ordination problems among the Provisional Municipal Councils, the SDB in the promotion of sports. In the context of the review of district organizations exercise, we have concluded that there is no need to retain the Provisional Municipal Councils after the terms of office of their members expire at the end of 1999. In this connection, we have begun our work on devising a new institutional framework for the provision and promotion of sports which will-

- (a) strengthen both professional and community input and ensure a proper balance between them;
- (b) ensure effective use of resources; and
- (c) facilitate the effective formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in the sports field.

11. We will study the details with a view to putting the new institutional framework in place before the end of 1999. We will actively solicit views of the sports community and relevant parties in the course of our deliberations.

Home Affairs Bureau

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