

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 17 December 1999**

**Report of the Bills Committee on
Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Amendment) Bill 1999**

Purpose

This paper reports on the deliberations of the Bills Committee on the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Amendment) Bill 1999.

Background

2. The Administration commissioned a consultancy study on the provision of cultural, sports and recreation services to come into effect on 1 January 2000, after the dissolution of the two Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs). The report of the study published in March 1999 recommended, inter alia, that the membership of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (HKSDB) should be revamped, with its maximum size raised from 13 to 17, to bring in more expert advice and community input.

The Bill

3. The Bill seeks to -
- (a) expand the membership of the HKSDB by adding -
 - (i) one more representative from the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China; and
 - (ii) six other members; and
 - (b) change the name of the "Amateur Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong" to the "Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China".

The Bills Committee

4. The House Committee agreed at its meeting on 9 July 1999 to form a Bills Committee to study the Bill. Activated on 7 October 1999, the Bills Committee first met on 26 October 1999 and Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting was elected Chairman. The membership of the Bills Committee is in the Appendix.

5. The Bills Committee held three meetings and met representatives of the HKSDB, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC), Hong Kong Cycling Association, Hong Kong Tenpin Bowling Congress Ltd. and Hong Kong Yachting Associations. It also received written representations from two other sports associations.

Deliberations of the Bills Committee

6. The main deliberations of the Bills Committee are set out in the following paragraphs.

Policy on provision of sports services

7. After the Bill was gazetted on 25 June 1999, the SF&OC and 22 National Sports Associations (NSAs) had written to Members of the Legislative Council expressing the view that there should be a comprehensive debate and review of the policy on the provision of sports services prior to consideration of the Bill. In the light of this, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) held a joint meeting with the NSAs concerned to discuss the matter. The Administration has informed the Bills Committee that the NSAs concerned generally accept the expanded membership of the HKSDB as proposed in the Bill. As regards their hope that the Bill should be used as a vehicle to bring about reform to the provision of sports services in Hong Kong, the Administration has explained to the NSAs that such reform could be achieved through gradual implementation of administrative measures rather than by legislative means.

8. Initially some members were in favour of meeting representatives from the sports community to hear their views on the provision of sports services. After discussion, they agreed that the Bills Committee should focus on the subject matter of the Bill and matters relating to the policy on the provision of sports services should be discussed by the Panel on Home Affairs.

New administrative framework for the provision of sports and recreation services

9. At the request of the Bills Committee, the Administration has provided an information paper on the above subject. Members note that in discharging a new administrative framework for the provision of sports and recreation services, Government abides by the following principles and objectives -

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

10. Based on the above principles, a new Government department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), will be set up under the HAB to take over the duties of the PMCs and municipal services departments in respect of arts and culture, sports and recreation. As regards the division of responsibilities, HKSDB will focus on long term strategic planning for sports, elitist training and development activities while the LCSD will concentrate its efforts on sports for recreation, i.e. sports at the grassroots level.

Membership of the HKSDB

11. The SF&OC considers that the addition of one more member from the SF&OC on the HKSDB does not serve the purpose of reflecting truly the views and needs of the NSAs. Instead, it proposes that 1/3 of the Board members of the HKSDB should be elected from the NSAs.

12. Members observe that appointments of members to statutory and advisory bodies are normally made on a personal basis and it is rather rare for a particular organization to be specified in legislation. In response to members' questions, the Administration has explained that given the important role of the SF&OC in sports development, the Administration considers it appropriate to enhance its representation on the HKSDB by giving it an additional seat. Members note that at present, nine out of the 13 members of the HKSDB come from the sports field. They are therefore not in favour of further increasing the number of members from the sports sector and instead, are of the view that there should be more members from other sectors of the community to represent Hong Kong as a whole. In response, the Administration has pointed out that the enlarged membership of the HKSDB will include persons from the business community, staunch supporters of sports, sportspersons of distinction, and other persons believed to have contributions to make to the development of sports.

13. The deletion of the membership of the chairmen of the PMCs has been included in the Provision of Municipal Services (Reorganisation) Ordinance. A member has asked the Administration to explain why the two representatives from the PMCs are not replaced by representatives from the Legislative Council and the District Councils to ensure that there are members to reflect the views of the community. The Administration has explained that while it does not rule

out the appointment of Members of the Legislative Council or District Councils to the HKSDB, it does not wish to institutionalize the arrangement which will be too rigid. Following discussion, a member has asked the Administration to undertake to ensure that the elected component of the HKSDB will not be smaller than at present. The Administration only agrees to undertake that the community representation will not be smaller than at present.

14. Hon CHOY So-yuk is not satisfied with the Administration's response and will move an amendment to include two representatives from the Legislative Council and the District Councils respectively.

Committee Stage amendments

15. The Committee Stage amendments to be moved by Hon CHOY So-yuk will be circulated to Members once available.

Recommendation

16. The Bills Committee supports the Bill and recommends that the Second Reading debate on the Bill be resumed on 12 January 2000.

Legislative Council Secretariat

16 December 1999

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

Membership list

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon HO Sai-chu, SBS, JP

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Hon NG Leung-sing

Hon MA Fung-kwok

Hon Ambrose CHEUNG Wing-sum, JP

Hon Christine LOH Kung-wai

Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP

Hon Howard YOUNG, JP

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Hon CHOY So-yuk

Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Total: 13 members