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Bills Committee on Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Repeal) Bill

Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Repeal) Bill

Purpose

This paper gives a summary of the issues and concerns raised by members of the Panel on Home Affairs and deputations on the Administration's proposals in the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Repeal) Bill.

The Administration's proposals and meetings of the Panel on Home Affairs

2. At its meeting on 14 July 2003, the Panel on Home Affairs was consulted on the Administration's proposals to repeal the Hong Kong Sports Development Board Ordinance to implement a new administrative structure for sports development. The Administration informed the Panel that its proposals sought to -

- (a) dissolve the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB);
- (b) re-constitute the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) to become an incorporated body to undertake matters pertaining to high performance sports training currently under the auspices of SDB; and
- (c) establish a new Sports Commission (SC) to advise the Government on all matters pertaining to sports development in Hong Kong.

3. The Administration also informed the Panel that three committees, namely, the Community Sports Committee, the Major Sports Events Committee and the Elite Sports Committee, would be formed under SC. Under the new administrative structure, the three committees would, in line with their advisory role, provide input to SC on funding priorities for the programmes and initiatives which fell under their respective purview. The Administration would, having regard to the recommendations and advice of SC, make policy decisions on the appropriation of resources to major sport-related programmes and initiatives and to bodies such as national sports associations (NSAs), Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong (SF&OC) and the future HKSI as recommended by SC.

4. The Panel also held a meeting on 29 July 2003 to receive the views of deputations on the new administrative structure for sports development.

Issues and concerns raised by members and deputations

5. Although some members and most deputations indicated support for the new administrative structure, members and deputations had raised various issues and concerns about the Administration's proposals. The major issues and concerns raised include the following -

The proposed new administrative structure

- (a) an independent statutory decision-making body responsible for the formulation and execution of sports policy was extremely important for the development of sports in Hong Kong;
- (b) the downgrading of the sports authority of Hong Kong from a statutory SDB to an advisory SC would be a retrograde step;
- (c) the new administrative structure would result in centralisation of powers in the Secretary for Home Affairs; thus a mechanism of check and balance should be put in place;
- (d) whether the new SC would be able to consolidate efforts of the various stakeholders and the sports community in sports development;
- (e) whether the new arrangements would be more effective than the existing ones in promoting sports development;
- (f) an independent review of the administrative structure for sports in Hong Kong should be conducted by sport experts from overseas;

Composition of the Sports Commission

- (g) SC should be composed of representatives from NSAs, experts in sports and individuals from different sectors of the community, especially the education sector;
- (h) the chairman of SC should possess knowledge in sports and administration and should be a person who could command respect from NSAs;

Funding for sports development

- (i) the Government should ensure that sufficient resources would continue to be allocated for sports development;

Funding for the Hong Kong Sports Institute

- (j) funding for HKSI would become unstable after it had been incorporated thus affecting its elite training programme;
- (k) HKSI might not be able to devote all its efforts to elite sports training, if it was required to supplement its funding by soliciting commercial and community sponsorships;
- (l) after incorporation, HKSI might compete with SF&OC in obtaining sponsorships and donation from the private and commercial sectors;

Facilities of the Hong Kong Sports Institute

- (m) HKSI should be allowed to retain the use and management of all its facilities which were an integral part of elite training;
- (n) it was not appropriate to place the outdoor facilities of HKSI under the management of LCSD; and

Implications on staff of the dissolution of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board

- (o) concerns and anxiety of SDB staff arising from the dissolution of SDB and the establishment of the new administrative structure should be properly addressed.

6. Members requested the Administration to provide additional information on the number of SDB staff to be laid off, the amount of savings generated from the restructuring exercise, the amount of government resources to be allocated for sports development, a detailed analysis of the 380

submissions received during the public consultation exercise in 2002, the criteria for allocation of funds under the new structure and the work schedule of the restructuring exercise. Members also requested the Administration to respond to the points raised by members and deputations at the meeting.

7. The Administration's responses are in LC Paper No. CB(2)2911/02-03(08) and LC Paper No. CB(2)178/03-04(01) issued on 28 July 2003 and 24 October 2003 respectively.

8. Members may wish to refer to the following minutes for further details of the discussions at the two Panel meetings -

- (a) minutes of the Panel meeting held on 14 July 2003 (LC Paper No. CB(2)3082/02-03) (issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 3081/02-03 on 23 September 2003); and
- (b) minutes of the Panel meeting held on 29 July 2003 (LC Paper No. CB(2)3108/02-03) (issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 3107/02-03 on 3 October 2003).

9. The Administration's responses and the above minutes are available at the website of the Legislative Council (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>).

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