

Response to Question raised by HA Panel Special Meeting

(a) Following in-depth discussions in the last two months, we have reached a consensus with the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) Management, the persons-in-charge and the head coaches of all National Sports Associations (NSAs) that a portion of areas and facilities of YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village (WKS) at Ma On Shan, Sha Tin, with appropriate conversions and alterations, will be rented to the HKSI as a provisional base to provide supporting services in early 2007 after temporary removal from the site for staging Olympic Games Equestrian Events. The facilities to be reprovisioned at WKS include the laboratories for sports science and sports medicine, athletes' treatment room, physical fitness training centre, athletes' hostel, canteen, staff office and training facilities for some elite sports.

We have launched the second round of meetings with the persons-in-charge and the head coaches of all NSAs to discuss in details and further refine the contents of the preliminary option of reprovisioning the HKSI at WKS, in a bid to meet the training needs of the athletes and minimize any inconvenience that may arise. Meanwhile, we obtain an in-principle support for this reprovisioning option from the Board of Directors of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, with full assistance and necessary arrangement provided by WKS Management.

As aforementioned, we are in the stage of discussing the preliminary option of reprovisioning HKSI at WKS with the sports organizations and the persons-in-charge concerned for further refinement and amendment based on their views. Thus, we have yet to come up with an accurate account for the reprovisioning exercise. Upon confirmation of the details, we will work out the total estimated expenditure for this exercise with the Architectural Services Department (ASD), including the project cost and non-project cost, such as removal expenses, travel allowances, extra costs for procuring training equipments, etc. We expect to complete this task and commence the reprovisioning exercise by mid-August so that the HKSI will successfully move in as scheduled in early 2007.

As regards the financial arrangement, we have reached a consensus with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the 29th Olympiad

(BOCOG) that the arena construction cost will be borne by the HKJC while other cash cost incurred in the equestrian events will be borne by the BOCOG. Upon confirmation of the budget of reprovisioning exercise, we will have further discussions with the BOCOG and report the latest information on the reprovisioning arrangement to the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs.

(b) To stage the 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will assist in providing arena layout, construction and back-up services for horses so that such facilities will meet the requirement of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).

The arena layout proposal submitted to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) involves the utilization of the three pieces of land adjoining the HKSI and the Sha Tin Racecourse. With a total area of some 4.9 hectares, those lands are on lease to the HKSI under a short term tenancy from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for use as a golf driving range and two outdoor football pitches. HKJC will build about 200 horse stables, a sand pit and a grass pitch and a 100m X 50m horse training ground on those lands for staging the 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events.

In view of the sustainability of staging Olympic Equestrian Events, the HKJC expressed interest in retaining the facilities built on the three pieces of land for future use upon completion of Olympic Equestrian Events. The Hong Kong Government acknowledges the HKJC's aspiration and to our understanding, the IOC and FEI also wish to see that the built equestrian facilities will be retained after the events for good use and resource optimization. The Government is of the view that a more long-term use of the three pieces of land after the 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events should be handled in accordance with standard government procedure. HKJC will be required to submit application with justifications to the departments concerned and go through standard procedure under the existing mechanism, including the approval by the Executive Council.