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Panel on Home Affairs

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 12 June 2015**

Sports Development in Hong Kong

Purpose

This paper summarizes past discussions of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") on issues relating to sports development in Hong Kong.

Background

2. In April 2001, the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") established a Sports Policy Review Team ("the Review Team") to conduct a comprehensive review of the Government's sports policy. In May 2002, the Review Team published a report entitled "Towards a More Sporting Future" ("the 2002 Report") outlining the direction for future sports policy. A summary of the recommendations made by the Review Team is in **Appendix I**. Following the review, the Administration has set a three-pronged strategy for the long-term sports development in Hong Kong -

- (a) developing a strong sporting culture in the community;
- (b) achieving greater excellence in sport by providing more support for elite athletes; and
- (c) raising Hong Kong's profile as a centre for international sports events.

3. Following up on the recommendations as set out in the 2002 Report, the Government announced its decision in July 2003 to establish a new administrative structure to promote a sustainable and community-wide sporting

culture in Hong Kong. Under the new structure, the then Hong Kong Sports Development Board ("SDB"), which was established in 1990 under the Hong Kong Sports Development Ordinance (Cap. 1149) for the promotion and development of sports and physical recreation, was dissolved in June 2004; the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") was re-constituted to become an incorporated body in October 2004 to undertake matters pertaining to high performance sports training formerly under the auspices of SDB; and a new Sports Commission ("SC") under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Home Affairs was established in January 2005 to advise the Government on the policies, strategies and implementation framework for sports development and the provision of funding and resources in support of sports development. SC was underpinned by three committees, namely the Community Sports Committee ("CSC"), the Elite Sports Committee and the Major Sport Events Committee, with the objectives to help develop and promote sport in the community, elite sport and major sports events in Hong Kong respectively.

4. According to the Administration, in the promotion of sports development, HAB has the overall responsibilities for the formulation and implementation of sports policies, coordination of planning of sports projects and decisions on the related funding allocation, whereas the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") will take up executive responsibilities of promoting sport in the community, managing sports facilities and administering funding support schemes for the relevant bodies. The Administration also collaborates closely with the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC") and National Sports Associations ("NSAs"), which are wholly autonomous bodies operating under the Olympic Charter and the respective constitution of individual sport federations, in taking forward sports development in Hong Kong.

Deliberations of the Panel

5. Issues relating to sports development were discussed by the Panel at a number of meetings. The major views and concerns of members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Long-term sports policy and promotion of sports development

6. Concern had been expressed that the Administration had all along only introduced sports measures but had not formulated a sports policy. At the Panel meetings on 10 and 17 December 2010 when discussing the potential bid to host the 2023 Asian Games, a motion urging the Government to, inter alia, draw up immediately a 10-year blue-print for sports development was passed.

The Administration responded that it had devised a comprehensive policy on the long-term sports development at the community, school, sport association and elite levels.

7. Members also urged the Administration to capitalize on the outstanding results of Hong Kong athletes in the 2009 East Asian Games to reinforce its efforts in promoting sports development. There was a suggestion that the Administration should establish a dedicated sports bureau supported by experienced professionals in sports management to oversee all matters pertaining to sports development in a more focused manner. In the Administration's view, the existing administrative structure for HAB (as the policy bureau) and LCSD (as the executive agent) to take forward sports development in collaboration with SF&OC and the respective NSAs was effective in promoting a sustainable and community-wide sporting culture.

Promoting sports in schools

8. Concern was raised as to whether the Government's sports policy was formulated in consultation with the Education Bureau ("EDB"). Some members were of the view that EDB should play a more active role in taking forward the policy objective of developing sports in the community.

9. According to the Administration, EDB was represented on CSC under SC to advise the Administration on matters relating to the development of school sports. Many CSC members were from the school sector and had provided valuable views and advice on how to make Physical Education an important and integral part of the school curriculum. With a view to strengthening the promotion of sport in schools, HAB, LCSD, EDB and HKSI had jointly launched the three-year School Sports Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme in the 2012-2013 school year. The pilot scheme provided more opportunities for students to participate in sports, as well as offered a career and development platform for retired athletes. The Administration had reviewed the effectiveness of the scheme and received positive feedback from the schools, students and retired athletes concerned. It would consider expanding the scheme so that more students and retired athletes could benefit from it.

10. In response to members' suggestion of making available school facilities for the staging of community sports activities, the Administration advised that work was being carried out at district levels to encourage schools to open up their facilities after school hours for use of the community.

Educational and career development support for elite athletes

11. Members had stressed time and again that it was incumbent on the Administration to provide effective and coordinated support to elite athletes. They urged the Administration to put in place a flexible education system, which was considered conducive to the development of elite athletes, with reference to overseas experience. In addition to tertiary institutions, primary and secondary schools should allow flexibility for elite student athletes to pursue their studies while taking part in training or competitions. The Administration was also called on to provide additional financial support to schools to nurture elite student athletes on a per capita basis.

12. When discussing with the Administration the educational and career development support for elite athletes at the Panel meeting on 10 April 2015, members were informed that in line with the recommendations of a consultancy conducted in 2013, HKSI had been working with the education sector to develop three new educational programmes for elite athletes, namely the Secondary Education Programme, the Professional Accreditation Programme and the Flexible Tertiary Education. The basis of the Secondary Education Programme was the establishment of the Elite Athlete-Friendly School Network ("the Network") which was set up in June 2014 to provide better educational support for younger elite athletes. The schools in the Network allowed flexibility in the curriculum to better accommodate young athletes' study, training and competition schedules, allowed extension of years of learning and provided enhanced educational support to meet the needs of individual athletes. The Secondary Education Programme aimed to strengthen academic support for student athletes preparing for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education examinations, and as appropriate to facilitate their pursuit of tertiary education. As of April 2015, 27 secondary schools had joined the Network. To build further on the "dual career model", HKSI was also working with secondary schools to run a Partnership School Programme where the participating schools would provide a tailor-made and highly integrated curriculum for athlete students, enabling them to train full-time whilst continuing to pursue their studies at senior secondary level.

13. Members generally took the view that uncertain prospect for elite athletes after retirement had deterred parents from encouraging their children to pursue a sports career. There was a suggestion that HAB should take the lead to coordinate with EDB to raise students' interest in non-academic subjects and to also request the tertiary institutions to review their admission criteria to avoid over-emphasis on students' academic achievement and encourage the institutions to admit students who excelled in non-academic subjects, such as Physical Education. This apart, the Administration should consider providing

subsidy for retired athletes to study abroad. The Administration was called on to nominate eligible student athletes to study at overseas universities if no suitable programmes were available at local universities.

14. The Administration advised that while local tertiary institutions had their autonomy to admit students and the enrolment requirements for individual programmes offered by different institutions might vary, the eight University Grants Committee-funded tertiary institutions had accepted athletes nominated for admission by HKSI and SF&OC. The Administration would explore the feasibility of subsidizing student athletes to study abroad. The Hong Kong Athletes Fund ("HKAF") also provided grants to elite athletes to pursue their studies at approved overseas colleges or universities if no comparable courses were offered in Hong Kong. Retired athletes who were undertaking long-term full-time study programmes might apply to HKAF for a subsistence allowance. As of April 2015, HKSI had granted a total of about \$16.9 million from HKAF to 169 athletes.

15. In response to members' concern about the provision of career development support for elite athletes, the Administration advised that it had allocated funding to SF&OC to establish the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme in collaboration with the business sector, with a view to improving the education and career prospects for serving and retired athletes. HKSI had also implemented programmes to meet the educational and career development needs of elite athletes. Starting from 2015, upon their retirement from training and competition, eligible full-time athletes would be granted a one-off award under the new Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme launched by HKSI, which would help them to pursue new careers either in sports or in other fields. On the view that HKSI should attach importance to the provision of mental and psychological training to elite athletes to enhance their performance and to facilitate their pursuit of a second career after retirement from competitions, the Administration advised that HKSI attached equal importance to both physical training and psychological counseling for elite athletes. HKSI had adopted a whole-person approach to athletes' development and various programmes were available to assist elite athletes' in pursuing further studies in preparation for the transition to a second career.

Support for non-elite athletes and disabled elite athletes

16. Members noted that HKSI was supporting 14 elite sports and a top-level full-time elite athlete could receive monthly financial assistance of around \$30,000. They considered that the educational need and career prospects of non-elite athletes should not be neglected having regard to their contribution to the sports development in Hong Kong, and assistance should also be made

available to both elite and non-elite athletes in need. Some members were also concerned about the disparity in the amounts of incentive awards for disabled athletes who won medals at the Paralympic Games and monthly subsidy provided by HKSI to able-bodied elite athletes and disabled elite athletes.

17. According to the Administration, individual athletes in non-elite sports who had potential or achieved good results could receive support from HKSI and their NSAs. The monthly financial assistance to elite athletes was performance-based. The Administration advised that the Government's sports policy did not target only at elite sports but also covered the development of non-elite sports such as football. Educational and career support would be provided to both elite and non-elite athletes in need. The disparity in the amounts of incentive awards to and subsidy received by able-bodied elite athletes and disabled elite athletes was largely attributed to the different historical backgrounds under which the respective financial assistance schemes were drawn up. The Government of the last term had reviewed and increased the levels of incentive awards for medalists at major games. The level of adjustment for disabled elite athletes was proportionately higher than that for able-bodied elite athletes in the last review exercise. SC would take heed of the situation when reviewing the levels of incentive awards again, if and when appropriate.

Funding for and monitoring of NSAs

18. Noting that LCSD would take into account, among others, the development potential of the sport promoted by individual NSAs in determining the amount of subvention to them, some members pointed out that the identification and development of talents for a sport would take time and involve a lot of efforts. They were concerned that NSAs might have difficulties to seek funding to promote sports with development potentials if the assessment criteria were too stringent. Concern was also raised as to whether the Government would increase the subvention to NSAs which were promoting more popular sports.

19. As explained by the Administration, the development potential of a sport was primarily concerned with the potential of nurturing elite athletes for, and popularizing, the sport. The development potential of the sport promoted by a NSA was only one of the key factors that LCSD would take into account in determining the amount of subvention to it. The amount of annual subvention to a NSA would usually remain stable, unless its participation in sports competitions or the number of programmes run by it had reduced significantly. At present, sports that received more funding were those in which local athletes performed better, such as badminton, table tennis and swimming. Resources

had also been increased to promote football, given its considerable development potential.

20. Members also expressed grave concern about the governance and monitoring of NSAs. They noted that LCSD had introduced a series of improvement measures on the administration and monitoring of the use of funding provided to NSAs since 1 April 2011 as a result of a comprehensive review on the Sports Subvention Scheme conducted by LCSD in 2010. The Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC") had drawn up Best Practice Reference for Governance of National Sports Associations ("BPR") in consultation with HAB, LCSD and some NSAs, with a view to assisting NSAs to enhance transparency in their operation and governance. Some members were concerned about the implementation of BPR by NSAs and suggested that the Administration should establish a mechanism for the ongoing monitoring of NSAs. To further improve the transparency of the operation of NSAs, the Administration should require NSAs to upload their financial statements, information on eligibility for membership and membership fees onto their website. Corruption prevention campaigns should be conducted on a long-term basis to foster a corruption-free culture in the sports sector.

21. According to the Administration, NSAs were required to sign a subvention agreement with LCSD and report to LCSD the expenditure position and activity progress at regular intervals. LCSD also conducted on-the-spot quality assurance checks on NSAs. LCSD and ICAC would join hands to approach all NSAs proactively to provide tailor-made advice and services to help individual NSAs to implement the measures recommended in BPR according to their individual needs and mode of operation. NSAs were encouraged to implement as soon as possible the best practices in BPR, in particular those relating to enhancement of transparency, selection of athletes, procurement, declaration of interests and uploading of audited financial statements onto their websites.

22. Concern was also raised about the lack of transparency and fairness in the selection of athletes for participation in international sports competitions. Some members considered that the implementation of BPR was important for ensuring a fair and transparent mechanism for the selection of athletes. They held the view that there should not be any overlapping of membership between the selection panel and the appeal board which handled complaints/appeals lodged by athletes who felt aggrieved about the selection process.

23. The Administration explained that the selection of Hong Kong athletes to compete in international competitions, such as the Olympic Games, was the prerogative of SF&OC which had an established mechanism for selection of

athletes through its member NSAs. As NSAs had their own established mechanisms for selection of athletes, it would not be appropriate for the Administration to interfere with the operation of such mechanisms. This notwithstanding, the Administration was implementing a number of measures, including the issuance of BPR, to assist SF&OC and NSAs to enhance their governance. NSAs were requested to adopt consistent criteria in the selection of athletes and inform the athletes of the criteria timely. They had also been informed of the requirement that overlapping of membership between the selection board and the appeal board should be avoided as far as possible. It was hoped that increased transparency in the operation and governance of SF&OC and NSAs would help ensure a fair and transparent mechanism for the selection of athletes.

Provision of public sports facilities

24. Members were generally dissatisfied with the slow implementation progress of sports facilities in various districts. They were concerned about how sports for all and athletes' performance could be enhanced in view of the long-standing shortage of sports facilities in Hong Kong. The Administration was called on to address, among others, the shortage of sports facilities at the district level and schools.

25. According to the Administration, since 2005, it had completed new sports facilities or upgraded existing facilities at a cost of more than \$4.5 billion. In planning new facilities, the Administration would make reference to the planning standards set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, the policy objectives for sports development, the utilization rates of existing facilities, the preferences of members of the public, views of District Councils, NSAs and schools sports organizations as well as the extent to which such facilities were provided by the Government and other non-governmental organizations. While the availability of resources was a key factor when planning new facilities in districts, 15 sports facilities with a total investment of nearly \$10 billion were underway. The development of the Multi-purpose Sports Complex ("MPSC") at Kai Tak would be another multi-billion project upon commencement of construction. According to the project plan, MPSC would include high-quality sports facilities that would alleviate Hong Kong's shortage of venues suitable for hosting major international sports events, as well as sports venues and open space for the community. The Administration assured members that it would continue to invest resources in taking forward sports facilities projects in future.

Motions relating to sports development passed by the Legislative Council

26. Three motions relating to the promotion of sports development in Hong Kong were passed at the Council meetings of 6 January 2010, 5 January 2011 and 19 March 2014 respectively. The wordings of the three motions are in **Appendix II**.

Latest development

27. The Administration will provide an update on its sports policy at the Panel meeting on 12 June 2015.

Relevant papers

28. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix III**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 June 2015

**Extracts from the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team
issued in May 2002**

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CHAPTER XI

Summary of Recommendations

11.1 As noted in the introduction to this review, the main focus of the Sports Policy Review Team's work has been to identify the key issues that need to be addressed in drawing up a strategic policy for Hong Kong's future sporting development. This review report is not a strategic plan, nor does it set out in detail the steps that need to be taken to resolve the problems currently faced by the sports community. Rather, the aim of the Review Team has been to lay the foundation for a discussion of the major initiatives that should form the basis of a strategic policy for sport.

11.2 The suggestions for change which are set out in Chapters III to IX of this report are intended as guidelines for the direction of the future sports policy. We have made every attempt to propose changes that represent a practical response to the concerns expressed by people in the sports community. The extent to which these proposals will be implemented will depend to a large extent on the public response to this report.

11.3 We consider that in developing a strategic sports development policy, the responsible organisations should take an integrated approach, rather than address specific areas of concern in isolation. For example, policy on the planning of new venues should take careful account of the nature of measures to promote sport in the wider community as well as initiatives aimed at better supporting high performance athletes. In taking forward proposals to encourage student sport, policy-makers will need to have regard to the role that enhanced LCSD programmes and a more widespread community sports club network might be able to play.

11.4 Although the Review Team favours an integrated approach, for the sake of clarity, and in order not to prejudice the future strategic planning process, we have organised this review under distinct headings related to different aspects of the sports scene. Accordingly, the suggested areas for change are also under separate headings, and may be summarised as follows-

Promoting an Active Sporting Culture

- (1) To take a more pro-active approach to promoting public sports programmes
- (2) To design and manage venues in a more user-friendly manner
- (3) To intensify the programme for establishing community sports clubs together with the NSAs
- (4) To have greater emphasis on local-level participation in sport
- (5) To organise more major international sporting events in Hong Kong so as to develop a strong local sporting culture
- (6) To establish a Sports Promotion Task Force in the LCSD to co-ordinate sports development initiatives in a strategic manner.

(Chapter III: paragraph 3.23)

More Sport for Every Student

- (1) To establish a Student Sport Co-ordinating Committee to set out a framework for student participation in sport
- (2) To further expand the scope of the School Sports Programme
- (3) To adopt a more focussed approach to the promotion of school sport

- (4) To improve the planning and management of sports facilities in schools and public venues for use by students
- (5) To provide greater recognition to student athletes who have excelled in sport

(Chapter IV: paragraph 4.22)

Maintaining Support for Disabled Athletes

- (1) To allow for better accessibility for disabled athletes' training when designing public sports venues
- (2) To provide more diverse public venues to support athlete training
- (3) To explore the need for full-time coaching for disabled sportsmen and women
- (4) To give continued recognition to disabled athletes' achievements
- (5) To make greater efforts to integrate disabled young athletes into mainstream school sports programmes and high level training of relevant NSAs

(Chapter V: paragraph 5.12)

Building for a Sporting Future - the Planning, Design and Management of Public Sports Venues

- (1) To adopt a more strategic approach to the planning and delivery of new public sports venues
- (2) To consider more flexible forms of design for new facilities

- (3) To consider building temporary venues on unused sites designated for future development of sports facilities
- (4) To seek greater involvement of the private sector in venue planning and management
- (5) To adopt more responsive and client-oriented policies in the management of our public sports venues

(Chapter VI: paragraph 6.13)

- (6) To carry out feasibility studies in 2002, for the development of a major new sports complex in South East Kowloon and an indoor arena in West Kowloon, with a view to completing such studies in 2003
- (7) To study how best to deliver other major venues for "X-Games", ice sports, motorsports and water-based sports

(Chapter VI: paragraph 6.33)

Better Prospects for High Performance Sport

- (1) To provide better and more facilities to support the training of high performance athletes
- (2) To reprioritise resource allocation in respect of sports science and medicine
- (3) To draw up an "Athlete's Plan" in order to provide better support for full-time athletes with regard to financial, educational and career guidance
- (4) To strengthen the coaching infrastructure
- (5) To establish formal co-ordination and communication channels between the NSAs and the elite programme coaches at the HKSI

- (6) To invest more resources in developing team sports
- (7) To increase links with the Mainland authorities, and sports organisations and professionals
- (8) To encourage sports organisations to develop more attractive packages for the sponsorship of high performance sport

(Chapter VII: paragraph 7.27)

Creating a More Clearly Defined and Effective Administrative Structure for Sport

- (1) To establish a Sports Commission in order to draw up and co-ordinate the implementation of a strategic plan for sports development
- (2) To clearly delineate the responsibilities for individual stakeholders in the sports community
- (3) To enhance the role of the SF&OC, in particular, to take on a greater role in the marketing and promotion of sport
- (4) To enhance the role and development of NSAs to enable them to become more professionally run and independent

(Chapter VIII: paragraphs 8.12 to 8.15)

Review of Public Funding for Sport

- (1) To review the choice and number of focus sports for the elite training programmes at the HKSI
- (2) To review the criteria in subventing the NSAs
- (3) To simplify the funding procedures to NSAs

- (4) To have one funding body for sport
- (5) To establish a fund to support the hosting of international sports events in Hong Kong

(Chapter IX: paragraphs 9.33 to 9.35)

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Source : LC Paper No. CB(2)1999/01-02(01)

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Promoting the sports development in Hong Kong”
moved by Hon IP Kwok-him
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 6 January 2010**

Motion as amended by Hon LEE Wing-tat and Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po

That the sports development in Hong Kong has long been neglected, but the East Asian Games has been successfully completed, and with the support of the community as well as the strenuous effort of the athletes, Hong Kong players have still achieved outstanding performance and won high praise; in order to further enhance the standard of local sports and promote the sports development in Hong Kong, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) review the existing scoring mechanism for the elite training programmes, and actively consider including team sports which are popular among the public and have development potentials in such programmes;
- (b) take the lead in providing additional funding and encourage the Hong Kong Jockey Club to put in more resources to support the development of local football;
- (c) allocate funding to directly support the football academy at Tseung Kwan O, and provide adequate funding to maintain and develop football representative teams of different age groups;
- (d) provide sufficient training venues for various First Division football clubs and consider waiving their venue rental;
- (e) examine the effectiveness of the various existing funding schemes, and increase the funding amounts according to actual needs;
- (f) improve the hardware facilities for various sports activities and expeditiously carry out the multi-purpose stadium complex project in the Kai Tak Development Area, so as to provide better support for sports development;
- (g) formulate a specific policy to improve the treatment of athletes and their career development after retirement;

- (h) draw reference from the Mainland and overseas experience to encourage the business sector to take part in the funding of sports;
- (i) step up effort in motivating schools, the general public and enterprises to attach importance to sports, promote sports for all, and create a competition atmosphere among district sports teams, so as to increase public participation and community cohesion;
- (j) strengthen collaboration and exchanges with the Mainland to enhance the standard of local sports; and
- (k) actively consider bidding to host the 18th Asian Games in 2019;
- (l) review the adequacy of resources currently allocated to sports, and enhance the transparency of the funding policy and the funding approval process; and
- (m) assist various national sports associations in enhancing their discipline in corporate governance, accounting and compliance with rules and regulations, so as to ensure that the resources allocated to them are utilized in a proper and effective manner.

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Promoting long-term sports development”
moved by Hon KAM Nai-wai
at the Legislative Council meeting commencing
on Wednesday, 5 January 2011**

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon Tanya CHAN

That, as the Hong Kong Government has decided to bid to host the 2023 Asian Games, but all along, it has not put forward any blueprint for long-term and comprehensive sports development, in that it lacks commitment to promote community-wide participation in sports and has no plan to improve training for local athletes, this Council expresses disappointment in this regard; following the Government’s failure to bid to host the 2006 Asian Games 10 years ago, it has failed to honour its undertaking of building sports venues, and the hosting of the 2009 East Asian Games did not foster a culture of promoting community-wide participation in sports, this Council considers that the Hong Kong Government should formulate and implement a long-term and comprehensive policy on sports, enhance training for local athletes and treat them well, take concrete steps to promote sports for all, and establish a sound administrative structure for sports; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to implement the following measures:

- (a) by way of extensive consultation and mobilizing public participation, to draw up a 10-year blueprint for sports development, set objectives for community-wide participation in sports, and undertake planning for local athletes’ training; regardless of whether the bid to host the Asian Games is successful or not, the Government should allocate \$6 billion for establishing a ‘Sports Fund’, with a view to promoting the policy on community-wide participation in sports and enhancing training for local athletes;
- (b) to conduct extensive consultation with the Hong Kong sports sector and athletes, and on this basis, to establish a mechanism for protecting current and retired athletes, and at the same time provide scholarships for their pursuit of further studies overseas or locally, and put in place measures to ensure their employment; and by making reference to overseas experience, to provide commercial organizations with tax concessions, so as to encourage the trades to employ current or retired athletes;

- (c) to allocate funds for supporting athletes' after-training academic learning, with a view to providing them with learning assistance in foundation academic subjects, and to hold discussions with universities on allocating additional resources for providing places specifically for athletes;
- (d) to construct more district sports facilities and venues, and allow members of the public and students to have priority in using such utility-based district sports venues, and at the same time to extensively install simple fitness facilities suitable for people of different ages in parks and public housing estates throughout the territory, thereby promoting sports for all;
- (e) to improve students' opportunities to participate in sports, including increasing the number and duration of physical education lessons in secondary and primary schools, so as to cultivate students' interest in sports;
- (f) to make accurate and precise estimation on the costs of constructing sports venues and expeditiously submit information about all the sports venues and facilities proposed to be constructed or improved under the plan to bid to host the Asian Games to the Legislative Council for scrutiny, so that this Council can scrutinize the Government's applications based on the needs for the development of sports for all and elite sports in different districts and their relevant timetables;
- (g) to urge the relevant authorities to study how to reform the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and the various National Sports Associations by requiring them to introduce professional administrative management and increase transparency of their finances, as well as to establish reasonable selection and appeal mechanisms, so as to ensure fair treatment of all athletes; and
- (h) to urge the relevant departments and sports institutions to undertake studies on the salaries and fringe benefits of sports coaches, instructors and counsellors, etc., and conduct timely reviews, so as to facilitate the retention and nurturing of local sports elites;
- (i) by making reference to the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team entitled 'Towards a more sporting future' published in 2002, to implement the feasible recommendations made therein, and at the same time conduct studies on those areas not covered by the Report for the purpose of formulating a long-term sports policy on sports;

- (j) the Government should split the 'Arts and Sports Development Fund' and enhance training for local athletes and invest more resources, so as to promote sports development;
- (k) to standardize the present reward mechanisms for able-bodied athletes and disabled athletes participating in international events of equivalent levels, so as to give fair recognition to the achievements of all athletes; and
- (l) to review the terms of reference and composition of the Sports Commission, enlist the participation of more athletes, and enhance the transparency of the Commission.

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy on
‘promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and
developing Hong Kong into a prime destination for hosting major
international sports events’ and formulating a long-term sports policy”
moved by Hon MA Fung-kwok
at the Council meeting of 19 March 2014**

**Motion as amended by Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN, Dr Hon Helena WONG
and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG**

That Hong Kong has all along lacked a long-term and comprehensive sports policy; as the Government has not conducted any reviews of the sports policy since the publication of the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team in 2002, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously review and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy on ‘promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and developing Hong Kong into a prime destination for hosting major international sports events’, and deepen and step up the promotion of local sports affairs to dovetail with social needs, thereby achieving the important functions of sports to train the body and the mind, give full play to individual potential and strengthen cohesion in society, etc.; the relevant proposals include:

Sports policy and structure —

- (1) to formulate a long-term sports policy, increase resources and establish a sports commissioner to oversee and co-ordinate various government departments to promote sports development;
- (2) to review the overall management structure and system, and perfect activity organization and the mechanism for resource deployment and co-ordination among the Government, sports organizations and institutions, so as to enhance operational efficiency and transparency, and strengthen the nurturing of sports administrative and management personnel;
- (3) to encourage academic institutions and community organizations to conduct sports-related studies, so as to provide data and theoretical bases and increase efficiency of the sports policy;

- (4) to develop sports-related industries, including training, supply of sports goods and equipment, venue operation and management, media promotion, insurance and sports medicine, etc., for providing athletes and young people with diversified career pathways, and through tax concessions and other financial incentives, encourage the business sector to sponsor sports activities;
- (5) to review the governance, funding mechanism and operation of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and various national sports associations, so as to enhance their governance level and operation transparency, and use the governance level, fairness of funding distribution and operation transparency of the various national sports associations as the criteria for continued funding and determining funding levels;
- (6) to set up an independent mechanism for handling complaints targeted at the various national sports associations or disputes involving the various national sports associations;

Sports venues and facilities —

- (7) to increase easily accessible sports venues, enhance the standard and management of existing facilities, and effectively deploy venue resources, so as to meet the needs of the industry, schools and the public;
- (8) to enhance transparency and sustainability in the planning for the Multi-purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak, including establishing a clear consultation mechanism, providing venue support for more sports items, adopting a ‘sports come first’ operational mode to support diversified and sustained development of sports, and designing venue in a flexible manner, so as to support elite sports and sports for all and meet the needs of major competitions, the industry and the public;
- (9) to review the existing policies on land and industrial buildings, so as to release space for more private organizations to develop sports venues;

Public participation in sports —

- (10) to strengthen the support in sports for schools, including establishing dedicated funding for sports, strengthening training for sports

teachers and cultivating students' interests in sports, so as to manifest the spirit of 'one sports/arts in life', and to encourage schools to open their sports venues to sports organizations outside school hours;

- (11) to deepen the support for specific population groups (such as the elderly, poor people, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities, etc.), so that they have more opportunities to participate in sports;
- (12) to further develop inter-district sports competitions, so as to enhance the sports atmosphere in districts and strengthen cohesion in the community;
- (13) to strive to host more mega sports events and cross-boundary games, so as to raise people's interest of participation and drive the development of sports tourism;
- (14) to strengthen the publicity of various sports to enhance people's understanding of the relevant sports, thereby enhancing their interest and ability in sports appreciation;
- (15) to allocate additional resources to private sports institutions other than the various national sports associations for subsidizing their organization of sports activities;
- (16) to establish an inter-departmental mechanism under the co-ordination of the Home Affairs Bureau to assist schools, non-governmental organizations and sports clubs in borrowing sports venues and facilities;

Support for athletes —

- (17) to further expand the coverage of elite sports, introduce development plans for non-elite sports, strengthen sports support for persons with disabilities, and enhance the overall standard of sports training and level of athletic skills in Hong Kong;
- (18) to raise the professional and social status of athletes, and strengthen the support for current and retired athletes in respect of present education, further studies, employment and post-retirement prospects, so as to encourage more young people with potentials to join the ranks of full-time athletes; and
- (19) to review the incentive award system for disabled athletes who win awards in major international competitions, so as to bring the levels

of incentive awards for them on a par with those for able-bodied athletes;

Sports policy and structure —

- (20) to strengthen the monitoring of the administrative and financial structure of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and various national sports associations; and

Support for athletes —

- (21) to arrange for professionals to accompany and offer support to athletes participating in international competitions;

Sports venues and facilities —

- (22) to provide a barrier-free environment to facilitate persons with disabilities and the public to participate in sports; and

Support for athletes —

- (23) to accord the same treatment to disabled and non-disabled elite athletes, so that disabled elite athletes may participate in sports on a full-time basis.

**Relevant papers on
Sports Development in Hong Kong**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Home Affairs	23.5.2002 (Item IV)	Agenda Administration's paper entitled "A Strategic Policy for Sports Development" and the Report of Home Affairs Bureau's Sports Policy Review Team Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	14.7.2003 (Item III)	Agenda Legislative Council Brief entitled "A New Administrative Structure for Sports Development" Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	13.4.2007 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
Legislative Council	6.1.2010	Official Record of Proceedings Pages 3868-3949 (motion on "Promoting the sports development in Hong Kong")
Panel on Home Affairs	8.1.2010 (Items IV&V)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	10.12.2010 (Item VI)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	17.12.2010 (Item I)	Agenda Minutes
Legislative Council	5.1.2011	Official Record of Proceedings Pages 4533-4600 (motion on "Promoting long-term sports development")

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Home Affairs	14.1.2011 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Education	13.5.2011 (Item III)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	13.5.2011 (Item III)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	10.6.2011 (Item III)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	15.11.2011 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	13.1.2012 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	14.12.2012 (Item VII)	Agenda Minutes
Panel on Home Affairs	24.1.2014 (Item I)	Agenda Minutes
Legislative Council	26.2.2014	Official Records of Proceedings Pages 8088 to 8091 (written question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG on "Support for athletes participating in major international sport games")
Legislative Council	19.3.2014	Official Record of Proceedings Pages 8794 - 8891 (motion on "Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy on 'promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and developing Hong Kong into a prime destination for hosting major international sports events' and formulating a long-term sports policy")

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
		<u>Official Records of Proceedings Pages 8365 to 8369 (written question raised by Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN on "Support for Hong Kong athletes participating in mega sports events")</u>
Legislative Council	30.4.2014	<u>Official Records of Proceedings Pages 10205 to 10209 (written question raised by Hon Frankie YICK on "Assistance for retiring and retired athletes")</u>
Panel on Home Affairs	6.2.2015 (Item IV)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Legislative Council	18.3.2015	<u>Official Records of Proceedings Pages 7274 to 7284 (oral question raised by Hon MA Fung-kwok on "Measures to improve the physical fitness and health of the youths")</u>
Panel on Home Affairs	10.4.2015 (Item IV)	<u>Agenda</u> Minutes

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