

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Home Affairs**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 27 September 2021**

**Development of elite sports in Hong Kong**

**Purpose**

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

**Background**

2. The Government has promoted the development of sports in Hong Kong through a three-pronged approach: to promote sports for all, to support elite sports and to maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major sports events. The Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") works in consultation with the Sports Commission ("SC") and its three Committees, namely the Community Sports Committee, the Elite Sports Committee and the Major Sports Events Committee, on policy, planning and related measures to develop and promote community sport, elite sport and major sports events respectively. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") is responsible for planning and managing sports and recreation facilities, promoting sport in the community, and providing funding support to the relevant sports organizations in line with the established policy. HAB also collaborates closely with stakeholders in the sports sector, including the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC"), the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI"), "national sports associations" ("NSAs") and other sports organizations in promoting sports development in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Sports Institute and elite sports development

3. HKSI is the delivery agent of the Government's elite sports training system and is responsible for delivering services to support Hong Kong's top athletes and works in close collaboration with SF&OC and NSAs. HKSI commenced a major redevelopment project in March 2009 to upgrade its training facilities for elite athletes of Hong Kong. The redevelopment of HKSI

was completed in 2014.

4. The Government established the Elite Athletes Development Fund ("EADF") in 2011-2012 to provide annual funding to HKSI for training local elite athletes and providing them with comprehensive support services, including direct financial support, sports science and medicine support, fitness and conditioning, accommodation, meals, education, dual career and personal development. As at the end of May 2021, the balance of EADF was about \$10.96 billion.

5. HKSI currently has 20 Tier A and 13 Tier B sports, as well as six Tier A and three Tier B disability sports. When the Panel discussed "Broadcasting arrangements for the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games ("TOG") in Hong Kong" at its meeting on 18 June 2021, the Administration reported that as at 9 June 2021, Hong Kong athletes had gained qualification for 31 TOG events and 24 Tokyo Paralympic Games events. These events are set out at **Appendix I**.

## **Deliberations of the Panel**

Supporting elite athletes' dual-career development in education and sports training

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6. 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 increase the funding provided to HKSI and provide additional financial support to schools to nurture elite student athletes on a per capita basis.

7. The Government announced in the 2019-2020 Budget that \$250 million would be injected into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund ("HKAF").<sup>1</sup> Part of the injection would be used to increase scholarship awards in support of the dual-career development of athletes. The Panel was consulted on the proposed injection of \$250 million at its meeting on 24 June 2019. Members expressed

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<sup>1</sup> HKAF was established in 1996 to provide grants to support the dual career development of athletes, so as to encourage them to pursue sports excellence and education at the same time and lay a good foundation for building a career after retirement from sports. The scope of HKAF was later extended to cover young and retired athletes

support for the proposal in order to increase scholarship awards in support of the dual career development of athletes and provide more cash incentives for full-time athletes when they retired from sports. Members were pleased to note that HKSI had signed Memoranda of Understanding ("MOUs") with nine local universities to provide flexible study arrangements (including extension of study periods) for full-time athletes studying in these universities.<sup>2</sup> These MOUs also allowed HKSI to nominate full-time athletes for admission into programmes offered by these universities. Moreover, HKSI had partnered with 27 local secondary schools to provide flexible secondary curriculum for student athletes. Four of these secondary schools offered integrated and flexible secondary school curriculum for full-time student athletes through the Partnership School Programme.

8. There was also a suggestion that HAB 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. The Administration advised that 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.

9. 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 ("HKACEP") in collaboration with the business sector, with a view to improving the education and career prospects for serving and retired athletes. HKSI also implemented programmes to meet the educational and career development needs of elite athletes. Arrangements had also been made for retired elite athletes to work as coaches and programme coordinators in NSAs and in schools. Some members considered that it might not be necessary to require an athlete to have represented Hong Kong in major games in order to be eligible for the education scholarship under HKACEP. The Administration advised that SF&OF planned to review HKACEP with a view to enhancing its dual career support programmes to retired athletes.

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<sup>2</sup> The nine local universities include The Education University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, The University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Lingnan University, City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong.

## Proposal to further upgrade the facilities of HKSI

10. The Hong Kong, China Delegation performed with distinction at TOG, achieving the best results of one gold, two silver and three bronze medals in Hong Kong history, with a number of athletes breaking Hong Kong records or attaining personal best results. The Administration considered that the facilities and support provided by HKSI to elite athletes should stay abreast of latest developments to continuously take forward elite sports development in Hong Kong effectively. As such, the Administration proposed to construct the new facilities building of HKSI and submitted relevant works proposal to the Panel for consultation at its meeting on 27 August 2021. Under the proposal, the Government would allocate \$990 million (in money-of-the-day prices) as the project cost for the new building in HKSI with about 9 000 square metres of net operating floor area to expand its Scientific Conditioning Centre and Sports Medicine Centre, and provide additional training, resting and accommodation facilities for athletes.

11. The Administration explained that the proposal was made mainly based on the considerations of the significant increase in the number of athletes<sup>3</sup>, increase in the number of elite sports<sup>4</sup>, and the need to provide support on sports science and sports medicine for athletes. The Administration's target was to commission the new building in June 2024, i.e. before the opening of the Paris Olympic Games. Members expressed support for the works proposal and urged the Administration to ensure completion of the construction works on schedule. Members also requested the Administration to ensure that the design of the new facilities building could cater for the long-term needs of elite sports training in Hong Kong. The Administration advised that HKSI, after expansion, should be able to meet the needs of elite sports development in Hong Kong in the following 10 to 15 years.

12. In response to members' concern about funding support for HKSI, the Administration advised that in 2021-2022, the Government's annual funding for HKSI, through EADF, amounted to \$737 million, representing an increase of about 42 per cent over the amount in 2017-2018.

## Support for elite athletes with disabilities

13. Members urged the Administration to allocate more resources to the promotion of participation in sports by people with disabilities ("PWDs") in order to lay a better foundation for the long-term development of elite athletes

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<sup>3</sup> In 2021-22 (as at August 2021), athletes receiving training in HKSI include 420 full-time senior athletes, 97 non-full-time senior athletes, 127 full-time junior athletes, 279 non-full-time junior athletes and 245 potential athletes.

<sup>4</sup> The number of elite sports has increased from 11 in 2007-2008 to the current 20 Tier A elite sports and 13 Tier B elite sports.

with disabilities ("AWDs"). There was a view that the Administration should accord the same treatment to able-bodied elite athletes and disabled elite athletes, so that AWDs might participate in sports on a full-time basis.

14. The Administration advised that 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. Meanwhile, the Administration would liaise with relevant disability NSAs including the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled on the provision of training programmes for coaches to strengthen their knowledge and practical skills in providing training for PWDs on sports activities.

### **Relevant Legislative Council questions**

15. At the Council meetings of 21 July 2021 and 1 September 2021, Hon Vincent CHENG and Hon CHAN Kin-por raised an oral and a written question on sports development in Hong Kong respectively. The two questions (including the Administration's replies) are in **Appendices II** and **III** respectively.

### **Latest development**

16. The Administration will consult the Panel on a funding proposal to set up a \$300 million special fund to enhance the competitiveness of athletes at the next meeting on 27 September 2021.

### **Relevant papers**

17. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is at **Appendix IV**.

**Hong Kong, China Delegation - Qualifications****(A) 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games**

As at 9 June 2021, the Hong Kong, China Delegation has qualified for 31 Olympic events, covering 11 sports.

<b>Sports</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Athletes</b>
Badminton	Men's Singles	Ng Ka Long Angus
	Women's Singles	Cheung Ngan Yi
	Mixed Doubles	Tang Chun Man Tse Ying Suet
Cycling	Men's Road Race	1 male athlete (pending selection)
	Women's Keirin	2 female athletes (pending selection)
	Women's Sprint	
	Women's Madison	2 female athletes (pending selection)
Women's Omnium		
Equestrian	Individual Eventing	Ho Thomas Edward Heffernan
Fencing	Men's Individual Foil	Choi Chun Yin Ryan Cheung Ka Long Cheung Siu Lun
	Men's Team Foil	Choi Chun Yin Ryan Cheung Ka Long Cheung Siu Lun Ng Lok Wang Lawrence
	Women's Individual Épée	Kong Man Wai Vivian Hsieh Kaylin Sin Yan Lin Yik Hei Coco
	Women's Team Épée	Kong Man Wai Vivian Hsieh Kaylin Sin Yan Lin Yik Hei Coco Chu Ka Mong
Gymnastics	Men's Vault	Shek Wai Hung
Karate	Women's Kata	Lau Mo Sheung Grace
Rowing	Women's Single Sculls	Hung Wing Yan
Sailing	Women's Laser Radial	Stephanie Louise Norton
Swimming	Women's 50m Freestyle	Siobhan Haughey
	Women's 100m Freestyle	Siobhan Haughey
	Women's 200m Freestyle	Siobhan Haughey
	Women's 100m Backstroke	Au Hoi Shun
	Women's 4x100m Freestyle Relay	4 female athletes (pending selection)
	Women's 4x100m Medley Relay	4 female athletes (pending selection)
	Women's 4x200m Freestyle Relay	4 female athletes (pending selection)

<b>Sports</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Athletes</b>
Table Tennis	Men's Singles	Wong Chun Ting Lam Siu Hang
	Men's Team	Wong Chun Ting Lam Siu Hang Ho Kwan Kit Ng Pak Nam (reserve)
	Women's Singles	Doo Hoi Kem Soo Wai Yam Minnie
	Women's Team	Doo Hoi Kem Soo Wai Yam Minnie Lee Ho Ching Zhu Chengzhu (reserve)
	Mixed Doubles	Wong Chun Ting Doo Hoi Kem
Windsurfing	Men's RS:X	Cheng Chun Leung
	Women's RS:X	Chan Hei Man

### **(B) 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games**

As at 9 June 2021, the Hong Kong, China Delegation has qualified for 24 Paralympic events, covering 8 sports.

<b>Sports</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Athletes</b>
Archery	Men's Individual Compound Open	Ngai Ka Chuen
Athletics	To be confirmed	2 athletes (pending selection)
Badminton	Men's Singles WH2	Chan Ho Yuen
	Men's Singles SH6	Chu Man Kai
Boccia	BC2 Individual	Yeung Hiu Lam
	BC3 Individual/Pairs	3 athletes (pending selection)
	BC4 Individual/Pairs	3 athletes (pending selection)
Equestrian	Individual Championship Grade I/Grade III	Tse Pui Ting Natasha
	Individual Championship Grade I/Grade III	Tsang Tin Chi Timothy
	Individual Championship Grade III	Schrader Fleur
Swimming	To be confirmed	4 athletes (pending selection)
Table Tennis	Women's Singles TT11	Ng Mui Wui
	Women's Singles TT11	Wong Ting Ting
Wheelchair Fencing	Women's Foil Individual Cat. A Women's Épée Individual Cat. A	Yu Chui Yee
	Women's Foil Individual Cat. B Women's Épée Individual Cat. B	Chung Yuen Ping
	Women's Foil Team Women's Épée Team	3 female athletes (pending selection)

## Press Releases

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LCQ1: Promoting sports development

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Following is a question by the Hon Vincent Cheng and a reply by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Caspar Tsui, in the Legislative Council today (July 21):

Question:

The Tokyo Summer Olympic Games (TOG) will start soon. Some members of the sports community have pointed out that a craze for TOG and sports is expected to sweep throughout Hong Kong, but the Government has not made sports development a priority in policy implementation, and there is much room for improvement in respect of its promoting sports development on a regular basis and through TOG. On promoting sports development, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) given that the Government has acquired the Hong Kong broadcasting rights for TOG and entrusted five television broadcasters to broadcast the various events of TOG for viewing by the public free of charge, whether the Government has, apart from setting up "Olympics Live Zones" in the 18 Districts across the territory, planned to organise, during and immediately after TOG, more community involvement activities and sports activities (e.g. inviting members of the national team for TOG to visit Hong Kong), and whether it has considered acquiring the Hong Kong broadcasting rights for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and the World Cup finals to be held next year, so as to enhance public interest in sports activities, thereby promoting sports development; if so, of the details;

(2) given that the Kai Tak Sports Park, a major sports facility, will be completed in the second half of 2023, whether the Government will, in the coming five years, consider bidding to host major international sports events such as the Universiade and the Asian Youth Games, so as to promote Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(3) given that in 2017, the Government announced a Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities to launch a number of projects between 2017 and 2022 for increasing and improving sports and recreation facilities, of the latest progress of such projects, and whether the Government will commence a new five-year plan or other plans to further promote sports in the community, support elite sports, promote Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, and facilitate the industrialisation of sports?

Reply:

President,

Attaching great importance to sports development, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has been promoting sports development in Hong Kong through a three-pronged strategic approach, namely promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and maintaining Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. My reply to the question raised by the Hon Vincent Cheng is as follows:

(1) The Summer Olympic Games will be held in Tokyo, Japan (TOG) from July 23 to August 8. To enhance public interests in sports, we will conduct the following community engagement and publicity activities during and immediately after TOG:



(a) Olympics Live Zones will be set up by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) at designated sports centres in 18 districts, including live broadcast of the opening ceremony of TOG in the evening on July 23 (Friday) and broadcast of TOG competitions from July 24 to August 8;

(b) The launching of Olympics Live Zone in support of Tokyo 2020 Olympics will be held by the LCSD in the afternoon on July 23, i.e. the date of the opening ceremony, at the Kowloon Park Sports Centre;

(c) A series of publicity activities will be held by the LCSD, including online prize quiz, promotional videos played at LCSD venues in 18 districts, a series of Learning Sports 101 videos uploaded in the LCSD Edutainment Channel, and online appeal to netizens for messages supporting the Hong Kong athletes; and

(d) The Sport For All Day 2021 will be held by the LCSD from 2pm to 6pm on August 1 (Sunday). In addition to sports demonstrations and a wide range of free activities at designated sports centres in 18 districts, there will be themed promotion in each district for the Olympic sports chosen.

Subject to the development of the pandemic, there are no plans for arranging the Mainland Delegation at TOG to visit Hong Kong at the moment.

The broadcasting rights for the Olympic Games and other major sports events (including the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and the World Cup finals) have all along been contested by television broadcasters through competitive bidding led by market forces and commercial considerations. This year is different. The Government took exception this time to secure the broadcasting rights of TOG in view of the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong. The Government therefore firmed up the purchase decision only after it had become clear that all of the broadcasters had ended their discussion for purchasing the rights with a view to ensuring that the public would have wide access to the coverage of the TOG on television free of charge, especially for all events competed by Hong Kong athletes, and that the public can support and cheer for them. The HKSAR Government has no intention of changing the competitive environment of the television broadcasting market, and the purchase of the broadcasting rights of the TOG this time is a one-off initiative taken under exceptional circumstances. It is understood that the Television Broadcasts Limited has purchased the local television broadcasting rights for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

(2) The Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into a centre for major international sports events, and has been facilitating local "national sports associations" (NSAs) to launch major sports events in Hong Kong. Introduced in 2004, the "M" Mark System supports local NSAs to host major sports events in Hong Kong through provision of matching fund and direct grant. In order to enhance support for NSAs to stage international sports events, the Government allocated \$500 million to implement a new Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme in 2019 to encourage further sponsorship from the business sector to promote the launch of more local top-level competitions. Upon completion in 2023, the Kai Tak Sports Park will be available for hosting more world-class sports events and providing additional opportunities for local athletes to compete on home ground. The public and inbound visitors will also have more opportunities to enjoy top-level performance sports, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's status as a centre for major international events.

At present, any bid to host major or multi-sports events (such as the Asian Youth Games or the Universiade) has to be submitted by

the National Olympic Committee or the relevant NSA of the member state or territory of the relevant international sports federations or associations, with the host city elected by members by way of ballot. If the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China or an NSA intends to bid for a major or multi-sports event, the Government will study the feasibility and provide appropriate assistance.

(3) The Government is pressing ahead with the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities (Five-Year Plan) announced in the Policy Address in January 2017. A total of \$20 billion has been earmarked under the Five-Year Plan for funding the launch of 26 projects to develop new and improve existing sports and recreation facilities, among which 20 projects have been approved by the Legislative Council. Technical feasibility studies for 15 projects on sports and recreation facilities will also be conducted under the Five-Year Plan, of which the findings will be examined in our consideration of future projects.

While building new sports facilities, we should also make good use of existing facilities and upgrade them. Therefore, the Government announced in the 2021-22 Budget to earmark \$318 million to implement a five-year plan for upgrading over 70 football pitches in order to provide more football pitches meeting the standards of Fédération Internationale de Football Association, thereby contributing to the development of football in Hong Kong.

Since 2018, the Census and Statistics Department has been conducting regular surveys on the local economic contribution of sports and related activities. According to the latest statistics, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices of sports and related activities increased from \$51 billion in 2016 to \$59 billion in 2019, representing an increase from 2.0 per cent to 2.1 per cent in terms of percentage share in the total GDP over the same period. During the period, the number of persons employed in sports and related activities increased from 78 000 to 83 000. A relevant feature article will be published in the August 2021 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics. The Government will continue to promote sports in the community, support elite sports and maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, thereby facilitating on-going development of sports-related industries.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that the Government has been attaching great importance to sports development. May the public cheer for the athletes of the national team and Hong Kong.

Ends/Wednesday, July 21, 2021  
Issued at HKT 14:15

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## Press Releases

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LCQ8: Support for sports development

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Following is a question by the Hon Chan Kin-por and a written reply by the Acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Jack Chan, in the Legislative Council today (September 1):

Question:

Hong Kong athletes achieved record-breaking and brilliant results in the Olympic Games that concluded recently. There are views that the Government should step up efforts in supporting sports development in terms of policies, facilities and resources. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it has plans to inject funds into the Elite Athletes Development Fund so that the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) can obtain more stable financial resources for nurturing more elite athletes;

(2) whether it has plans to allocate more resources to those sports currently not receiving support from the HKSI so as to help athletes achieve better results, thereby increasing the prospects for such sports becoming elite sports;

(3) of the measures in place to attract more young people with outstanding performance in sports to become full-time athletes;

(4) whether the current measures for supporting retired athletes are applicable to retired athletes with disabilities; if not, of the reasons for that; and

(5) of the details of the programmes implemented in the past three years by the Government for promoting sports in the community, and the amount of expenditure involved; the details of the relevant programmes in the coming three years and the estimated expenditure?

Reply:

President,

The Government strongly supports the development of sports in Hong Kong, including promoting sports in the community, supporting the development of elite sports and maintaining Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. On supporting the development of elite sports, the Government established the Elite Athletes Development Fund (EADF) in 2011-12 to provide annual funding to the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) to nurture elite athletes, providing them with direct financial grants and comprehensive support services, including strength and conditioning, sports science, sports medicine, dual career development in sports and education, insurance, meals and accommodation. In 2021-22, the Government would allocate \$737 million from the EADF to support the HKSI's operation. The Hong Kong, China Delegation to the Tokyo Olympics sent 46 athletes to compete in 38 events covering 14 sports, and made history by capturing one gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

My reply to the five parts of the question is as follows:

(1) We have injected \$6 billion into the EADF in 2018-19. The current balance of the EADF is around \$10.8 billion, of which around \$10.2 billion was deposited with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to earn an investment return linked to the performance of

the Hong Kong Exchange Fund. The current balance of the EADF is sufficient to meet the HKSI's funding requirement for around ten years. The Government currently does not have any plan for further injection into the EADF.

(2) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provides subvention to eligible national sports associations (NSAs) under the Sports Subvention Scheme (SSS) to support the promotion and development of their respective sports. From 2020-21 onwards, the Government has substantially increased the yearly subvention provided under the SSS progressively from about \$300 million in 2019-20 to over \$500 million in 2023-24. The additional subvention aims to enhance the promotion and development of sports in the community, youth training programmes, public participation, squad training at all levels and overseas exchange programmes/competitions. This would help various sports improve the performance of their athletes and increase their chances of becoming elite sports.

In addition, the Government has implemented the Five-Year Development Programme for Team Sports since 2018, covering eight team sports with team size of five or more featured in the Asian Games and the Asian Winter Games, namely baseball, basketball, handball, hockey, ice hockey, softball, volleyball and water polo. The Programme provides additional funding for the eight relevant NSAs to formulate and implement training programmes for the Hong Kong teams. This Programme aims to help enhance the performance of team sports progressively, and increase their chances of attaining elite sports status in the future.

(3) The Government attaches great importance to the all-round development of elite athletes and is committed to supporting their dual career development in sports and education, which would attract more junior athletes with sports potential to become full-time athletes.

The Government has injected \$250 million into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund (HKAF) in 2020-21 to increase scholarship awards in support of the dual career development of athletes, including stepping up support for athletes to study bachelor's degrees or above and increasing the number of funded study programmes to two for each eligible full-time athlete, as well as increasing the cash incentives for full-time athletes when they retire. Currently, over 80 athletes have benefited from the various enhanced support measures implemented since the injection into the HKAF.

In addition, the HKSI co-operates with 12 local tertiary institutions (the Education University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), School of Continuing and Professional Studies, CUHK, the Hong Kong Baptist University, the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Lingnan University, the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong and the Open University of Hong Kong) to secure multiple pathways for full-time athletes and provide flexible study arrangements. So far, over 70 athletes have benefited from the co-operation.

The HKSI has also set up the Elite Athlete-friendly School Network with 29 secondary schools to provide flexible study arrangements to cater for athletes' training and competition needs and provide additional education support. So far, over 260 athletes have benefited from the arrangements, in which around 50 full-time junior athletes have benefited from the integrated and flexible school curriculum offered by four local secondary schools.

The above-mentioned support measures on dual career development would help us identify more junior athletes with sports

potential for full-time training, so as to provide sufficient new forces to elite sports in Hong Kong. With the full support of the HKSI, the number of full-time junior athletes has increased by 452 per cent from 23 in 2007-08 to 127 in 2021-22 (as at August 2021).

(4) The HKSI has been operating the Athlete Lifestyle Support Programme using Government funding to provide athletes with support services including career planning and vocational training. The HKSI has also been providing one-off cash grants to eligible retired athletes through the Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme under the HKAF since 2015. In addition, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) has launched the Retired Athletes Transformation Programme since 2016 to provide retired athletes with employment opportunities in schools and sports organisations. These measures provide support to both able-bodied and disabled retired athletes.

The Social Welfare Department also provides various funding support to athletes with disabilities through the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund, including the employment facilitating grant for eligible retired/retiring athletes so as to assist them in their job attachment or vocational training.

(5) The Government is committed to promoting sports in the community. In 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Government's expenditures on promoting sports in the community were around \$4.3 billion, \$4.8 billion and \$5.1 billion respectively, accounting for approximately 85 per cent of the Government's total expenditure in sports development every year. The estimated expenditure for promoting sports in the community is \$5.4 billion in 2021-22. We have yet to collate estimates for expenditures in the years of 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The HAB, the LCSD, the Education Bureau and the Department of Health actively work with the relevant NSAs, recreation and sports organisations and community groups in organising a wide variety of community sports activities and large-scale sports events across the territory, including the Hong Kong Games, the Sport for All Day, sports training courses, competitions and recreational activities, for people from different social strata, age groups, abilities and interests. In the past three years, the LCSD organised over 79 000 recreation and sports programmes in the community, attracting an attendance of 600 000 people.

To encourage the community to exercise more during the epidemic, the LCSD has launched the Edutainment Channel, a one-stop online resource bank, for the public to access a wide variety of sports demonstration videos at home, and participate in online interactive sports training courses. As at mid-August 2021, 48 sports-related videos have been uploaded to the Edutainment Channel, with a total viewership of around 350 000.

The Government is also committed to promoting the development of sports in schools and encouraging students to develop a habit of exercising regularly. The School Sports Programme (SSP) organised by the LCSD in partnership with various NSAs, is implemented in line with the daily schedule of schools to provide students with progressive sports training. Students may select suitable sports programmes according to their physical fitness level and interests under the SSP. Over the years, the SSP covers nearly 90 per cent of the primary, secondary and special schools in the territory. In the past three years, over 15 900 sports activities were organised at schools, benefitting a total of 1.42 million students.

To understand the latest physical fitness conditions and exercising habits of the public, we have launched a new round of Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community last month, following the Physical Fitness Tests for the Community conducted in 2005 and 2011. Through regular and standardised physical fitness tests, the Government aims at developing a

systematic database on the physical fitness of the people in Hong Kong. It will also facilitate the Government's understanding of the physical fitness conditions of the public for the formulation of appropriate measures for promoting sports in the community. The survey is in progress and is expected to be completed by early next year.

Ends/Wednesday, September 1, 2021  
Issued at HKT 16:20

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**Relevant papers on  
Development of elite sports in Hong Kong**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Panel on Home Affairs	24.6.2019 (Item III)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	18.6.2021 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	27.8.2021 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
Legislative Council	21.7.2021	<a href="#">Official Record of Proceedings (Pages 6 – 16)</a>
	1.9.2021	<a href="#">Official Record of Proceedings (Pages 57 – 61)</a>

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