

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB256

(Question Serial No. 2978)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports; (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), the Government has specific requirements on the ratios of numbers of cultural, recreational and sports facilities against the population, viz. 1 library should be provided for every 20 000 persons, 1 badminton court for every 8 000 persons and 1 multi-purpose sports centre for every 50 000 persons. According to the Projections of Population Distribution 2013-2021 compiled by the Planning Department, Sha Tin District currently has a population of about 650 000, which is expected to rise to about 710 000 by 2021. Regarding the work to continue to oversee the policy and resources allocation on community development work as mentioned in the Estimates, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

Do the recreational facilities and libraries currently available in each area of Sha Tin District meet the respective standards prescribed by the HKPSG? Please list the relevant shortfalls in each of the substandard areas. Are there any plans to provide additional facilities in the substandard areas to bring them up to the standards required? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

In planning new and improved sports and cultural facilities, the Government makes reference to not only the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) but also other relevant considerations including the current provision of sports facilities at the territory-wide and district levels, the policy objective of sports and culture development, utilisation rates of existing facilities, demographic changes, the advice of District Councils, site availability and technical feasibility.

There are 6 sports centres, 3 swimming pool complexes and 3 public libraries in Sha Tin District. Another district library will be fully commissioned by end March 2017. The Sports Centre in Area 24D, Sha Tin is now under construction for completion in 2019.

In the 2017 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced a five-year plan to significantly increase the provision of sports facilities. We plan to earmark \$20 billion for launching 26 projects to develop new or improve existing sports and recreation facilities in different districts. Technical feasibility studies will also be conducted for another 15 sports and recreation facility projects to prepare for their implementation. The Sports Centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan is one of the 26 projects in the five-year plan. Together with the existing provision, the planned facilities to be provided under the five-year plan will bring the overall provision closer to the recommended provision in the HKPSG. The Government will continue to follow up on other projects in Sha Tin District under the established mechanism.

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