

HAB464

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5810)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

In the last National Games, the Hong Kong Water Polo Team managed to enter the final round for the first time and came sixth out of all the teams. However, it still has to share the training venue with the Hong Kong Swimming Team, impeding the development of both teams. Will the Government inform this Committee of whether the two teams will be provided with separate training venues so as to promote the development of water sports? If so, what are the plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 125)

Reply:

To promote and develop sports in Hong Kong, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department provides subvention and venue support to “national sports associations” (NSAs). For major water sports, the relevant NSAs enjoy priority booking of swimming pool facilities. The Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association (HKASA), which is currently managing four types of water sports including swimming, synchronised swimming, water polo and diving, is one of the said NSAs.

Other than the swimming lanes allocated to its members under the coordination and recommendation of HKASA, the diving pool of Kowloon Park Swimming Pool is designated as National Squad Training Centre of HKASA for its national squads training. Besides, training sessions at Wan Chai Swimming Pool for water polo activities in particular are also provided. With the availability of the training facilities, HKASA can provide stable and sustainable training to its athletes. The above arrangement has been implemented for years and is gradually delivering results. Many water sports have attained remarkable achievements in recent years, including the sport of water polo.