

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB136**

**(Question Serial No. 0595)**

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 (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

According to Programme (1), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will in the coming year enhance utilisation of existing sports facilities. What are the details of the initiative, as well as the manpower and expenditures involved respectively? As the actual usage rates of sports grounds in 2018 and 2019 are 99%, it is difficult to further enhance the utilisation of sports grounds. How will the Department address the situation? Has there been any estimation on whether the sports grounds to be built under the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities can meet the public's strong demand for sports grounds? If not, will there be plans to develop more sports grounds?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

To encourage greater use of sports facilities, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to allow concessionary use of the facilities by schools, subvented non-governmental organisations, citizens aged 60 or above and full-time students during non-peak hours. Organisations for people with disabilities can also enjoy concessionary rates at all times. In addition, the LCSD will continue to upgrade the standard of its sports facilities and organise large-scale promotional events such as Sport For All Day, as well as fun days, training courses and competitions to promote the use of facilities. The LCSD carries out the above measures as part of its ongoing work through deployment of existing resources. The Department does not have separate breakdowns of the manpower and expenditures involved in implementing these measures.

Sports grounds managed by the LCSD are available for hire by organisations to hold sports games and athletic training. They are also open to the public for jogging. These facilities have been very popular. In planning new and improved sports facilities, the Government makes reference to not only the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines but also other relevant considerations including the current provision of sports facilities at the territory-wide and district levels, the policy objective of sports development, utilisation rates of existing facilities, demographic changes, the advice of District Councils, site availability and technical feasibility. As announced in the Policy Address published in January 2017,

the Government plans to implement 2 sports ground projects and conduct feasibility studies on the improvement of 2 sports grounds. The LCSD will continue to explore the feasibility of providing more sports grounds.

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