

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB477

(Question Serial No. 5328)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

1. In 2015-16, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to promote the stadia, sports centres, heated swimming pools and jogging tracks in various districts. What are the details and the estimated manpower involved?
2. Will the LCSD continue to convert the existing swimming pools into heated pools or expedite the planned conversion projects? What are the details and the estimated manpower involved?
3. Kwai Chung Park has been lying idle since the completion of construction work in 2000. What is the specific timetable for its opening? Will the LCSD allocate funding in 2015-16 to improve the facilities of the Park so as to bring it up to the required standard for opening to the public? What are the details and the estimated manpower involved?
4. Will the LCSD consider increasing the fees and charges for its facilities and services so as to recover the costs? If so, what are the details and implementation timetable?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 166)

Reply:

1. To encourage greater use of its sports facilities, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) allows free use of selected sports facilities by schools, subvented non-government organisations, "national sports associations" and district sports associations during non-peak hours (i.e., from opening till 5 p.m. on weekdays between September and June of the following year). Moreover, people with disabilities, citizens aged 60 or above and full time students can enjoy concessionary rates in the use of selected sports facilities during peak and non-peak hours. The Department will further promote the use of swimming pools through the Public Swimming Pool Monthly Ticket Scheme. In addition, LCSD will continue to upgrade the standard of its sports facilities

and organise large-scale promotional activities such as Sport For All Day, fun days, training courses and competitions, to promote the use of sports facilities. It will also distribute promotional materials to schools and local organisations to encourage them to use the facilities.

The above measures are carried out as part of the ongoing work of the Department through deployment of existing resources and manpower.

2. LCSD is planning to provide more indoor heated swimming pools through converting or redeveloping existing swimming pools or building new pools to meet the demand for year-round swimming. In this connection, the Department is planning to convert the secondary pool at the Morse Park Swimming Pool into an indoor heated pool, and to redevelop the Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool with its main pool converting into an indoor heated pool upon redevelopment. Details of the projects, including estimated manpower, are being worked out under the established mechanism of the public works programme.
3. To take forward the development of the restored landfill site of the former Kwai Chung Park, LCSD has been working with the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC) of the Kwai Tsing District Council on the proposed scope of facilities to be provided on the site. The DFMC agreed in December 2013 to develop a natural turf cricket and football pitch, a golf driving range, a landscaped garden, a jogging trail, a fitness corner, a children's playground, a community garden and a pet garden on the site. Taking into account the DFMC's views, LCSD has invited the Architectural Services Department to conduct a technical feasibility study on the provision of the proposed facilities on the site. Since the technical feasibility study has yet to be completed, details of the project, including its manpower requirements, are not available at this stage.
4. LCSD is undertaking a comprehensive review of the fees and charges for recreation and sports facilities and services. In conducting the review, LCSD will take into account the policy objectives of sports promotion, the utilisation rates of the facilities, the price elasticity of the LCSD facilities and services, comparable market prices, public affordability and cost recovery rates. Upon the completion of the review, LCSD will put forward the recommendations concerned.

- End -