

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB175

(Question Serial No. 0304)

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 paragraph 152 of the Budget Speech, the Government will allocate \$300 million to upgrade the existing football pitches, including increasing the number of 5-a-side football pitches meeting international standards. What are the details of the plan? What is the manpower involved? According to the List of Hard-surface Football Pitches of the LCSD for 2020, there are 55 5-a-side football pitches in Hong Kong, of which 8 have a court size not meeting FIFA's standards for non-international matches and FIFA's standards for international matches. Will the Department convert these football pitches first? Will all 5-a-side football pitches not meeting the standards for international matches in Hong Kong be converted in the long run? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

With regard to increasing the number of 5-a-side football pitches meeting international standards under the five-year plan for upgrading football pitches, the existing 5-a-side hard-surface football pitches not meeting the standards and the smaller 7-a-side hard-surface football pitches will be converted to standard 5-a-side football pitches; and line markings for one to two 5-a-side football pitches will be added to some of the 7-a-side hard-surface football pitches, so that these pitches can be used for 5-a-side football matches. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department will implement the above-mentioned plan through deployment of existing manpower and is actively exploring, with relevant works departments, the technical feasibility of carrying out improvement works on football pitches, including those with a size not meeting FIFA's standards for international matches and non-international matches. The priority of improvement works will be determined taking into account various relevant factors, such as the actual conditions of football pitches, usage rates of existing football pitches, views from the relevant national sports associations and local community, etc. to provide more football pitches meeting the standards for the public and promote the development of local football.