

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB275

(Question Serial No. 2914)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 in the Programme that the Government would “continue to strengthen the promotion of urban sports to encourage participation of more young people and to identify and nurture junior athletes with relevant potential”. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the information on the promotion of urban sports by the Government in the past year, including the content of the activities held, the numbers of times that the activities were held, the numbers of participants and the expenditure involved;
2. the information on the facilities and venues currently available for conducting urban sports under the Government (please list their locations, attendances, usage rates and numbers of hours used as urban sports venues);
3. whether the Government will explore the construction of more urban sports venues and facilities in the future, and whether consideration will be given to making good use of idle government sites, vacant school premises, rooftops, spaces underneath flyovers and factory buildings by converting them into urban sports venues and leasing them to the relevant parties for use on a short-term basis; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that;
4. the Government's plans, apart from the provision of more venues, to continue strengthening the promotion of urban sports and the relevant estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. Under the Sports Subvention Scheme, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provided subvention to the national sports associations (NSAs) promoting urban sports in 2023-24, including Basketball Association of Hong Kong, China; Football Association of Hong Kong, China; Hong Kong, China Mountaineering and Climbing Union; DanceSport Association of Hong Kong, China; and Hong Kong China Federation of Roller Sports and Skateboarding to organise over 400 activities, including 3-on-3 basketball, futsal, sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding, with a total of about 30 000 participants. Meanwhile, the LCSD organised some 370 urban sports programmes in 2023-24 for about 15 300 participants. Among these programmes are those held in the 9th Hong Kong Games (HKG) between 2023 and 2024, during which the LCSD continues to organise futsal events, replaces 5-on-5 basketball competition with 3-on-3 basketball competition which is more popular among the youth, and introduces new urban sports which are popular among young people, including women's futsal, sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding. The LCSD also organised "The Star-studded Classroom: Elite Athletes' Demonstration and Exchange Programmes" with play-in sessions for futsal, sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding in 2023, during which elite athletes and experienced coaches shared their experience, conducted skill demonstration and exchange, and had play-in sessions with all participants. In addition, in the Corporate Games 2023 held last year, the original 7-a-side soccer competition was replaced by futsal competition. The estimated expenditure on the aforesaid programmes is about \$12.8 million.
2. At present, the facilities available for conducting urban sports under the LCSD include 13 indoor and outdoor sport climbing facilities, some 500 basketball courts, 8 skateboard grounds, 5 skateparks, over 190 dance rooms/multipurpose activity rooms and over 140 5-a-side soccer pitches. Please visit <https://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/USP/facilities.html> for locations of these facilities. Among them, basketball courts, dance rooms/activity rooms, 5-a-side soccer pitches and skateparks are multipurpose facilities. The LCSD does not have a breakdown of the usage of the above facilities for urban sports. Separately, the LCSD does not have information about the usage rates of skateboard grounds, which can be used without booking. As for indoor and outdoor sport climbing facilities, users of which must be trained and have obtained relevant certificates, their average usage rates in 2023 were 32% and 23% respectively.
3. The Government will, when planning new sports facilities (including urban sports facilities) and improving the existing ones, consider various relevant factors, including the current provision of sports facilities across Hong Kong and at the district levels, policy objectives of sports development and utilisation of existing facilities. The LCSD will identify suitable locations for the development of sports facilities through relevant government departments. In the meantime, the Department keeps an open mind about looking into the possibility of implementing other conversion projects, such as the conversion of idle government sites (including vacant school premises and municipal services buildings) into urban sports venues. It is also necessary for the LCSD to take into account a basket of relevant factors, including the locations of idle sites, compatibility of the proposed facilities with the uses and environment of the land in the vicinity, accessibility, site area, whether the internal structures are suitable to be converted into urban sports facilities, as well as views of the NSAs, District Councils

and stakeholders concerned. The conversion of some floors of the Kwun Chung Municipal Services Building into an urban sports centre is one example.

4. Under the Sports Subvention Scheme, the LCSD will continue to provide subvention to the NSAs promoting urban sports in 2024-25, including Basketball Association of Hong Kong, China; Football Association of Hong Kong, China; Hong Kong, China Mountaineering and Climbing Union; DanceSport Association of Hong Kong, China; and Hong Kong China Federation of Roller Sports and Skateboarding to organise urban sports activities. They will co-ordinate participation in overseas competitions and organise locally-hosted international events, sports training programmes, local competitions, as well as staff and referee training with respect to urban sports. Meanwhile, the LCSD plans to organise some 340 programmes covering urban sports, including such events in the 9th HKG as futsal and 3-on-3 basketball competitions, as well as women's futsal, sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding which are featured in the Games as demonstration sports events. The estimated expenditure on the aforesaid programmes is about \$15.8 million.

In addition, under the Urban Sports Funding Scheme (funding scheme), the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) will, with the assistance of The Schools Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China, continue to provide direct funding to primary and secondary schools for organising urban sports training courses. It is anticipated that about 430 training courses will be held in the 2023/24 school year, providing about 8 000 students with an opportunity to take part in urban sports. In the meantime, the CSTB is liaising with the relevant NSAs and organisations to look into the promotion of the funding scheme outside schools. The estimated annual expenditure on the funding scheme is \$16 million.

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