

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB325

(Question Serial No. 2956)

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 stated under this Programme that the Government will continue to strengthen the promotion of urban sports to engage 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 the following:

1. the specific details, numbers of participants and effectiveness of the Government's promotion of urban sports, including 3-on-3 basketball, sport climbing, skateboarding, breaking and futsal, in 2023 and 2024;
2. whether the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), schools and sports organisations have budgeted for the training programmes, competitions and experience programmes of urban sports in the coming year, the expenditure involved and the estimated number of participants;
3. how the Government will provide suitable venues in the community as support for the aforesaid urban sports, and whether that entails enhancing the existing sports centre facilities to facilitate the organisation of relevant training and competitions; if so, the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

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. 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 events of 3-on-3 basketball, futsal, sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding. They include co-ordinating participation in overseas competitions and organising locally-hosted international events, sports training programmes, local competitions, as well as staff and referee training with respect to urban sports, with around 30 000 participants in estimation. Meanwhile, the LCSD plans to organise some 340 programmes covering urban sports for about 12 600 participants, 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.

3. 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.

In general, the LCSD will take into consideration the serviceable lifespan, actual and safety conditions of facilities and views from stakeholders when making facility repair arrangements and prioritising their replacement or renovation in conjunction with relevant works departments with a view to meeting the actual needs. This also applies

to the renovation of existing venues to cater for different types of sports competitions, training and events. Hence, the LCSD does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure on upgrading facilities that are available for conducting urban sports in sports centres.

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