

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB319

(Question Serial No. 2658)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Manda CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government would “continue to strengthen the promotion of urban sports in 2025-26 to encourage participation of more young people in sports and to identify and nurture more athletes with potential”. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the Government's progress in the past 2 years regarding the promotion of, training for and organisation of competitions for 5 urban sports, namely 3-on-3 basketball, breaking, futsal, skateboarding and sport climbing; the number of such activities targeted at young people; and the number of young people attracted to take part in or experience these urban sports;
2. the targeted training and funding for the relevant urban sports provided by the Government, and whether urban sports that are promising will be incorporated into elite sports in future so that more professional support can be obtained; and
3. whether the Government will promote more new sports that are suitable for the public, especially young people, in the community in future. If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. To encourage young people to participate in sports activities and promote urban sports, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) organised a total of over 300 urban sports programmes (including training courses and fun days of 3-on-3 basketball, sport climbing, breaking, skateboarding and futsal) exclusively for young people in the community from 2023-24 to 2024-25, attracting more than 5 000 young participants. In the 9th Hong Kong Games (HKG) in 2023-24, the LCSD continued to organise futsal competition; introduced urban sports which were popular among young people (including sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding) as demonstration competition events; and replaced the 5-on-5 basketball competition with 3-on-3

basketball competition which was more popular among the youth, so as to further increase young people's opportunities of and interest in sports participation. The LCSD also organised "The Star-studded Classroom: Elite Athletes' Demonstration and Exchange Programmes" with play-in sessions for futsal, 3-on-3 basketball, sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding in 2023, during which elite athletes and experienced coaches interacted with young people, shared their experience, conducted skill demonstration and had play-in sessions with them. In the Corporate Games 2023, the 7-a-side soccer competition was also replaced by futsal competition.

To promote the 5 urban sports, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) worked with The Schools Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China (HKSSF) to introduce the Urban Sports Funding Scheme in November 2023, under which funding was provided to primary and secondary schools for organising urban sports training courses. A total of 430 training courses were held in the 2023/24 school year, providing about 8 000 participants with an opportunity to take part in urban sports. Since the 2024/25 school year, apart from continuing to co-operate with the HKSSF to take forward the funding scheme in schools, the CSTB has also been working with the Sport for All Confederation of Hong Kong, China to extend the scheme beyond schools. A total of about 550 training courses are expected to be held, with the aim of providing about 10 000 students and young people with an opportunity to take part in urban sports.

2. Under the Sports Subvention Scheme, the LCSD provided subvention of approximately \$24 million in total to the national sports associations (NSAs) promoting urban sports (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) from 2023-24 to 2024-25 for organising some 1 000 urban sports activities (including local competitions, locally-hosted international events, participation in overseas competitions, sports training programmes, and staff and referee training, covering such sports as 3-on-3 basketball, futsal, sport climbing, breaking and skateboarding), with an estimated attendance of about 70 000.

In 2025-26, the LCSD will continue to provide subvention of approximately \$14 million to the aforesaid NSAs under the Sports Subvention Scheme in support of their organisation of about 700 urban sports events, with an estimated attendance of about 35 000.

Under the Elite Vote Support Scheme, the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) regularly selects high performance elite sports on behalf of the Government according to the scoring criteria, and provides professional and comprehensive support for these sports and their elite athletes. At present, dance sports (including breaking), roller sports (including skateboarding) and mountaineering (including sport climbing) are classified as Tier B sports by HKSI. These sports will be provided with an annual funding of \$2 million for training from HKSI.

3. New sports are gaining popularity in recent years. In 2025-26, the LCSD plans to organise around 100 promotional activities for new sports (including dodgeball, kin-ball, pickleball and tchoukball) in the community, with an estimated attendance of around 3 000 and an estimated expenditure of about \$400,000.

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