

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB128**

**(Question Serial No. 1518)**

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:

While Hong Kong is a city with a population of over 7.5 million, there are only 56 11-a-side football pitches under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). In this year's Budget, the Financial Secretary stated that "The Kai Tak Sports Park, scheduled for completion in 2023, will provide, among others, two main stadiums for hosting both international and local football matches. The Five-year Plan for Sports and Recreational Facilities also includes the construction or reconstruction of 12 football pitches, including the redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium". In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the details of "the construction or reconstruction of 12 football pitches" mentioned in the Budget Speech? Please provide a list of the football pitches to be constructed or reconstructed, the estimates involved and the project schedules.
2. Conceivably, many people in Hong Kong would agree that "it is very difficult to hire the 11-a-side football pitches managed by the LCSD". The core reason is that the number of football pitches in Hong Kong is insufficient against the increasing demand. This gives rise to rampant touting activities and a feeling among the public that "no football pitches will be available to them" if they do not participate in the "touting activities" in Hong Kong. There are also comments that it should not be ruled out that there are people using bots in automatic booking of football pitches or there are organisations making profits by "selling bookings or organising football matches after claiming the pitches". Will the Government step up enforcement actions to eliminate such practices, so as to give football lovers in Hong Kong more opportunities to enjoy football playing?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. In the Policy Address in January 2017, the Government announced the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities which covers 26 projects, including the construction or reconstruction of 12 football pitches. Details of the pitches are as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Construction/ Reconstruction</b>	<b>No. of Football Pitches</b>	<b>Works Commencement Date</b>	<b>Tentative Completion Date</b>
Yau Tsim Mong	Open Space at Hoi Fan Road, Tai Kok Tsui	Construction	1	2021 (Note 1)	2023 (Note 1)
Sha Tin	Amenity Complex in Area 103, Ma On Shan (pre-construction activities) (known as Sports Centre in Area 103, Ma On Shan in the Policy Address in January 2017)	Construction	1	2020	2023
Kwun Tong	Improvement of Hoi Bun Road Park and Adjacent Area (known as Improvement of Hoi Bun Road Park and Adjacent Area, Kwun Tong in the Policy Address in January 2017)	Reconstruction	1	2018	2021
Kwun Tong	Improvement of Lam Wah Street Playground and Adjacent Area (known as Improvement of Lam Wah Street Playground and Adjacent Area, Kwun Tong in the Policy Address in January 2017)	Reconstruction	1	2020	2021-2022 (to be completed in phases)
Yuen Long	Redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium (pre-construction activities)	Reconstruction	1	2019	2022

Yuen Long	Sports Facilities with Public Vehicle Park in Tung Tau Industrial Area, Yuen Long (known as Redevelopment of Tung Tau Industrial Area Playground, Yuen Long in the Policy Address in January 2017)	Reconstruction	2	(Note 2)
Tai Po	Football-cum-Rugby Pitch with Public Vehicle Park in Area 33, Tai Po (known as Football-cum-Rugby Pitch in Area 33, Tai Po in the Policy Address in January 2017)	Construction	1	
Tuen Mun	Sports Ground and Open Space in Area 16, Tuen Mun	Construction	1	
Tuen Mun	Open Space in Area 6, Tuen Mun	Construction	2	
Tuen Mun	Open Space in Area 17, Tuen Mun	Construction	1	

As the pitches form part of the project estimate, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (the LCSD) does not have separate figures on the expenditure for the pitches.

Note 1: The tentative completion date is based on the assumption that funding approval is given by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the first half of 2021.

Note 2: As the projects are at different planning stages, the implementation programme of the projects is being worked out. We will provide details when we consult the relevant LegCo panels and the Public Works Subcommittee, and seek the funding approval of the FC on these projects.

2. Over the years, the LCSD has introduced administrative measures and system enhancements to improve the booking and allocation of sports facilities through the Leisure Link System. Measures implemented include the shortening of the advance booking period for individual hirers; re-registration of Leisure Link Patrons using their Hong Kong Identity Cards (HKID Cards) to prevent hirers from using multiple identity proofs to make booking; cancellation of the “standby” arrangement for turf soccer pitches; tightening the peak period booking quota for individual users; tightening the penalty system for organisations; establishing a penalty system for hirers. To better combat touting activities, the LCSD has also introduced various additional measures in recent years, such as posting the information of cancelled sessions on LCSD website before releasing the available sessions for re-booking on the next day; cessation of the telephone booking system; cessation of booking on behalf of another person using a copy of other’s identity document at Leisure Link booking counters and arranging booking and allocation of turf football pitches by balloting. Besides, hirers must produce the original copies of the identity documents used for registration at the check-in counters for verification and registration before using the facilities. The LCSD will continue to monitor the situation and actively explore the feasibility of introducing more measures to combat touting.

- End -