

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB183

(Question Serial No. 0451)

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:

As mentioned in the Budget Speech Paragraph 152, the Financial Secretary has mentioned that the Government “will earmark \$318 million to implement a five-year plan for upgrading over 70 football pitches under the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department, including substantially increasing the number of 5-a-side football pitches meeting international standards, exploring the possibility of expanding the existing football pitches into standard 11-a-side turf pitches and expediting the replacement of artificial turf on football pitches”. Under this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. the breakdowns of location, construction timetable and completion date of the football pitches upgrading projects involved;
2. what kind of measures will the Government adopt in order to combat touting activities (i.e. updating book system, presenting an identity document with a photograph for verification)?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

1. Regarding the implementation of a five-year plan for upgrading football pitches, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is actively exploring, with the relevant works departments, the technical feasibility of carrying out improvement works, having regard to various factors including the actual conditions of football pitches, usage rates of existing football pitches, views from national sports associations and local community, etc. in drawing up the details of the improvement works, including the locations, priority and timetable involved. More than 70 venues under the management of the LCSD are expected to be involved.
2. Over the years, the LCSD has introduced administrative measures and system enhancements to improve the booking and allocation of sports facilities under its management. 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 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; and establishing a penalty system for hirers. To better combat touting activities, the LCSD has introduced various additional measures in recent years, such as posting the information of cancelled sessions on the 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 explore the introduction of more measures to combat touting activities.

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