

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB216

(Question Serial No. 2254)

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 Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

Sports centres under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are the main choices of sports venues for the public. Nevertheless, the ancillary facilities of these sports centres still have room for improvement. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the number of sports centres accepting payment of hire charges by Octopus and the ratio of such centres to the total number of sports centres across the territory; the estimated time of extending the Octopus payment method to all sports centres;
2. any resources set aside by the LCSD to expedite the addition of equipment for more electronic payment platforms such as Alipay, PayMe and WeChat Pay to make payments more convenient for the public; the extra annual expenditure involved for the additional payment platforms;
3. the number of sports centres without air-conditioning and the ratio of such centres to the total number of sports centres across the territory; the respective numbers in Sha Tin and Tai Po, whether there are any plans to expedite the provision of air-conditioners and the relevant details; and
4. the plans of upgrading the facilities of the sports centres in Sha Tin and Tai Po in the coming year, and the details about such plans.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. & 2. At present, the majority of hirers booking fee-charging sports and recreation facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) pay with multiple e-payment methods via the Leisure Link online booking system or its mobile version. A small portion of hirers pay by Octopus at the 46 self-service kiosks (21 of them are installed at sports centres and such centres make up 20% of the total number of sports centres across the territory), or by cash at booking counters. The

LCSD is pressing ahead with the development of the new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system (SmartPLAY) to replace the existing Leisure Link computerised booking system. SmartPLAY will support more e-payment methods, including the Faster Payment System, Apple Pay and Google Pay, and Octopus payment will be available at the smart self-service stations set up at leisure venues. SmartPLAY is expected to commence operation in the second half of 2023. Members of the public will then have more e-payment methods to choose from. It is planned that payment by relevant Mainland e-payment tools, such as Alipay and WeChat Pay, will be available in 2024. Actual information on the extra expenditure involved for the additional e-payment platforms is currently not available as it depends on the usage of the new system after its launch. The estimated annual e-payment transaction fee is \$5 million.

3. Out of the 105 sports centres currently managed by the LCSD, 7 of them use mechanical ventilating systems, amounting to about 6.6% of the total number of sports centres across the territory. As far as Fu Shin Sports Centre in Tai Po and Heng On Sports Centre and Hin Keng Sports Centre in Sha Tin are concerned, their multipurpose arenas are situated within shopping centres of housing estates. Due to such constraints as power supply, power capacity and venue space, it is not technically feasible to install air-conditioning systems at those arenas.
4. Replacement of spectator stands at Mei Lam Sports Centre and Hin Keng Sports Centre in Sha Tin will be carried out in the coming year. As for Tai Po, the LCSD will also carry out refurbishment works to the fitness room of Fu Shin Sports Centre, flooring and walls of the arena of Tai Wo Sports Centre, and the activity room and squash courts of Fu Heng Sports Centre.

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