

MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS COMMITTEE

Proposed Multi-Purpose Stadium in South East Kowloon

INTRODUCTION

This paper invites Members' comments on the proposal of developing a multi-purpose stadium in South East Kowloon (SEK).

BACKGROUND

2. In line with our vision to build a strong sporting culture in the community as well as raise Hong Kong's international profile in sports, consideration is being given to developing a major multi-purpose stadium as a focus of sports activities in Hong Kong. In this connection, the Sports Commission (SC), at its meeting held on 10 May 2005, discussed the proposal of developing a multi-purpose stadium in Kai Tak to tie in with the SEK development. Initial design concepts, key features and critical issues are set out in the paper at Annex.

KEY DELIBERATIONS BY THE SPORTS COMMISSION

3. In considering the paper, SC made the following key deliberations:-
- (a) the proposed multi-purpose stadium could become a landmark sport facility and a focus of sports activities in Hong Kong. It could help create an identity for Hong Kong as an ideal place to hold international sports events;
 - (b) as the proposed multi-purpose stadium would be a large-scale project involving heavy capital investment and operating expenses, it would be prudent to examine carefully the long term sustainability and utilisation, in terms of the number and types of events that could be held. It was suggested that, in addition to holding major sports events and games, other large scale activities

such as exhibitions and conferences could also be staged in the proposed venue;

- (c) the proposed multi-purpose stadium should not be viewed as a standalone project, but should complement the adjoining developments (and vice versa) to enhance the overall attractiveness and viability of the area. In this respect, the stadium, together with other commercial, entertainment and sports facilities could be integrated together into a “sport city” where patrons can enjoy a wide range of services and participate in various recreational and sports activities;
- (d) the opportunity should be taken to offer high quality sports facilities for training of elite athletes in Hong Kong. There have been suggestions in the sports sector for the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) to be located in the proposed stadium. This should be further explored; and
- (e) concerns were raised on the need for transport link and network to enhance accessibility of the venue. The operating mode, including the possibility of involving private sector participation and collaboration in the running and management of the venue, was also raised for further consideration.

4. With the above remarks, SC agreed that in-depth discussion should be made by the three Committees (i.e. Community Sports Committee, Elite Sports Committee and the Major Sports Events Committee) from their respective perspectives. In general, each Committee is invited to give comments and recommendations on the following issues:

- (a) whether the proposal of developing a multi-purpose stadium in Hong Kong should be supported, and, if so, the justifications for doing so;
- (b) whether the proposed multi-purpose stadium should be located in Kai Tak and to tie in with the overall development in SEK;
- (c) how the issues outlined in paragraph 8 of the attached paper could be addressed; and

- (d) any other issues the Committee would recommend the Government should examine in pursuing the stadium project.

5. For the Major Sports Events Committee, members are invited to formulate recommendation(s) with respect to the events that could be staged in the stadium to enhance viability.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members of Major Sports Events Committee are invited to:-
- (a) note the deliberation of SC on the proposal of developing a multi-purpose stadium in SEK (paragraph 3);
 - (b) comment on the issues as set out in paragraph 4 above (including the key issues as outlined in paragraph 8 of the paper at Annex);
 - (c) advise on the events that could be staged in the stadium to enhance viability and sustainability of the stadium (paragraph 5); and
 - (d) advise on any other key issues that Government should consider in relation to the proposed stadium development.

Major Sports Events Committee Secretariat
June 2005