

## **Consultation with Kowloon City, Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin District Councils on Kai Tak Multi-purpose Sports Complex (MPSC)**

### **Gist of Discussion**

Representatives of the Home Affairs Bureau briefed Members of the Kowloon City, Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin District Councils on progress with the MPSC project on 12 December 2013, 16 and 21 January 2014 respectively. Members generally spoke in support of the project and requested its early implementation, although they also raised questions and concerns regarding the project. Their views are summarised below.

#### *Purpose and future operation of the MPSC*

- (a) The operation of the MPSC should be in line with the Government's sports policy;
- (b) The operation of the MPSC should be sports-oriented and the venues should not be used mainly for entertainment events;
- (c) As well as hosting international and other major sports events, the venues at the MPSC should also be made available for schools' competitions and public use; and
- (d) The Government should aim to maximise the potential of the MPSC to achieve economic benefits.

#### *Procurement and financing*

- (a) Whilst there was general support for procuring and financing the MPSC through the Public Works Programme (PWP) and engaging private sector expertise in the long-term operation, there was also one suggestion that the Government could adopt a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model to finance the MPSC, in order to encourage innovative ideas from the private sector; and

- (b) Concern was expressed that the future private sector operator should not be driven purely by profit, thereby deviating from the objective of maximising public access to the MPSC.

#### *Transportation*

- (a) The importance of effective crowd control and transportation arrangements was noted, and it was felt that underground or multi-storey car parking spaces should be provided; and
- (b) There were diverse views on whether there should be an Environmentally Friendly Linkage System station at the MPSC.

#### *Interface with surrounding areas*

- (a) Members felt that the Government could explore the feasibility of developing underground facilities such as storage areas and underground streets with good connections to other districts in East Kowloon with a view to promoting economic activity;
- (b) Members considered that there should be a good interface and continuity with nearby features such as the Kai Tak River and the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge. The end of the apron area could be used for leisure activities such as fishing; and
- (c) More public housing - rather than hotels - should be built in areas with good access to the MPSC.

#### *“National sports associations” (NSAs)*

- (a) NSAs and athletes should be consulted on the design of the MPSC, and priority should be given to allocating office space to NSAs; and
- (b) Training bases for NSAs should be provided at the MPSC.

### *Design and Scope*

- (a) The MPSC should have a distinctive, world-class design. This would help attract visitors – also more commercial elements should be added to attract visitors to the MPSC;
- (b) Members considered that the design should be as environmentally friendly as possible, using natural light and solar panels to reduce consumption of electricity, as well as providing extensive greenery within the complex;
- (c) Greenery should be increased on the roof of the Main Stadium. A single species of flowers or plants could be planted in the area to build up a distinctive image for the MPSC;
- (d) There were diverse views on the retractable roof – whilst some members were concerned that this might be expensive and difficult to manage, others supported such a feature, and it was observed that retractable roofs in stadiums elsewhere in the world were more sophisticated than the current proposed design;
- (e) Members noted the importance of noise control, especially if entertainment events were to be held at the Main Stadium. In this regard, the retractable roof would help to reduce noise nuisance to the surrounding areas;
- (f) Some Members cautioned that the design of the MPSC should not cause adverse effects to nearby districts, for example, if reflective materials were used for the retractable roof this could generate a “heat island” effect. Also buildings should not block ventilation;
- (g) Members commented that it was important to minimise the distance and create easy access between the different components of the MPSC (in particular, between competition venues and warm-up areas);

- (h) Members felt that the Government should consider providing accommodation for athletes at the MPSC, and that; ancillary facilities such as lounges for athletes should be provided;
- (i) Some members suggested that facilities for cycling, swimming and water sports also be provided at the complex, and that the proposed cycle track network within Kai Tak development be linked to facilities within the MPSC ;
- (j) Noting the unsatisfactory experience of the Hong Kong Stadium, Members cautioned that the turf pitch at the Main Stadium of the MPSC should be properly managed; and
- (k) It was suggested that the Government make reference to stadiums elsewhere in the world when preparing the design.

*Further consultation*

- (a) Members asked that transportation and infrastructure issues be discussed at the meetings of other relevant committees under the District Councils; and
- (b) It was suggested that committees be set up to allow District Council Members and the public to be involved in monitoring the development of the MPSC project.

*Existing sports venues*

- (a) Members felt that the use of the Hong Kong Stadium and the Hong Kong Coliseum should be reviewed upon development of the MPSC; and
- (b) It was noted that construction of the MPSC would help ease the shortfall in the provision of sports facilities in East Kowloon.

*Others*

- (a) Members commented that in addition to providing sports facilities, government support for elite athletes is also important.

**Home Affairs Bureau**  
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