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The Olympic Games is a major international event held every four years. The XXIX Olympics to be held in 2008 will be the first Olympics ever held on Chinese soil. Hong Kong is honoured to be chosen as a co-host city of 2008 Beijing Olympics. The HKSAR Government is pressing ahead with the preparation of the XXIX Olympic and XIII Paralympic Equestrian Events, which will be held respectively in August and September this year.

A Home Affairs Bureau spokesman said today (January 19),"Being a co-host city for the Olympics this year, Hong Kong has the obligation to ensure that the relevant Olympic activities will proceed in a safe, peaceful and smooth manner. Olympic Games is a solemn international sport event, and should not be used for any political or religious propaganda."

"The HKSAR Government does not welcome any persons who damage the solemnity of the Olympics or disrupt the smooth proceeding of the relevant Olympic activities in Hong Kong," the spokesman added.

Ends/Saturday, January 19, 2008