

## LCQ11: The Fifth East Asian Games

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Following is a question by Hon Tanya Chan and a written reply by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, in the Legislative Council today (June 3):

Question:

The Fifth East Asian Games will be held in Hong Kong in December this year. Most of the construction or improvement works for the competition complexes and venues have been completed, and the Second Hong Kong Games held in May this year also used some of the venues. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(a) whether problems were found in the facilities of the relevant venues during the Hong Kong Games held last month; if so, of the details and follow-up work; whether the authorities will hold competitions at other relevant complexes and venues to test if the relevant facilities are operating normally; if they will not, of the reasons for that;

(b) given that there are press reports that there are still the problems of water leaking from the ceiling and insufficient warm-up pool facilities after completion of the improvement works at the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool, whether the Government will follow up and make improvements; if it will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(c) given that every day at present a large number of heavy vehicles (such as refuse collection vehicles) use Wan Po Road next to the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, of the Government's estimated daily traffic volume in that road section during the East Asian Games, and whether it will adopt measures to alleviate the impact of air pollution and noise caused by the traffic on the competitions to be held at that venue; if it will, of the details; and

(d) of the existing channels through which the authorities collect the views of various sports associations, athletes, staff, referees, the media and the public on the complexes and venues of the East Asian Games; whether the authorities will carry out the relevant improvement works in response to such views; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply :

Mr President,

(a) The Opening Ceremony and the finals of some of the sports competitions of the Second Hong Kong Games (HKG) held in May this year were staged at the competition venues of the Fifth East Asian Games (EAG). The details are as follows:

Venue	HKG sports events	EAG sports events
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Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	Opening Ceremony and Athletics	Athletics
Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	Swimming	Swimming
Western Park Sports Centre	Basketball	Basketball
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	Badminton	Badminton
Victoria Park Tennis Court	Tennis	Tennis

During the HKG events, the overall operation of the venues generally ran smoothly, although a few items of equipment, such as the newly-installed LED scoreboards, will require fine-tuning to achieve a better performance. We will quickly conduct the necessary fine-tuning to ensure that the equipment will achieve the optimum performance during the EAG events.

The 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited (EAG Company), in conjunction with relevant National Sports Associations (NSAs), will hold test events at EAG competition venues in the coming months to prepare for the smooth running of the EAG.

(b) The Kowloon Park Swimming Pool (KPSP) was completed and commissioned in 1989. As a result of ageing and damage over the years, water seepage has occurred at part of the ceiling of the pool. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has closely monitored this seepage problem. In order to solve the problem, LCSD has requested the Architectural Services Department (ASD) to replace the ceiling boards and improve the drain sumps at the swimming pool. The necessary works are scheduled to start in June and to be completed before November this year.

The upgrading works for the KPSP which had been completed at the end of 2008 included the conversion of the old indoor leisure pool into a training and warm-up pool and the enlargement of the pool deck to provide stretching space to meet the needs of athletes. During the planning of the project, we have consulted the relevant NSA and reached a consensus on the layout of the facilities. The converted training and warm-up pool and the stretching area meet the needs of the NSA and other users.

(c) At present, the vehicular traffic flow on Wan Po Road next to the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (TKOSG) is estimated at over 20,000 vehicles per day. The athletics competitions of the Second HKG were held at the sports ground in May and there were no reports of the competitions being affected by the traffic on Wan Po Road. Nevertheless, the LCSD will, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association and the departments concerned, continue to monitor closely the utilisation of that section of road. If there is any likelihood of an adverse impact on the events that will take place at the TKOSG, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the smooth running of the EAG events.

(d) The Government has consulted the relevant NSAs and District Councils when it began the design and construction of the new TKOSG and the upgrading of facilities in 13 existing government venues for the EAG. During the course of the construction works and before the opening or re-opening of the venues, we have arranged site visits and meetings jointly with the EAG Company and the relevant NSAs to ensure that all facilities comply with the requirements of the events.

Upon completion of the projects, we have invited media organisations to tour some of the venues. The EAG Company will work with the relevant NSAs to hold test events at individual venues in the coming few months, in order to collect further views from athletes, referees and operational staff on the facilities at the EAG

venues. We will follow up on any views put forward in order to perfect arrangements at the venues.

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