

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2062/00-01  
(These minutes have been seen by  
the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

**LegCo Panel on Home Affairs**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 13 March 2001 at 2:30 pm**  
**in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members Present** : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo (Chairman)  
Hon CHOY So-yuk (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP  
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP

**Member Attending** : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

**Members Absent** : Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP  
Hon WONG Sing-chi

**Public Officers Attending** : Item IV  
Mr LAM Yiu-tong  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture)2  
Ms CHOI Suk-kuen  
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture)  
Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi  
Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services  
(Performing Arts)

Item V

Mr Francis LO  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (5)

Mr LAM Yiu-tong  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture)2

Ms Lolly CHIU  
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services  
(Administration)

Mr Christopher WILLIAMS  
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)

**Clerk in Attendance** : Miss Flora TAI  
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

**Staff in Attendance** : Mr Stanley MA  
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)6

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The Chairman informed members that Prof NG Ching-fai had withdrawn from the Home Affairs Panel on 1 March 2001.

**I. Confirmation of minutes**

[LC Paper No. CB(2)960/00-01]

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2001 were confirmed.

**II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

3. Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

**III. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)1027/00-01]

4. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 10 April 2001 —

- (a) Enhancing sports facilities; and

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- (b) Intermediary body for the collection of maintenance payments.

[*Post meeting note:* The Panel subsequently decided that the next meeting should be rescheduled to Friday, 20 April 2001. A new item on “Culture and Heritage Commission Consultation Paper” was included in the agenda whereas discussion on item 4(b) above was deferred to a future meeting.]

5. Members noted that although Legislative Council (LegCo) Members had requested the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review of the Building Management Ordinance without delay, the Administration had only undertaken to review the Ordinance within one year. In this connection, Mr Albert HO suggested that the Panel should set up a subcommittee to discuss with the Administration the review of the Ordinance in order to expedite the process. The Chairman, Mr Andrew WONG, Miss Cyd HO and Mr Albert CHAN expressed support for Mr Albert HO’s suggestion and indicated their intention to join the subcommittee. The Chairman therefore instructed the Clerk to follow up the arrangement for setting up the subcommittee.

6. Referring to members’ discussion on the issue of rural elections at the special meeting held on 26 February 2001, the Chairman invited members’ views on how to follow up the discussion. Mr Andrew WONG remarked that the Panel should continue the discussion when the Administration came up with a substantive proposal. Miss Cyd HO suggested that members of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services should be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss whether the Administration’s proposal complied with the judgement of the Court of Final Appeal.

**IV. Free entertainment programmes organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**  
[Paper No. CB(2)1027/00-01(01)]

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture) (DDLCS(C)) gave a brief account of the major contents of the Administration’s paper.

Programmes organised in rural areas

8. Mr IP Kwok-him enquired about the venue arrangements for staging regular free entertainment programmes. He expressed concern about the possible reduction of such programmes in rural areas of the New Territories on ground of cost-effectiveness and asked about the number of such programmes.

9. DDLCS(C) responded that the formats and venues for organising regular free entertainment programmes were currently determined in consultation with District Councils (DCs). In 2001/02, in order to enable more people to enjoy free entertainment programmes, LCSD would stage these programmes at about

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250 venues, including open spaces at remote villages so that elderly villagers could also enjoy the programmes. However, attendance to programmes held at remote venues had been on the low side. LCSD was reviewing the organisation of free entertainment programmes with a view to transferring the less popular programmes held at remote places to strategically located venues to enhance their cost-effectiveness. Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Performing Arts) (ADLCS(PA)) added that normally attendance to programmes held in rural areas was on average below 100. There were some 40 such programmes in 2001-02.

Special events jointly presented with other organisations

10. Mr IP Kwok-him enquired about the arrangements and criteria for special events jointly presented with other organisations. He said that the “Japan Airlines (JAL) Sky School” jointly presented by LCSD, JAL and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) had been very successful. LCSD should discuss with these organisations the possibility of co-hosting more such events. He also suggested that LCSD should liaise with large organisations on the feasibility of co-hosting similar events.

11. DDLCS(C) responded that LCSD had collaborated with large organisations in staging four special events, namely, the two annual fireworks displays, “JAL Sky School” and “Concert in the Park” which was presented jointly with the Consulate General of the Philippines. There were backgrounds and reasons behind the presentation and sponsorship of each of these events. LCSD was responsible for providing manpower, publicity and technical support for the organisation of these events whereas the co-presenters were responsible for the production or programme costs. She pointed out that the feasibility of staging more similar events or activities depended largely on the number of suitable organisations which would put forward proposals and provide sponsorship. LCSD would explore with JAL and TVB on the possibility of organising more “JAL Sky School”. At present, LCSD was exploring with Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTR) the feasibility of presenting some entertainment programmes at MTR stations with large passenger flow after office hours so that passers-by could enjoy the programmes as they liked. Furthermore, consideration would be given to allocating more resources to stage some free entertainment programmes at the Hong Kong International Airport for both local people and tourists to enjoy.

Fostering of upcoming artists/performing arts groups

12. Mr Albert CHAN expressed concern about the development of talented performing artists. He pointed out that while LCSD had devoted substantial resources to providing various free entertainment programmes every year, it did not provide opportunities for the younger generation to develop their talents in arts. He suggested that LCSD should make better use of the resources by staging regular arts programmes at suitable time slots and fixed locations so that young people could gather together and give full play to their potentials in arts.

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Citing an example, he said that on Saturdays from 8 to 10 pm, people would voluntarily gather at some places in Tsuen Wan to appreciate or participate in some recreational activities presented on a spontaneous basis.

13. DDLCS(C) responded that the arts policy of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government was to create a free and favourable environment for arts performance and creativity with a view to encouraging more people in the community to participate in arts activities. Through funding, education and publicity at different levels, the Administration had promoted and encouraged the development of various arts performing groups and arts forms. Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts was responsible for training talented performing artists, and LCSD, DCs and Hong Kong Arts Development Council provided subsidies on various arts performances and cultural activities so that both professional and amateur arts groups could have the opportunity to stage performance. These programmes and activities included the 670 regular free entertainment programmes organised by LCSD, and local cultural activities and schemes such as the Cultural Ambassador Scheme and Artist-In-Residence Scheme organised by DCs to encourage public participation. She pointed out that LCSD would consider Mr Albert CHAN's suggestions. Meanwhile, LCSD would re-deploy sources and consult DCs and organisations concerned to provide more arts performances and cultural activities.

14. Mr Albert CHAN expressed disappointment about the response made by DDLCS(C). He pointed out that the organisations and activities mentioned were within the ambit of the Government's overall arts and cultural policy and had received substantial funding. He emphasized that LCSD should make better use of public funds allocated for organising free entertainment programmes to create an environment which would foster the growth of roving street culture and performances and provide young people with more opportunities to give full play to their potentials in arts.

15. In response, DDLCS(C) pointed out that the Administration had endeavoured to foster talented artists and arts performing groups in various domains at district level such as the Shatin Theatre Company. She added that as far as regular free entertainment programmes were concerned, the subsidy per spectator for 2001/02 would be HK\$28. In response to Mr Fred LI's further question, ADLCS(PA) added that the budgeted administrative expenses for providing these entertainment programmes were HK\$12.5 million whereas the direct production costs were HK\$21.6 million. Therefore, the total expenditure for the year would be in the region of HK\$34.1 million.

16. Mr Andrew WONG suggested that the Administration should consider providing fixed open spaces and time slots for arts performing groups to apply for a series of practice and performance over a certain period of time. He considered that such arrangements would facilitate the development of arts and culture as a whole and that members of the public would have more opportunities to participate in and appreciate free cultural programmes.

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17. DDLCS(C) responded that arts organisations could submit specific proposals to LCSD for consideration. LCSD would consider each proposal having regard to the applicant's artistic attainment and organisational skills and other relevant factors. She pointed out that similar arrangements had been made before whereby a number of venues were designated for arts performing groups to apply for staging performances. However, the response of arts organisations was not as enthusiastic as anticipated. Implementation of the arrangements was subsequently discontinued after a review of the utilisation and popularity of the venues.

Criteria and consultation for determining programme types and numbers

18. Mr Fred LI remarked that the regular free entertainment programmes as set out in Annex II to the Administration's paper were in no way different from those organised by the two former provisional municipal councils (PMCs). He asked what additional entertainment programmes had been introduced since LCSD assumed the responsibilities of the two former PMCs. In response, DDLCS(C) pointed out that LCSD from time to time drew up new programmes ideas to enrich the overall programmes which were listed in paragraph 13 of the paper.

19. Mr Fred LI pointed out that out of the 670 free entertainment programmes provided by LCSD, 331 programmes were Chinese traditional programmes which included 63 Cantonese operas and 77 Cantonese operatic songs. He considered that LCSD should let local groups organise these programmes so as to save its administrative costs. He added that some opera troupes would be pleased to stage free performances and sponsor the organisation of such performances. DDLCS(C) responded that LCSD understood that Cantonese operatic songs and Cantonese operas were popular with local residents, particularly elderly people. She pointed out that LCSD had subsidised, through the "district activities funding scheme", various arts performing groups to stage such types of performances at district level. Mr LI emphasized that LCSD should make better use of resources because he believed that those arts performing groups would be pleased to stage Chinese operas without being subsidised.

20. Miss Cyd HO expressed support for staging free entertainment programmes for the elderly in rural areas. However, she pointed out that it was disproportionate to have only 97 free entertainment programmes organised for children. She queried the criteria adopted by LCSD for providing free entertainment programmes for different social groups, as well as the funding criteria of the "district activities funding scheme".

21. DDLCS(C) pointed out that one of the major purposes of providing free entertainment programmes was to bring regular and varied entertainment to all walks of life in their neighbourhood. Nevertheless, programmes provided for the younger generation were not restricted to those free entertainment programmes. LCSD had organised other major recreational activities such as

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the “International Arts Carnival” which provided a series of entertainment programmes and activities for young people and children to participate together with their parents. She added that some of the Chinese traditional programmes, such as Chinese traditional stage art show and Chinese traditional puppet show, were also suitable for children. Miss Cyd HO pointed out that she was concerned about the lack of programmes specifically designed for children.

22. The Chairman pointed out that Members of the Legislative Council and members of the Wanchai District Council (WDC) held a meeting on 14 December 2000. At the meeting, members of the WDC said that the former provisional urban council would usually consult the former district boards (DB) and consider the views of relevant DB members before formulating the district recreational and cultural programmes. However, LCSD had formulated the programmes without consulting the DCs. DDLCS(C) noted the views. She added that LCSD would furnish DCs with the programme schedules and audience figures after formulating the programmes, and send representatives to attend meetings of the Recreation and Cultural Committees under DCs to collect DC members’ views on the programmes.

23. Miss Cyd HO enquired about the criteria for determining the events and budget for organising the 670 free entertainment programmes for the 18 Districts in 2001/02. She was also concerned about the role of DCs in the determination of the programme events and the process of resource allocation. She considered that LCSD should consult the cultural sector in respect of the types and contents of the entertainment programmes. Miss HO requested LCSD to provide a paper on the criteria for determining programme events and subvention of organizations, and the funding mechanism. The Chairman also considered that LCSD should determine the types of entertainment programmes in accordance with the needs of different social groups in the community. Echoing the views of Miss Cyd HO, he also urged LCSD to provide more programmes specifically designed for children.

24. Responding to Miss Cyd HO’s request, DDLCS(C) explained that in allocating the HK\$9.6 million for organising free entertainment programmes in the 18 districts, LCSD would consider the demographic profile and geographical environment in each of the 18 districts to determine the number of programmes for each district. At the district level, LCSD would consult the local communities and residents. Since the review was still in progress, LCSD would put forward proposals at an appropriate time to consult DCs and local affairs advisors including people in the cultural sector.

25. Mr WU King-cheong suggested that LCSD should consider organising some additional major free entertainment programmes on public holidays. He was of the view that attendance to such programmes would be greater and the average amount of subsidy would be lower. To encourage greater participation, LCSD should consider organising some major events on 1 July every year i.e. HKSAR Establishment Day. DDLCS(C) responded that Mr WU’s suggestion

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would be considered in LCSD's current review of the organisation of free entertainment programmes.

26. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that since LCSD had already assumed the responsibilities of the two former PMCs in the provision of recreational and cultural services, it should endeavour to promote the long-term development of folk arts and culture. It should consider providing fixed venues and time slots, and proactively encouraging various arts performing groups to make use of these venues for practising or staging performances. He agreed that the initial response of arts performing groups might not be satisfactory. With appropriate arrangements and publicity, more arts performing groups would make use of these free resources in the long run. With increasing attendance of spectators over time, a new ground for cultural and arts performances would be established.

**V. Policy on the construction of community facilities**

[Paper Nos. CB(2)48/00-01(02), CB(2)1027/00-01(02) and (03)]

27. At the invitation of the Chairman, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (5) (PAS/HA(5)) introduced the Administration's paper.

Community halls

28. Mr Fred LI expressed concern about the plan to re-provision community halls. He pointed out that as the facilities of some existing community halls were outdated, their usage rates were low. The Administration should make an early decision as to which community halls needed to be re-provisioned. He also asked why some old community halls situated within estates were not re-provisioned in the context of the redevelopment plans of the respective estates.

29. Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2) (AD/HA(2)) responded that the Home Affairs Department (HAD) was planning 13 community hall projects in conjunction with relevant departments and would shortly seek the funding approval of LegCo for five of the projects. These projects were intended to upgrade the facilities of the community halls concerned with a view to increasing their usage rates. He concurred that the conditions of some old community halls were not suitable for carrying out improvement works. In fact, HAD had planned to re-provision four relatively old community halls in Kwun Tong, Lei Muk Shue, Sau Mau Ping and Tsuen Wan to meet the present needs of the community and improve the quality of life of local residents. As for the old community halls situated within estates for redevelopment, HAD would endeavour to arrange improvement works concurrent with the redevelopment schedule. However, he pointed out that given the constraints on deployment of resources or the need for continuous community services, individual old community halls situated within the estates for redevelopment might have to be demolished and re-provisioned after the commissioning of the new community halls.



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30. Mr IP Kwok-him asked about the usage rates of community halls. In response, PAS(HA)5 pointed out that usage rates of community halls varied in different time slots of the day. Generally speaking, the usage rates of community halls were around 80% to 90% on Saturdays, Sundays and in the evening time slots of normal weekdays but were lower for the rest of their opening hours on normal weekdays. Overall speaking, the average usage rate of the 70-odd community halls throughout the territory was about 60%. AD/HA(2) added that HAD was holding discussions with its district offices on ways to achieve higher usage rates of community halls, including re-scheduling of some activities for the elderly, housewives and children to non-peak time slots.

31. Mr IP Kwok-him asked whether the Administration would consider giving priority to rebuild the community halls in the Islands district such as the one on Cheung Chau. AD/HA(2) responded that HAD's application for funds to re-provision the community hall on Cheung Chau was rejected. HAD had now obtained the consent of the Islands District Council to carry out improvement works for the indoor games hall in the district so that some of the existing facilities could be converted to provide the required community facilities and services. HAD had also undertaken to continue the follow-up on re-provisioning of the community hall on Cheung Chau.

## Civic centres

32. The Chairman pointed out that the Administration was reviewing the construction and operating costs, as well as utilization of existing facilities with a view to formulating a policy of providing civic centres. He asked about the progress of the review and the role of the Culture and Heritage Commission (CHC) in the review. The Chairman expressed utmost disappointment that the Administration had delayed time and again making a decision on the construction of Tai Po Civic Centre on the excuse that its consultation with CHC was still underway. Sharing the Chairman's concern, Miss Cyd HO pointed out that CHC was a high-level advisory body responsible for advising the Government on cultural policies and funding priorities. She queried whether CHC would advise the Government on the provision of individual civic centres.

33. Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture) 2 (PAS/HA(C)2) said that the Administration would commission a consultancy firm by tender to study and review the policy of providing civic centres. It was expected that the whole process would take nine to 12 months to complete. He pointed out that the Administration would need to take CHC's advice into consideration before deciding the standards and policy for provision of civic centres.

## New planning standards for cultural and leisure facilities

34. Mr Fred LI pointed out that the Administration had undertaken to study the feasibility of streamlining the standards and guidelines set out in the Hong

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Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) with those adopted by the former PMCs. In this regard, he asked about the progress of the comprehensive review of the planning standards for leisure and cultural facilities.

35. In response, Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Administration) (DDLCS(Adm)) said that LCSD was actively following up the 160 outstanding capital works projects of the former PMCs, and was consulting the 18 DCs on the relative priorities for the 149 projects involving leisure and cultural facilities.

36. Miss Cyd HO asked whether LCSD, apart from following up the former PMCs' 160 capital work projects which were under various stages of planning, had planned any new projects since its assumption of the responsibility for planning and provisioning of community leisure and cultural facilities. She was concerned that in addition to pursuing with the two major development projects in South East Kowloon and North West Kowloon, LCSD had not planned the provision of any new leisure and cultural facilities at the district level in the past 14 months.

37. In response, DDLCS(Adm) pointed out that LCSD was consulting the 18 DCs the planning of and the need for community leisure and cultural facilities, and had agreed to consider some new proposals. LCSD would continue to maintain contact with DCs to keep abreast of the needs of the community. She added that LCSD had considered providing new leisure and cultural facilities at the district level and such facilities were still at a preliminary planning stage. Given the manpower constraint, LCSD would have to give priorities to projects of the former PMCs.

38. PAS/HA(C)2 pointed out that the 160 outstanding projects of the former PMCs would incur a total cost of more than \$20 billion. With an annual budget of around \$2 billion then, even the former PMCs would need 10 to 12 years to complete the 160 projects. However, he stressed that while the Administration had pooled its resources to take forward the 160 capital projects in the past 14 months, it had continued to consult DCs on new demands and recommendations in respect of community facilities. He added that the 160 capital projects were approved by the former PMCs after years of deliberations and consultations, the majority of which were of great urgency and importance.

39. Miss Cyd HO expressed disappointment that the Administration had shied away from responding to the question about the planning of new community facilities in the past 14 months. In this connection, the Chairman suggested that LCSD should provide the Panel with a paper setting out the details of and the planning criteria for new leisure and cultural facilities under consideration.

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**VI. Any other business**

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:20 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat  
13 July 2001