

Briefing to LegCo Welfare Panel  
by Secretary for Health and Welfare  
on Policy Address

**“Poverty** is humiliation, the sense of being dependent on them, and of being forced to accept rudeness, insults and indifference when we seek help” – *Latvia 1998*

**Social Policy**

Equal Opportunities

# Problems :

- economic restructuring leading to insufficient job opportunities and wage adjustment
- mis-match between the skills and capabilities required
- socially disadvantaged groups face problems and obstacles to economic and social participation

# Socially disadvantaged groups :

- individuals from disrupted families
- low income workers who have few work skills and low educational attainment
- young people with low educational attainment and poor family support
- new immigrants (and minorities) who have difficulties in assimilation
- people with disabilities who encounter physical barriers and restricted opportunities
- marginalised groups who need support and opportunities to reintegrate

# Three inter-related approaches to tackle poverty minimization -

- economic growth
- human development
- social investment

## Macro-economic level -

- market based economy is best strategy for prosperity
- provides best environment to counter poverty

## Meso-economic level -

- development of new businesses and industries
- specific training to acquire necessary skills in the new environment

## Micro-economic level -

- job creation
- enhanced training

## Safety net of income support :

- Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA)
- Social Security Allowance Scheme (SSA)

Public programmes to provide additional social wages to economically disadvantaged :

- Health Care
- Social Welfare
- Housing
- Rehabilitation
- Education



We aim to -

- enhance social service provision to the community
- give direct help to marginalised and/or disadvantaged groups
- help some of the socially disadvantaged re-enter the labour market
- launch a skills upgrading programme

We will enhance social services to -

- strengthen social welfare networks in the districts to help the disadvantaged through -

- outreaching

- inreaching

- sourcing

We will enhance social services to -

- refer/direct target job-seekers to -
  - fill newly created jobs
  - receive training/re-training

We will enhance social services to -

- provide support services to enable sustained employment through –

- counselling

- childminding

## Job Creation

15,000 jobs to be created over the next 2 years (excluding those from infrastructural projects) -

- From normal expansion - 8,000
- From this initiative - 7,000

## Job Creation (con't)

Major initiatives include :

- 1,950 jobs in the social welfare sector for frail elderly, disabled, disrupted families and new arrival families
- 1,730 jobs for new Clean & Green Hong Kong Campaigns

## Job Creation (con't)

- 2,500 jobs to improve the quality of services in hospitals and enhance care to elders and mentally ill
- 500 jobs for district environmental improvement and community projects
- 270 jobs for Anti-smoking, Healthy Ageing and Health Promotion Campaigns

# Training and Re-training

- 50,000 employed/unemployed workers a wide variety of training programmes in the next 2 years (VTC)
- 100,000 retraining places every year (ERB)
- courses on self-employment to start (ERB) -
  - ❑ businesses
  - ❑ co-operative societies