

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Redevelopment and Expansion of Pok Oi Hospital

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the redevelopment and expansion of Pok Oi Hospital (POH).

Background

2. At present, the Hospital Authority (HA) provides medical services for Yuen Long and Tuen Mun districts through the New Territories North (NTN) hospital cluster, which comprises POH, Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH), Castle Peak Hospital and Siu Lam Hospital. The provision of public hospital services in the NTN cluster is however insufficient to meet its increasing needs due to population growth. According to the latest projections, the population in the NTN cluster will increase from 1 062 500 in 2002 to 1 216 800 in 2010, representing a 15% increase. The projected shortfall in the provision of general beds in the NTN cluster in 2010 will be in the region of 700 beds. To cope with the service needs in the NTN cluster, HA plans to expand and develop medical facilities in the cluster, including the expansion of POH.

3. The Chief Executive announced in his 1998 Policy Address that POH would be redeveloped to meet the rising demand for medical services in the NTN. In this connection, we have proposed to upgrade POH to a modern acute general hospital and to expand its capacity by opening 272 additional beds. Upon completion of the redevelopment project, POH will have a complement of 742 beds (including 120 infirmary beds at the Tin Ka Ping Centre of POH located at Yau Shin Street in Au Tau). The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council approved funding of \$96.37 million and \$314.3 million on 9 June 2000 and 22 June 2001 respectively for conducting the preparatory works, and the site formation and foundation works for the redevelopment and expansion of POH.

Progress of the Redevelopment Project

4. The detailed design work for the entire project, and the demolition works of the South Wing, Accident and Emergency / Out-patient Department Block and ancillary buildings of POH have been completed. The site formation and foundation works started in February 2002 and will be completed by February 2003. HA has temporarily suspended the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department at POH during the redevelopment period. Commencing from 1 May 2000, a 24-hour out-patient clinic has been set up to treat semi-urgent and non-urgent patients. Critical, emergency and urgent cases in the NTN cluster are being handled by the A&E Department of TMH. In this connection, HA has opened two new wards providing about 100 additional in-patient beds at TMH to cope with the additional patient load.

Scope of Main Works

5 A new building will be constructed to accommodate 622 in-patient beds, expanded ambulatory care services and other supporting services. Upon completion of the redevelopment and expansion project, POH will expand its in-patient care services to cover a comprehensive range of clinical specialties, including Medicine, Surgery, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Intensive / Coronary Care, as well as A&E Observation. POH's ambulatory care services will also be enhanced. Its annual capacity of handling A&E attendances will increase from 69 000 attendances to 150 000 attendances. As for specialist out-patient attendances, it will be able to handle some 350 000 attendances per annum compared to its existing capacity of 36 000. New ambulatory services to be provided include a geriatric day hospital with 40 places, a psychiatric day hospital with 40 places, an ambulatory surgery with 30 places, and a day procedure centre with 30 places. The provision of allied health services will also be expanded. The Physiotherapy Department and Occupational Therapy Department will be expanded and equipped to handle annually around 180 000 attendances and 80 000 attendances respectively, as compared to the existing capacity of 51 000 and 12 000 attendances.

6. Existing patient services currently provided at the Central Wing and North Wing of POH will not be disrupted during the entire construction period. Decanting of existing patient services will only be effected upon the completion of the new hospital building, following which the Central Wing and North Wing will be demolished.

Public Consultations

7. HA consulted the then Yuen Long Provisional District Board (YLPDB) in December 1998 and April 1999, and the Social Services, Housing and Publicity Committee of the Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) in November 2000. Members of the then YLPDB and the YLDC supported the proposed redevelopment and expansion of POH.

Way Forward

8. The estimated cost for the entire redevelopment and expansion project is about \$2,100 million, of which the main works account for about \$1,690 million. POH Board has undertaken to contribute \$20 million over five years towards the capital cost of the project. This is in addition to POH Board's contribution of \$2 million towards the setting up of a 24-hour out-patient clinic at POH in place of the temporarily suspended A&E Department. We shall seek the approval of the FC in July 2002 for funding the main works of the project at an estimated cost of about \$1,670 million. Subject to FC's approval, the main works will commence in early 2003 with a view to completion in 2006.

Advice Sought

9. Members are requested to note the content of this paper.

Health and Welfare Bureau
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