

**Panel on Home Affairs**  
**Conversion of the Bethanie into the Second Campus**  
**of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts**

**Reply to Questions Raised by Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan**

- a) Under the proposed lease agreement, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (APA) is required to allow the public to have access to the Premises including the gardens and the grounds therein daily during reasonable hours of the day for the purpose of viewing and leisure walking;
- b) The annual building maintenance cost for the Bethanie is estimated to be about \$5.7 million. APA will be responsible for the payment of the cost;
- c) The conservation guidelines for the Bethanie are drawn up by the Antiquities and Monuments Office in accordance with the historical characteristics and actual condition of the building; and
- d) The building will be protected by:
  - careful vetting of consultants and contractors before inviting them to tender for project management and construction
  - engaging a consultant with experience in heritage building restoration to advise on appropriate construction techniques and safeguards to protect the existing building fabric
  - very close supervision of contractors on site by the project manager during construction

Apart from complying with the requirements of the Antiquities and Monuments Office to reinstate the original pitched roof, no alterations to the external structure or the alignment of internal walls will be made. The interior spaces will be allocated and occupied on an “as found” basis, thereby ensuring that the restoration of the building remains faithful to its original configuration.