

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 583/04-05(01)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/04

Subcommittee to study the subject of combating poverty

Proposed study areas and work plan

Purpose

This paper seeks members' views on the proposed study areas and work plan of the Subcommittee.

Background

2. At the Subcommittee meeting on 9 December 2004, members agreed to form a working group to propose study areas and formulate a work plan for the Subcommittee's consideration. The working group comprises Hon Frederick FUNG kin-kee, Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, Hon Margaret NG and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung. The working group's proposals are given in paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 below.

Possible study areas/discussion topics

3. The following study areas and topics are proposed for in-depth discussion by the Subcommittee at future meetings –

- (a) definitions of 'poverty' and different benchmarks adopted by various government departments in granting subsidies or financial assistance to the people in need;
- (b) the situation of poverty in Hong Kong;
- (c) impact of economic changes/policies on the problem of poverty;
- (d) labour and wages (employment opportunities, vocational training, employment support and re-training, minimum wage, etc.);
- (e) adequacy of the existing social security systems;

- (f) assistance to the elderly (medical services, Old Age Allowance, transport subsidy, family and community support services, etc.);
- (g) assistance to children and youth (education and development, health, youth guidance, etc.);
- (h) assistance to women with low income and support to single parent families;
- (i) assistance to people with disabilities (employment opportunities, facilities for the disabled, transport subsidies, etc.);
- (j) policy on new immigrants (population policy, integration into community, etc.);
- (k) partnership with the business sector and non-government organisations; and
- (l) community efforts.

4. In the previous motion debates on subjects relating to poverty, assistance to the vulnerable groups and labour protection, Members have proposed a number of measures to tackle problems in these areas. A summary of these measures is provided in LC Paper No. CB(2)583/04-05(02) for members' reference.

Work plan

5. The working group has proposed that –
- (a) the Subcommittee should discuss with the governmental inter-departmental committee, if set up, the problem of poverty and measures to tackle it;
 - (b) representatives of the relevant bureaux and departments should be invited to the Subcommittee meetings to discuss specific topics;
 - (c) relevant organizations, academia and concern groups should be invited to give views on specific topics after the Subcommittee has decided its study areas and priorities;
 - (d) the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat will be requested to conduct research studies or provide information notes on specific topics to facilitate the Subcommittee's discussion; and

- (e) the Subcommittee will provide a report on each group of study areas after listening to the views of deputations and discussion with the Administration. The report will cover the views obtained, and the concerns and recommendations of the Subcommittee. The reports will be forwarded to the Administration for follow up.

6. The working group has suggested the Subcommittee focus on two or three groups of study areas in each session. On the priorities of the study areas, it is proposed that the Subcommittee may start with the study areas in paragraph 3 (a), (b) and (c) first. The Subcommittee may also select one more study area for the current session, having regard to the time required for conducting research studies, invitation of views and compilations of reports.

7. As the Chief Executive will announce in his Policy Address to be delivered on 12 January 2005 measures to combat poverty, the Subcommittee may wish to make adjustments, where necessary, to the study areas and their priorities having regard to the proposals in the 2005 Policy Address.

Meetings of the Subcommittee

8. It is proposed that the Subcommittee hold meetings on a monthly basis, and special meetings may be held as necessary.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 January 2005