

Panel on Home Affairs

List of outstanding items for discussion

(as at 20 June 2005)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Management and resumption of private streets

This subject was discussed at the Legislative Council (LegCo) Members' meetings with Kowloon City District Council (DC) and Wanchai DC on 14 March 2002 and 3 April 2003 respectively. Some DC members suggested that the Administration should introduce legislation to improve the management of private streets.

To be confirmed

A motion on "Resumption of private streets" moved by Mr IP Kwok-him and amended by Mrs Sophie LEUNG was carried at the Council meeting on 11 June 2003.

2. Grant of land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organisations

An oral question was raised at the Council meeting on 13 November 2002 about the grant of government land at a nominal land premium to private groups or organisations for use as clubs or clubhouses. The Administration has been asked to review the criteria for the grant of land for sports and recreational uses.

To be confirmed

3. Enforcement of maintenance order

To be confirmed

a. Setting up an intermediary body for the collection of maintenance payments

Item proposed by Miss CHOY So-yuk. This issue was last discussed by the Panel on 8 February 2002. The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has requested this Panel to discuss the setting up of such an intermediary body.

b. Streamlining the relevant court procedures

The Bills Committee on Interest on Arrears of Maintenance Bill 2001 has requested the Panel on

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Administration of Justice and Legal Services (AJLS Panel) to follow up with the Administration on ways to streamline court procedures in relation to enforcement of maintenance order and address the problem of evasion of service of summons by maintenance payers who have defaulted on their maintenance payments. Some members of the Bills Committee have suggested that the summons should be considered to have been served so long as the summons has been served to the address provided by the payer.

AJLS Panel suggests that as this item falls under the policy area of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), it is more appropriate for it to be followed up by this Panel.

4. Future development of public libraries

The Panel received the Administration's briefing on the consultancy report on the future development of public libraries on 13 December 2002. Members requested the Administration to consult the Panel before finalizing its recommendations and provide an interim report to the Panel when it was available.

To be confirmed

5. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk

At the meeting of the Duty Roster Members (DRMs) with representatives of the Association of the New Territories (NT) Indigenous Residents on 16 December 2002, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the Heung Yee Kuk (HYK) Ordinance (Cap. 1097) under which the NT Justices of the Peace (JPs) served as Ex Officio Councillors of the Full Council and Ex Officio Members of the Executive Committee of HYK. They considered that the NT JPs, and Special Councillors and Co-opted Councillors of HYK could not represent and protect the interests of the villagers and indigenous inhabitants of NT and requested that the HYK membership should be reviewed. Their views were referred to this Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

To be
confirmed^{Note}

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item along with item 8 on traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT.

Note

The Administration has advised that it does not propose to discuss this item and item 8 in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

6. Promotion of youth development

At the policy briefing held on 15 January 2003, members noted that the Commission on Youth (COY) had submitted a draft report on unemployment problems of young people to the Chief Executive. The Panel requested to be briefed on how HAB would cooperate with COY in tackling youth problems.

To be confirmed

7. Sports policy review and problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations

The new administrative structure for sports development was discussed by the Panel on 14 and 29 July 2003. Supplementary information provided by the Administration on the new administrative structure was issued to members under LC Paper No. CB(2)178/03-04 on 24 October 2003.

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 9 October 2003, Mr Albert CHAN proposed to discuss problems pertaining to the operation of National Sports Associations in the areas of administration, financial arrangements, structures and selection of members.

8. Traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT

At LegCo Members' meetings with HYK Councillors on 10 June 2003 and 2 March 2004, issues relating to the enactment of legislation to implement Article 40 of the Basic Law and exemption from payment of Government rent were discussed. Members agreed that the issues involving policy consideration about the traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers in NT should be

To be
confirmed^{Note}

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

referred to this Panel for follow-up. Members also suggested that HYK Councillors should be invited to attend the relevant meeting(s) of this Panel to give views when the issues were discussed.

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item together with item 5 on membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of HYK.

Note

The Administration has advised that it does not propose to discuss this item and item 5 in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

9. Impact of authorised football betting

At the Council meeting on 9 July 2003, the Administration undertook to review its policy of authorisation of football betting against certain benchmarks, such as changes in the intensity of illegal gambling activities and prevalence of problem and pathological gamblers, and report the findings to this Panel after authorised football betting had been implemented for two years.

To be confirmed

The Panel discussed "Measures to address gambling-related problems" at the meeting on 12 December 2003 and "Codes of Practice for the conduct of football betting and lotteries" on 13 February 2004.

10. Review of built heritage conservation policy

When the subject was last discussed on 9 November 2004, the Administration reported on the major findings of the first stage public consultation on the review conducted from February to May 2004. HAB is formulating proposals on implementation measures for further public consultation in 2005.

To be confirmed

11. Safeguarding Hong Kong's core values

Item proposed by Miss TAM Heung-man on 12 October 2004. A group of professionals and academics initiated a declaration on safeguarding Hong Kong's core values around

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

May/June 2004. In June 2004, the Chief Executive met with the group to hear their views.

12. Progress report of Team Clean

The Home Affairs Department plans to brief the Panel on the above progress report.

To be confirmed

13. Funding proposal on hosting the 2009 East Asian Games

The Administration originally planned to consult the Panel on the funding proposal in May 2005 before seeking the Finance Committee's approval.

October 2005

14. Submission of reports by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to the United Nations under international human rights treaties

The second report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was submitted to the United Nations (UN) in June 2003. The hearing of HKSAR's report under ICESCR was held in Geneva between 27 and 29 April 2005. The Panel has scheduled to discuss the Concluding Observations issued by the UN Committee at the meeting on 21 June 2005.

June 2005

The initial report of the HKSAR under the Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) was submitted to the UN in June 2003. The report will be heard by the UN Committee at a date to be advised between 12 and 30 September 2005 in Geneva.

The HKSAR's second report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) was submitted to the UN Committee on 14 January 2005 and was issued to members on 21 February 2005. The report will be heard by the UN Committee in March 2006.

The HKSAR's first report under the International Convention in the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) was submitted to the UN in late

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

2000. It was heard by the UN Committee in 2001. The HKSAR's second report will form part of China's combined 10th and 11th reports. The 10th and 11th reports of China were due to be submitted by 28 January 2003. HAB will initiate the pre-drafting consultations when the Central People's Government (CPG) calls for contribution to its report.

The HKSAR's second report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was submitted in early 2004 as part of China's combined 5th and 6th reports. The UN Committee has yet to announce the hearing date.

The Administration is currently preparing the HKSAR's second report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), which will form part of the China's 4th and 5th combined reports. Pre-drafting consultations were conducted between 7 May and 18 June 2004. The Panel received views from deputations on the outline of topics to be covered in the report on 11 June 2004. The UN Committee will announce the hearing date after CPG has submitted the report. The second report is due to be submitted in 2005.

An information paper on the forthcoming UN hearings of reports submitted by the HKSAR under ICESCR, CRC and ICCPR respectively was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1098/04-05(01) on 15 March 2005.

The Administration undertook in 2003 to provide the Panel with reports on annual overviews of developments relating to the various human rights treaties applicable to Hong Kong. The Panel discussed the first implementation report provided by the Administration on 11 June 2004.

15. Public consultation on legislating against racial discrimination

The Panel discussed the consultation paper entitled "Legislating against Racial Discrimination" on 9 November 2004 and met with deputations on the consultation paper on 11 December 2004. As proposed by Ms Emily LAU, the

July 2005

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Panel requested the Administration to give a report on the outcome of the consultation exercise for further discussion by the Panel.

16. Review of advisory and statutory bodies

This item was last discussed on 13 May 2005. The Administration plans to submit a paper on the review for the meeting on 8 July 2005.

July 2005

Note

Changes proposed by the Administration are in italics.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 June 2005