

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2754/07-08  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Thursday, 12 June 2008, at 4:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

**Members absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon Mrs Anson CHAN, GBM, JP

**Public Officers attending** : Item II  
  
Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
  
Ms Carol YIP, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2  
  
Miss Cherry WONG  
Acting Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Poverty)

Mr Stephen Fisher, JP  
Director of Social Welfare

Mr FUNG Pak-yan  
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)

Ms LEUNG Kwai-ling  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Social Security)

**Deputations  
by invitation**

: Item II

The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr FOO Wai-lok  
Consultant (Elderly Services)

Society for Community Organization

Miss SZE Lai-shan  
Community Organizer

Low Income Families' Rights Concern Group

Ms CHEUNG Yuet-ming  
Representative

爭取基層生活保障聯席

Ms WONG Sau-ping

Hong Kong Women Workers' Association

Miss LAU Ka-mei  
Organizer

Elderly Rights League

Mr CHAN Yuen-kan  
Representative

反對削減綜援聯會

Ms HUANG Fu-lian  
Spokesman

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Mariana CHAN  
Chief Officer, Policy Research and Advocacy

Individual

Dr WONG Hung  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Social Work  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Concerning Group for Women Poverty

Ms LEE Yuk-wah

Concerning CSSA Review Alliance

Mr CHIU Yuen-sum  
Member

Tin Shui Wai CSSA Concerning Group

Ms LO Lai-hing  
Member

Rights for Basic Living Security Association

Ms WONG Sau-lan  
Member

Christian Action

Ms Carol LEE Wing-chong  
Assistant Manager, Social Services Department

New Arrival Women League

Ms FUNG Kin-mei  
Member

Hong Kong Human Rights Commission

Miss Annie LIN  
Community Organizer

Asylum Seekers' and Refugees' Voice

Miss Nayana  
Member

Mission to New Arrivals Ltd.

Rev. LEUNG Yiu-hung  
General Secretary

Joint Alliance for Universal Retirement Protection

Mr AU YEUNG Kwun-tung  
Organizer

Oxfam Hong Kong

Ms WONG Shek-hung  
Hong Kong Program Advocacy Officer

Hong Kong Domestic Workers General Union

Ms TSE Cheung-chun  
Chairman

**Clerk in attendance** : Miss Betty MA  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Mr Chris LAI  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

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**I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

Action

**II. Support measures for low-income group in face of rising food prices**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2162/07-08(03), CB(2)2207/07-08(01) to (02) and CB(2)2292/07-08(01) to (06)]

2. Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW) said that the Government was very concerned about the impact of inflation on the low-income group, and had introduced a series of initiatives in the 2008-2009 Budget to alleviate the inflation pressure on the low-income groups, in addition to the on-going support for them. For instance, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients would be given one additional month of standard rate payments, Disability Allowance recipients would be given one additional month of allowance and Old Age Allowance recipients would be given a one-off grant of \$3,000. These payments would be made to welfare recipients on 16 June 2008. In addition, the Finance Committee had approved the proposal to increase the CSSA standard payment rates ahead of the normal schedule by 4.4% with effect from 1 August 2008. SLW said that since the CSSA standard payment rates had been adjusted upwards by 2.8% from 1 February 2008, there would be a cumulative increase of 7.3% in the standard payment rates over a six-month span in the year 2008.

3. SLW advised that at present, there were local and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the community providing temporary in-kind food assistance to assist individuals and families in need. He said that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would provide appropriate assistance to these organisations, and was exploring the further expansion of the existing food distribution network for those in need. He also added that if these organisations needed to identify suitable premises for providing in-kind food assistance services, SWD would assist as appropriate. For instance, SWD was now assisting St. James' Settlement to identify a suitable premise in Sham Shui Po to operate in-kind food assistance services. SLW advised that there seemed no lack of donations of food and other daily necessities from individuals, community groups and business organisations and SWD would refer interested donors to the relevant NGOs. The Administration was also discussing with the hotel sector on how the sector might better assist in donating food to the relevant NGOs. The NGOs concerned could also partner with the business sector and apply for funding from the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged. For example, the Fund had supported the services of the Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service and St James' Settlement. SLW added that the Government would continue to monitor closely the situation and adopt a multi-pronged approach in alleviating the situation of the low-income group.

Action

Meeting with deputations

*The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong*  
*[LC Paper No. CB(2)2292/07-08(01)]*

4. Mr FOO Wai-lok considered that providing temporary in-kind food assistance failed to provide a long-term solution to the problems faced by the low-income group. The Administration should review the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates in meeting the basic needs of the recipients, restore the CSSA standard payment rates to the pre-2003 level and adjust the rates in accordance with the civil service pay adjustments. Mr FOO raised concern that some residential care homes for the elderly had cut expenses on food items to save costs, thereby adversely affected the quality of services.

*Society for Community Organization*  
*[LC Paper No. CB(2)2207/07-08(01)]*

5. Miss SZE Lai-shan said that according to a survey conducted by the Society for Community Organization (SOCO), some CSSA households had cut down their expenses on food items because of the sharp rises in food prices. As a result, the physical and social development of children from these households had been hampered. Miss SZE considered that the Budget initiatives were mostly short-term measures which failed to address the financial hardship faced by the low-income group. She added that SOCO had made a number of suggestions to ease the inflationary pressure on the low-income group, which was detailed in its submission.

*Low Income Families' Rights Concern Group*  
*[LC Paper No. CB(2)2207/07-08(01)]*

6. Ms CHEUNG Yuet-ming highlighted the financial problems encountered by low-income single-parent families at times of high inflation. She said that children from these families did not have not enough food, not to mention joining tutorial classes. Ms CHEUNG suggested that the Administration should issue food coupons and provide subsidies for tutorial fees to children from low-income families.

*爭取基層生活保障聯席*

7. Ms WONG Sau-ping held the view that the upward adjustments to the CSSA standard payment rates in the past few years were too meagre. She said that under the existing adjustment mechanism, CSSA recipients had to catch up with past inflation. Given the sharp increases in food prices in the past few months, Ms WONG urged the Administration to restore the CSSA standard

Action

payment rates to the pre-2003 level, and review the adequacy of CSSA payments.

*Hong Kong Women Workers' Association*

8. Miss LAU Ka-mei expressed support for the provision of food assistance as an interim measure to help the low-income group. She suggested that a designated authority should be set up to monitor the price movements of and set price ceilings on the basic necessities. Miss LAU considered that the Government should freeze the fees and charges for public services and legislate on a minimum wage expeditiously to tackle the problem of working poverty.

*Elderly Rights League*

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2207/07-08(01)]

9. Given the inadequacy of the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme to meet the rising rental for private housing, Mr CHAN Yuen-kan said that some elderly CSSA recipients had to meet the rental with part of the CSSA standard payments and cut down their expenses on food items. He urged the Administration to shorten the waiting time for public rental housing flats. He added that the upward adjustments to the CSSA standard payment rates in the past few years were insufficient to meet their financial needs.

*反對削減綜援聯會*

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2292/07-08(03)]

10. Ms HUANG Fu-lian told the meeting about the difficulties encountered by CSSA recipients at times of high inflation. Ms HUANG considered that the Administration should review the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates in consultation with the recipients, provide immediate financial assistance to the CSSA recipients and low-income families, and curb price increases of the basic necessities, especially food items.

*Hong Kong Council of Social Service*

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2292/07-08(04)]

11. Ms Mariana CHAN briefed members on the suggestions made by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service which urged the Administration to –

- (a) study the need for adjusting the CSSA standard payment rates on a quarterly basis;
- (b) appoint a broadly represented committee to conduct a study on the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates in meeting the basic needs of the recipients;

Action

- (c) adjust upwards the rent allowance for CSSA recipients living in private housing, and determine the rent allowance in accordance with the actual rent paid by CSSA recipients living in private housing in the past year;
- (d) set up food banks to provide hot meals to needy individuals and families in districts where the poverty problem was more serious; and
- (e) issue food coupons to low-income families and provide meal allowance to primary and secondary students from these families.

*Dr WONG Hung, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, the Chinese University of Hong Kong*

12. Dr WONG Hung considered that an upward adjustment of 7.3% to the CSSA standard payment rates still failed to catch up with the soaring prices. He pointed out that the existing weighting system of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) was determined in accordance with the findings of the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) on CSSA households conducted in 2004-2005, in which food represented about 55.3% of CSSA household expenditure. In other words, the average monthly expenditure of a CSSA recipient on food items was \$947. Dr WONG considered that the survey findings and the weighting system of SSAIP were outdated. To reflect more accurately the impact of price changes, the Administration should conduct the next round of HES on CSSA households ahead of the normal schedule and a comprehensive review of the adequacy of CSSA standard rates. Dr WONG said that in-kind food assistance could provide short-term relief to the low-income group. Based on his study on the services of food banks, the Administration might consider issuing a food coupon of \$500 per month to the needy families to obtain food assistance from food banks.

*Concerning Group for Women Poverty  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2207/07-08(02)]*

13. Ms LEE Yuk-wah considered that the provision of one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for the recipients was too meagre to meet their financial needs. She suggested that the Administration should provide long-term supplement and special grants to all CSSA recipients, restore the CSSA standard payment rates to the pre-2003 level, and review the mechanism for adjusting the CSSA standard payment rates.

Action

*Concerning CSSA Review Alliance*

14. Mr CHIU Yuen-sum considered that the upward adjustments to the CSSA standard payment rates in the past few years were too meagre to catch up with the inflated prices. Given that the adjusted amount was less than \$100 a month, he urged the Administration to restore the CSSA standard payment rates to the pre-2003 level, and provide long-term supplement to all CSSA recipients without further delay.

*Tin Shui Wai CSSA Concerning Group*

15. Ms LO Lai-hing urged the Administration to adjust upwards the CSSA standard payment rates and review the rates more frequently. As food items in Tin Shui Wai were comparatively expensive, Ms LO considered that meal allowance should be provided to the low-income group living in the district.

*Rights for Basic Living Security Association*

16. Ms WONG Sau-lan expressed reservations about the provision of in-kind food assistance to individuals and families in need. As the food provided was usually canned food, it would be less nutritious to the healthy development of children. Ms WONG considered that the Administration should introduce the minimum wage legislation and review the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates without further delay.

*Christian Action*

17. Ms Carol LEE said that as the demand for food assistance had increased drastically in the past few months, the Christian Action was unable to meet the full demand on a few occasions. She considered that the phenomenon had reflected fully the hardship faced by the low-income group at times of high inflation.

*New Arrival Women League*

*[LC Paper No. CB(2)2292/07-08(05)]*

18. Ms FUNG Kin-mei told the meeting about the difficulties encountered by new arrival women at times of high inflation, especially those who were not eligible for CSSA and had to rely on their children's CSSA payments for a living. Ms FUNG considered that the Administration should provide transport subsidy and issue food coupons to the low-income group, relax the residence requirements under the CSSA Scheme and adjust the CSSA standard payment rates more frequently.

Action

*Hong Kong Human Rights Commission*

19. Ms Annie LIN said that the Administration had failed to provide adequate food to asylum seekers and refugees in Hong Kong in accordance with the nutrition guidelines issued by the Department of Health. Moreover, the location of food distribution centres was inaccessible and the food items were perishable. Ms LIN expressed concern about the lack of an effective monitoring mechanism and an accountability system to ensure the quality of food provided to asylum seekers and refugees.

*Asylum Seekers' and Refugees' Voice*

20. Miss Nayana said that the assistance given to asylum seekers in Hong Kong was insufficient to meet their subsistence needs, and their children were not given sufficient food. She considered that asylum seekers should be allowed to work to earn a living.

*Mission to New Arrivals Ltd.*

21. Rev LEUNG Yau-tung took the view that the problem of poverty was a structural problem. He pointed out that new-arrival women were mostly single mothers who were not eligible for CSSA and had to rely on their children's CSSA payment for a living. Rev LEUNG considered that in the light of the rising number of cross-boundary marriages, the number of new-arrival single mothers would continue to increase. To ease the financial hardship faced by new-arrival single mothers, he urged the Administration to relax the residence requirement for applying for CSSA.

*Joint Alliance for Universal Retirement Protection*  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2292/07-08(06)]

22. Mr AU YEUNG Kwun-tung considered that the Budget initiatives were largely short-term measures which failed to provide genuine assistance to the low-income workers. While supporting the provision of in-kind food assistance to needy families as an interim relief measure, Mr AU YEUNG was concerned about the food quality. He added that the Administration should implement a universal retirement protection scheme, restore the CSSA standard payment rates to the pre-2003 level, raise the monthly Old Age Allowance payments to \$1,000 and closely monitor the prices of food items.

*Oxfam Hong Kong*

23. Ms WONG Shek-hung took the view that the provision of in-kind food assistance should be not regarded as a long-term measure to ease the inflationary

Action

pressure on the low-income group. Instead, low-income families in financial hardship should be encouraged to apply for CSSA. In addition, the Administration should revert to the inflation forecast methodology for adjusting CSSA standard payment rates and adjust the rates half-yearly. Ms WONG added that the Administration should closely monitor the price movements of consumer goods.

*Hong Kong Domestic Workers General Union*

24. Ms TSE Cheung-chun said that local domestic helpers (LDHs) were mostly middle-aged and low-skilled women, and some were also single parents. She said that as most LDHs were low-income earners, they were unable to benefit from the Budget initiatives as they did not have a Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) account. Ms TSE considered that the Administration should extend the Special Allowance Incentive Scheme for LDHs to provide financial assistance for LDHs.

*Other submission*

25. Members noted that the Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook) had provided a written submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)2292/07-08(02)) but had not sent representative to the meeting.

The Administration's response

26. Responding to deputations' views, SLW said that among the service units of SWD, 20 (including 14 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)) had established partnership with the food bank operated by St James' Settlement. He said that NGOs providing in-kind food assistance could seek assistance from SWD if they had encountered difficulties in running the services. SLW said that he had made visits to some food banks and was fully aware of the difficulties faced by the individuals and families in need. The Administration would step up its efforts to help relieve the situation of the low-income group.

Discussion

27. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan asked about the measures in place to alleviate the financial hardship faced by low-income families who were not on CSSA.

28. SLW responded that the Government had announced a number of initiatives in the 2008-2009 Budget to assist the low-income groups to cope with the rising cost of living, including the \$1,800 electricity charge subsidy and relaxation of the eligibility criteria and the subsidy period of the pilot Transport Support Scheme (TSS). He said that needy individuals and families might also seek assistance from the Social Security Field Units of SWD which would render

Action

appropriate assistance taking into account the circumstances and needs of individual cases.

29. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Miss CHAN Yuen-han considered that the pilot TSS should be extended to low-income workers living in all districts if they needed to commute long distance to work. Referring to the proposal to make a one-off injection of \$6,000 into the MPF accounts of those who earned not more than \$10,000 a month, Mr LEE said that eligible employees should be allowed to withdraw the money from their accounts at any time to meet their specific needs. He would follow up the matter at other forum.

30. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Ms LI Fung-ying expressed concern about the financial hardship faced by new-arrival single parents who were unable to meet the residence requirement and had to rely on their children's CSSA payments for a living. Mr LEE urged the Administration to relax the seven-year residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme and the 120 hours of work requirement under the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme. Expressing similar concern, Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that some new-arrival single mothers were not eligible for CSSA because they could not meet the residence requirement. Some single mothers on Two-way Permits had imminent need to stay in Hong Kong in order take care of their children because their husbands had passed away. These members asked about the measures in place to assist these single mothers and their children.

31. Director of Social Welfare (DSW) said that the adoption of a seven-year residence requirement for CSSA was in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Population Policy Report. The Administration did not see a need for changing the residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme. If a CSSA applicant was in genuine hardship, DSW might consider exercising discretion to waive the residence requirement and grant assistance to the applicant. If new-arrival single mothers chose to return to their place of origin and leave their children, who were permanent residents, in Hong Kong for education, the CSSA payments of the children could be collected by the guardians or appointees on the behalf of the children concerned. In addition, SWD would provide the children with appropriate child care services. For CSSA recipients who did not fulfill the work requirements under the SFS Scheme, they would continue to receive CSSA payments if they could demonstrate that they had made genuine efforts in seeking employment.

32. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan expressed disappointment at the Administration's response, and considered that single-parent CSSA recipients who had to take care of their children should not be forced to work. While expressing understanding that the policy on the seven-year residence requirement was beyond the purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Chairman said that the Bureau should convey members' concern to the relevant authorities.

Action

33. Mr Frederick FUNG said that the increasing demand for food assistance reflected that the existing level of CSSA payments was inadequate to meet the basic needs of recipients at times of high inflation. The proposals of further expanding the network of food banks and issuing food coupons to individuals and families in need represented a major retrograde step towards the overall direction of providing the CSSA safety net to those who could not support themselves financially to meet their basic needs. Mr FUNG considered that the provision of in-kind food assistance failed to provide a long-term solution to the financial difficulties faced by the low-income group.

34. SLW said that at present, there were NGOs in the community providing temporary in-kind food assistance to individuals and families in need. While these organisations usually operated their services without Government subvention, SWD would assist as appropriate. In response to the call for setting up food banks to provide emergency assistance on basic food items to low-income group, SWD was exploring the further expansion of the existing network to enhance timely provision of assistance to those in-need. SLW stressed that the Administration adopted a multi-pronged approach in alleviating the situation of the low-income group in face of rising food prices. The CSSA Scheme would continue to provide the safety net to those who could not support themselves financially to meet their basic needs.

35. Mr Frederick FUNG and Ms LI Fung-ying expressed concern that under the existing adjustment mechanism of CSSA, the CSSA payments were adjusted based on the actual SSAIP movements in the previous year. The livelihood of the poor would be adversely affected during the inflationary period. They urged the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review on the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates and the items to be included in SSAIP, and introduce immediate relief measures to assist the needy families.

36. SLW said that the Government had introduced a number of specific initiatives to help relieve inflationary pressure on the CSSA households. Apart from providing one additional month of standard rate payments for CSSA recipients, the Administration would also adjust the CSSA standard payment rates upwards by 4.4% ahead of the normal schedule in accordance with the movement of SSAIP so as to maintain the purchasing power of the payments. The new rates would be effected on 1 August 2008. The Administration would continue to closely monitor the situation and adopt a multi-pronged approach in relieving the financial hardship faced by the low-income group.

37. Ms LI Fung-ying and Miss CHAN Yuen-han pointed out that the inflation problem had been worsening rapidly after the Budget initiatives were drafted. Therefore, the Budget initiatives were inadequate in easing the inflationary pressure on the low-income group. Miss CHAN said that the soaring food

Action

prices had created social unrest. Ms LI and Miss CHAN strongly urged the Administration to map out immediate measures to alleviate the pressures brought by increasing daily expenditure.

38. SLW said that the Administration had been adopting a pragmatic approach in tackling the problem. He said that to help alleviate the financial hardship faced by CSSA recipients, SWD had made its best efforts to expedite the payment of the additional one-month CSSA standard rate. Upon the release of the additional CSSA payments on 16 June 2008, the financial situation of CSSA recipients should improve. SLW further said that the Government was deliberating further measures to relieve the inflationary pressure on the low-income group, which would be announced in the Policy Address 2008-2009.

39. Given that some needy individuals and families were reluctant to apply for the CSSA Scheme for various reasons, Dr YEUNG Sum took the view that more resources should be allocated to NGOs to provide short-term food assistance services in order to help more needy individuals and families. Miss CHAN Yuen-han and Mr TAM Yiu-chung echoed Dr YEUNG's views.

40. To relieve the burden of inflation on the CSSA recipients, Dr YEUNG Sum, Miss CHAN Yuen-han and Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that the interval of each adjustment cycle of CSSA should be shortened so as to reflect more accurately the impact of price changes faced by CSSA recipients. They urged the Administration to review expeditiously the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates and the items to be included in SSAIP.

41. SLW reiterated that the Administration would adjust upward the CSSA standard payment rates ahead of the normal annual adjustment cycle on 1 August 2008, in accordance with the movement of SSAIP. While agreeing that the Administration could consider additional adjustments to the CSSA standard payment rates at times of persistently high inflation, the technical feasibility of conducting the adjustments at an interval shorter than half year would need to be further studied.

42. DSW added that the weighting system of SSAIP was updated once every five years on the basis of the findings of HES on CSSA households. DSW said that the latest round of HES on CSSA households was conducted in 2004-2005. The new round of survey would be conducted in 2009-2010, and preparation was in the pipeline. At the request of members, DSW said that he would see if the preparatory work could be further advanced and provide members with the work plan for the next round of HES on the CSSA households.

Admin

43. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's failure to come up with concrete proposals to relieve inflationary pressure on the low-income group. On the contrary, the Chief Executive had introduced tax

Action

relief measures which would benefit the rich rather than the poor. Mr LEUNG urged the Administration to review the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates in the light of soaring food prices. He disagreed with the Administration that it was technically difficult to review and adjust the CSSA payments on a quarterly basis.

44. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan asked about the Administration's stance on the proposal of issuing food coupons to low-income people. SLW said that as he had explained at the motion debate at the Council meeting on 11 June 2008, the provision of one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments and the adjustment to CSSA standard payment rates ahead of the normal schedule would be more direct and provide social security recipients with the flexibility in purchasing goods and services required. Notwithstanding this, the Administration was aware of the call for providing food assistance to needy individuals and families. As some NGOs were providing such assistance to individuals and families in need, SWD would assist as appropriate. SLW said that people who could not support themselves financially might apply for CSSA to meet their basic needs. Through cash allowance, the CSSA safety net allowed the recipients to flexibly use the CSSA payments to meet their basic living expenses.

45. In closing, the Chairman said that members expressed grave concern about the financial hardship faced by the low-income group (including CSSA recipients) at times of high inflation. The drastic price increases and the rapidly worsening inflation problem had affected adversely the livelihood of the low-income group, which had upset the social harmony. He strongly urged the Administration to take immediate action and measures to ease the problem.

**III. Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2162/07-08(01) and (02)]

46. Members noted the paper provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(2)2162/07-08(01)) which set out the progress of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

**IV. Report of the Subcommittee on Elderly Services**

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2163/07-08]

47. Mr Frederick FUNG, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Elderly Services, reported that the Subcommittee had concluded its work and provided a report to the Panel.

Action

48. Members endorsed the Subcommittee's report. The Chairman said that the Subcommittee would be dissolved upon presentation of its report to the Panel on 12 June 2008.

**V. Any other business**

49. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:50 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
1 September 2008