

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)640/09-10
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Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families

Minutes of the 9th meeting
held on Monday, 7 December 2009, at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan (Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Members absent : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Item I

Education Bureau

Mr LEUNG Shiu-keung
Acting Principal Assistant Secretary (School Development)

Security Bureau

Mr David LAU Kam-kuen
Principal Assistant Secretary (Security) A

Transport Department

Mr Reg CHAN Ying-kit
Chief Transport Officer/Boundary

Items I and II

Home Affairs Bureau

Miss Christine CHOW Kam-yuk
Principal Assistant Secretary (Civic Affairs) 2

Mr LAU Cheuk-kwan
Assistant Secretary (2) 3

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

Staff in Attendance : Miss Florence WONG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Arrangements for cross-boundary students
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)386/09-10(01) to (02) and CB(2)452/09-10(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. In the light of an increasing number of cross-boundary students (CBS) who were Hong Kong residents living in Shenzhen and travelling to schools in Hong Kong daily, members expressed the following views –

- (a) the Administration should consider increasing the special quotas granted by the Government and the Mainland Authority to the coach operators for operating cross-boundary school bus services and extending the "on-board clearance" services to all cross-boundary school buses;

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- (b) the Administration should study the feasibility of increasing the number of trips per hour for school buses to access the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (LMCSL) Public Transport Interchange (PTI) to cater for the transportation needs of CBS;
- (c) the Administration should study the reasons for the upsurge of the number of CBS, analyse their profiles, project the future needs of CBS, and put forward long-term measures to cope with the increasing demand from CBS for various services, such as cross-boundary transportation services, school places and other support services, in a holistic manner; and
- (d) the increasing number of CBS was attributed to the rise of number of cross-boundary marriages and the trend of more Mainland residents gave births in Hong Kong.

3. The Administration made the following responses –

- (a) the provision of cross-boundary school bus services was based on the information collected from schools concerned on the needs of the services. In the light of the service demand and after obtaining the agreement of the Mainland authorities, the HKSAR Government had increased the number of special quotas from 20 in the 2008-2009 school year to 42 in the 2009-2010 school year to cater for the needs of CBS;
- (b) the "on-board clearance" services were provided on a trial basis. Of the 10 trips of "on-board clearance" services per day, seven were provided to CBS at Sha Tau Kok Control Point and three were provided to CBS at Man Kam To Control Point. The services facilitated the entry/exit of CBS, especially those of tender age. The Administration might consider providing the service at other boundary control points (BCPs), if so warranted. The pilot arrangement was being reviewed by relevant bureaux/departments from time to time in the light of the actual needs of CBS and the practical experience in the pilot;
- (c) the Government had made available two additional vehicle queuing spaces at LMCSL PTI in July 2009. Notably, there was an increase in the number of school buses allowed to enter LMCSL PTI, i.e. from eight trips per hour in the 2008-2009 school year to 12 trips per hour in the 2009-2010 school year. Notwithstanding this, the Administration would review the transport arrangements and study the feasibility of further increasing the number of car trips per hour in the next school year;

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- (d) there was an upward trend on the number of CBS attending kindergartens and primary schools in Hong Kong. The majority of CBS lived in Shenzhen with their Mainland mothers who were waiting for the issuance of One Way Permits. It was noticeable that the increase was also due to fact that more Hong Kong families had moved to live in Shenzhen and the implementation of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme. The Government considered that the provision of cross-boundary school bus services, which could provide safe and convenient door-to-door transportation service for CBS, was an appropriate arrangement;
- (e) the overall school places in the North, Tai Po, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun Districts were sufficient to meet the demand of CBS;
- (f) to facilitate parents to arrange their children to stay on the Mainland for primary schooling, the Education Bureau had launched a pilot project to enable two schools for Hong Kong children in Shenzhen to participate in the 2008-2010 Secondary School Places Allocation System. Through the pilot project, eligible Hong Kong children studying in Primary Six in these two schools could be allocated a public sector Secondary One place in the secondary schools in Hong Kong in September 2010; and
- (g) the HKSAR Government offered a range of support services to CBS. In addition to learning support programmes, schools concerned were also providing counselling services to CBS and making special arrangements to facilitate CBS to take part in extra-curricular activities. They also organised parental education programmes for parents of CBS. Some teachers even paid home visits to their students living in Shenzhen.

Follow-up actions

Admin

4. The Administration was requested to –

- (a) revert to the Subcommittee in due course on the plan and timing for extending the "on-board clearance" services to other BCPs;
- (b) provide figures on class level distribution of CBS in the schools concerned and information on the profiles of CBS and their parents, if available; and
- (c) consider conducting a thematic study on the profiles of CBS, including their family background, number of siblings and whether their parents were Hong Kong residents, etc, with a view to formulating the long-term plan to address the needs of CBS.

Action

(*Post-meeting note* : The Administration advised that it did not have information on the profiles of CBS' parents.)

II. Continuation of work of the Subcommittee

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)386/09-10(03) and CB(2)452/09-10(02)]

5. The Chairman referred members to LC Paper No. CB(2)386/09-10(03) and sought members' views on the need for the Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2009-2010 session. As it was envisaged that the Subcommittee could not complete its work within a short period, members agreed that the approval of the House Committee (HC) should be sought for the Subcommittee to continue to work for further 12 months in accordance with Rule 26(c) of the House Rules. The Chairman added that a report would be made to HC on the justifications for continuing the work of the Subcommittee beyond the 12-month period.

III. Any other business

6. Members agreed to discuss the population policy relating to the Mainland-HKSAR families and the use of subsidised obstetric services by Mainland women whose spouses were Hong Kong residents at the next meeting to be held on 19 January 2010. Members further agreed that the Chief Secretary for Administration, who was Chairman of the Steering Committee on Population Policy, should be invited to attend the meeting.

7. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:55 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 December 2009

**Proceedings of the 9th meeting of the
Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families
on Monday, 7 December 2009, at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Arrangements for cross-boundary students</i>			
000000 - 000917	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration on the arrangements for cross-boundary students (CBS) [LC Paper No. CB(2)386/09-10(01)]	
000918 - 001546	Mr WONG Kwok-hing Chairman Administration	<p>Whether the special quotas granted by the HKSAR Government and the Mainland Authority to the coach operators for operating cross-boundary school bus services could be further increased to cater for the needs of all CBS, and whether the "on-board clearance" services could be extended to all cross-boundary school buses</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) the provision of cross-boundary school bus services was based on the information collected from schools concerned on the needs of the services. In the light of the service demand, after obtaining the agreement of the Mainland authorities, the HKSAR Government had increased the number of special quotas from 20 in the 2008-2009 school year to 42 in the 2009-2010 school year to cater for the needs of CBS; and</p> <p>(b) the "on-board clearance" services were provided on a trial basis. Of the 10 trips of "on-board clearance" services per day, seven were provided to CBS at Sha Tau Kok Control Point and three were provided to CBS at Man Kam To Control Point. The services facilitated the entry/exit of CBS especially those of tender age. It might consider providing the service at other boundary control points (BCPs), if so warranted. The pilot arrangement was being reviewed by relevant bureaux/departments from time to time in the light of the actual needs of CBS and the practical experience of the pilot</p> <p>The Administration was requested to revert to the Subcommittee in due course on the plan and timing for extending the "on-board clearance" services to other BCPs.</p>	Admin
001547 - 002500	Mr CHAN Hak-kan Chairman Administration	<p>Whether the number of school buses allowed access the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (LMCSL) Public Transport Interchange (PTI) per hour could be further increased to cater for the needs of CBS</p> <p>The Administration's response that to cater for the increasing number of CBS, the Government had made available two additional vehicle queuing spaces at LMCSL PTI in July 2009. Notably, there was an</p>	

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		<p>increase in the number of school buses allowed access LMCSL PTI, i.e. from eight trips per hour in the 2008-2009 school year to 12 trips per hour in the 2009-2010 school year. Notwithstanding this, the Administration would review the transport arrangements and study the feasibility of further increasing the number of bus trips per hour in the next school year taking into account the transportation needs of CBS and residents of North, Tai Po, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun Districts in the New Territories, transportation flow and maximum capacity of car trips allowed at LMCSL PTI</p>	
002501 - 003045	Chairman Administration	<p>Concerns about the upsurge of the number of CBS, and whether the Administration had analysed the profiles of CBS and put in place measures to meet the specific needs of CBS</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) there was an upward trend on the number of CBS attending kindergartens and primary schools in Hong Kong. Majority of CBS lived in Shenzhen with their Mainland mothers who were waiting for the issuance of One Way Permits (OWPs). It was noticeable that the increase was also due to the fact that more Hong Kong families had moved to live in Shenzhen. To cope with the needs of CBS, the HKSAR Government launched a trial scheme on the provision of cross-boundary school bus services to provide safe and convenient door-to-door transportation service for CBS; and</p> <p>(b) to facilitate CBS to stay on the Mainland for primary schooling, the Education Bureau (EDB) had launched a pilot project to enable two schools for Hong Kong children in Shenzhen to participate in the 2008-2010 Secondary School Places Allocation System. Through the pilot project, eligible Hong Kong children studying in Primary Six in these two schools could be allocated a public sector Secondary One place in the secondary schools in Hong Kong in September 2010</p>	
003046 - 003845	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Chairman Administration	<p>Concerns about the long term measures to meet the needs of CBS given that there was an 20% increase in the past year, for instance, whether the capacity of various BCPs could cope with the anticipated demand from CBS in the next five years and whether the primary school places in the vicinity of BCPs were sufficient to meet the demand of CBS</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) in the light of the upsurge of the number of CBS, especially those of tender age, the Government considered the provision of cross-boundary school bus services, which could provide safe and convenient door-to-door transportation service for CBS, would be an appropriate measure to cater for the transportation needs of CBS. While the capacity of various BCPs had yet to be saturated,</p>	

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		<p>the Administration would liaise with the Mainland authorities and consider expanding the cross-boundary school bus services at other BCPs so as to meet the needs of CBS, if necessary; and</p> <p>(b) the overall school places in North, Tai Po, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun Districts were sufficient to meet the demand of CBS</p>	
003846 - 004658	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Chairman Administration	<p>Whether the Administration had examined the reasons for the increasing number of CBS, thereby provided more support to these families</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) while CBS with Mainland mothers waiting for the issuance of OWPs would settle in Hong Kong eventually, more Hong Kong families chose to reside on the Mainland. Thus there was a need to enhance the transport arrangement at various BCPs and expand the cross-boundary school bus services to meet the transportation needs of CBS; and</p> <p>(b) the HKSAR Government offered a range of support and services to CBS. In addition to learning support programmes, schools concerned were providing counselling services to CBS and making special arrangements to facilitate CBS to take part in extra-curricular activities. They also organised parental education programmes for parents of CBS. Some teachers even paid home visits to their students living in Shenzhen</p> <p>Responding to Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's request for a study on the reasons for the increasing number of CBS, the Administration advised that an increasing number of CBS attending kindergartens in Hong Kong in recent years was largely due to the implementation of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme</p>	
004659 – 005900	Ms Miriam LAU Chairman Administration	<p>Further discussion on enhancing the cross-boundary school bus services, say, by inviting more coach operators to provide the service</p> <p>The Administration's response that the demand for cross-boundary school bus services was estimated based on the information obtained from schools concerned annually. Notably, after obtaining the agreement of the Mainland authorities, the HKSAR Government had increased the number of special quotas from 20 to 42. The Administration would invite Mainland-HKSAR joint venture coach operators to provide cross-boundary school bus services through operator selection exercises. Currently, there were over 120 such joint venture coach companies eligible for submitting tender and the number was increasing. The market is fairly competitive.</p>	

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005901 – 010459	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration Chairman	<p>Concerns about the long time of CBS in travelling between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and support services, such as healthcare services, provided for CBS</p> <p>The Administration's response that CBS attending schools in the North and Tai Po Districts entered the territory from the eastern bound of Shenzhen, and Yuen Long and Tuen Mun Districts from western bound of Shenzhen. The Administration had all along closely monitored the transportation flows of different BCPs to ensure that the needs of CBS could be catered for. CBS, who were Hong Kong residents, could join the Student Health Services and use the healthcare services in public hospitals</p> <p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's view that the Administration should collect comprehensive information on the profiles of CBS with a view to projecting future demand for various public services by CBS and their families</p>	
010500 – 010937	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration	<p>Views of the Chairman that an increasing number of CBS was attributed to the rise of number of cross boundary marriages and the trend of more Mainland residents gave births in Hong Kong. The Subcommittee might follow up the issue in the context of discussion on the population policy</p> <p>The Administration's advice that the majority of CBS were Hong Kong residents</p>	
010938 – 011454	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Chairman Administration	<p>Request for information on the profiles of CBS, such as their family background and whether their parents were Hong Kong residents</p> <p>The Administration's response that it could provide figures on class level distribution of CBS based on available information collected from schools concerned. However, it did not have information on the profiles of CBS' parents</p> <p>To facilitate planning for CBS-related issues, the Administration was requested to –</p> <p>(a) provide figures on class level distribution of CBS in the schools concerned and information on the profiles of CBS and their parents, if available; and</p> <p>(b) consider conducting a thematic study on the profiles of CBS with a view to formulating the long-term plan to address the specific needs of CBS</p>	Admin
<i>Agenda item II – Continuation of work of the Subcommittee</i>			
011455 - 012127	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration	<p>Future discussion items –</p> <p>(a) updates of the immigration arrangements relating to Mainland-Hong Kong families;</p> <p>(b) population policy which had impacts on Mainland-Hong Kong families and the use of</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		subsidised obstetric services by Mainland women whose spouses were Hong Kong residents; and (c) support services to families with new arrivals from the Mainland Need for continuation of work of the Subcommittee for further 12 months	
012128 - 012207	Chairman	Date and agenda item of the next meeting Invitation of the Chief Secretary for Administration to attend the next meeting	

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