

立法會
Legislative Council

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Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families

Minutes of the 18th meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 June 2011, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan (Chairman)
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
- Public Officers attending** : Item I
Immigration Department

Mr Erick TSANG
Assistant Director (Visa and Policies)

Security Bureau

Ms Maggie WONG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Security) C

Items I and II

Administration Wing

Ms Lorna WONG
Deputy Director of Administration (Special Duties)

Census and Statistics Department

Mr Stephen LEUNG
Assistant Commissioner for Census and Statistics
(Social)

Food and Health Bureau

Miss Gloria LO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health
(Health) 2

Home Affairs Bureau

Miss Christine CHOW
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic
Affairs Division (2))

Home Affairs Department

Miss Dora FU
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3)

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

Staff in Attendance : Ms Yvonne YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Implementation progress of applications of Mainland "overage children" of Hong Kong residents under the One Way Permit ("OWP") Scheme

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1994/10-11(01) to (02) and CB(2)2077/10-11(01) to (03)]

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

2. Members noted that as at end of May 2011, about 170 "overage children" were issued with One Way Permits ("OWPs") and had entered Hong Kong since the implementation of the arrangement for "overage children" on 1 April 2011. To facilitate "overage children" to reunite with their parents as early as possible, members appealed to the relevant authorities to expedite the processing of OWP application by "overage children". To better understand the processing and vetting mechanism, members sought information relating to the number of applications received, OWP quota for "overage children" and timetable for implementing subsequent phases of applications.

3. Principal Assistant Secretary (Security) C ("PAS(S)C") advised that according to the Mainland authorities, the arrangement for "overage children" had been implemented in a smooth and orderly manner since 1 April 2011. There was no deadline for the submission of the applications for OWP by "overage children", nor prescribed quota for the applications. It was expected that around 80 000 accumulated unused OWP quotas over the past 10 years would address the needs of "overage children". PAS(S)C further advised that the exact number of eligible "overage children" applicants dispersed throughout the Mainland was not available, but the number was estimated to be tens of thousands. As the arrangement had just started for about two months, most of the applications were still being processed. The phased submission of applications by "overage children" to the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the Public Security Bureau ("PSB") would be scheduled chronologically according to the order in which their natural fathers or mothers obtained their Hong Kong identity cards.

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The Administration would continue to exchange views with the Mainland authorities on application and related matters and keep members informed of the latest implementation progress as appropriate.

Admin

4. The Administration was requested to provide the following information -

- (a) the total number of eligible OWP applications from "overage children";
- (b) the number of applications received with all valid documents; and
- (c) the number of OWPs issued to "overage children",

together with a breakdown by provinces.

5. Ms Cyd HO raised concern about the transparency of the processing of OWP applications by "overage children". She appealed to the Administration to convey to the Mainland authorities to set up a central monitoring mechanism to deal with complaints relating to OWP applications by "overage children".

Admin

6. Assistant Director (Visa and Policies)/Immigration Department advised that to his knowledge, information relating to the eligibility criteria for OWP applications by "overage children" and the status of application was available at the PSB website. The Administration was requested to provide the hyperlink of the PSB website on OWP applications by "overage children" after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Security Bureau has subsequently provided the hyperlink of Guangdong PSB website (www.gdcrj.com) after the meeting.)

7. In response to members' enquiries about whether the Administration would study the profile of and conduct a longitudinal study on the newly arrived Mainland "overage children" to better understand their service needs and to facilitate their smooth integration into the community, Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3) said that the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") and the Immigration Department ("ImmD") compiled and published on a quarterly basis the information concerning OWP entrants.

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The data on demographic and social characteristics was collected by the ImmD when the OWP holders first entered Hong Kong via the Lo Wu control point. HAD conducted a survey on new arrivals from the Mainland when they applied for the Hong Kong identity cards. The survey focused on the service needs and current situation of the new arrivals from the Mainland. The combined statistical report was disseminated to relevant Government departments and non-governmental organisations for service planning, and was uploaded onto the HAD website. HAD started to collect information on the service needs of overage children OWP holders amongst other new arrivals. The Administration (including the relevant bureaux and departments) would consider how to incorporate such information in the quarterly statistical reports. At the request of members, the Administration agreed to provide the Subcommittee with the quarterly statistics on new arrivals from the Mainland after the implementation of the arrangement for "overage children", and consider the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal study on the newly arrived Mainland "overage children" to better understand their service needs so as to facilitate their smooth integration into the community.

Admin

II. Population policy relating to Mainland-HKSAR families

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1994/10-11(03) to (05), CB(2)2077/10-11(01) and CB(2)2077/10-11(03)]

8. Members noted that the Steering Committee on Population Policy ("SCPP") was tasked by the Chief Executive to study two topics relating to the population policy, as detailed in paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1994/10-11(03)). Instead of confining the study to two topics, members generally took the view that SCPP should conduct a comprehensive review of the population policy, and in particular giving priority to review the eligibility of Mainland women whose spouses were Hong Kong residents such that these women would be eligible to use public obstetric service as they were members of Hong Kong families.

9. Members took a strong view that Mainland women with Hong Kong husbands should be entitled to use public obstetric services as they were members of Hong Kong families. Noting that some 80 Mainland pregnant women with Hong Kong husbands were unable to secure bookings of obstetric services in public hospitals following the Hospital Authority ("HA")'s decision to stop accepting booking of obstetric services for 2011, members strongly called on the Administration to render assistance to these

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women to meet their imminent need for obstetric services. This apart, the Administration should treat those Mainland women with marital ties in Hong Kong in the manner same as local women and increase the provision of adequate obstetric services to cope with the demand of local women and those whose spouses were Hong Kong residents.

10. Deputy Director of Administration (Special Duties) said that SCPP's study on the topic of ramifications of children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women returning to Hong Kong to study and live covered a wide range of complex issues including the use of local obstetric services by Mainland women. Issues of concern raised by members in this respect would be conveyed to the Chief Secretary for Administration and SCPP for consideration. SCPP would hold its next meeting shortly. It was expected that measures and arrangements relating to the use of local obstetric services would be announced in the third/fourth quarter of 2011. Moreover, since the introduction of the OWP Scheme, Mainland spouse and children of Hong Kong residents had been settling in Hong Kong for family union. The waiting time for separated spouses had been shortened to four years. The Chairman appealed to SCPP to give priority to and expedite the review relating to the use of local obstetric service in the context of population policy and draw up proposals as soon as practicable.

11. On the use of public obstetric services, Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Health)2 ("PAS(H)2") advised that the definition and eligibility of eligible persons for public medical services subsidized by public funds was revised in 2003 to ensure that the public healthcare services could meet public demand and could sustain in the long-term within limited financial resources. The residence requirement for using subsidized healthcare services would apply to Two Way Permit holders and other visitors. Non-eligible persons might seek non-emergency public healthcare services when there was spare service capacity. HA had stopped accepting bookings for obstetric services from non-local pregnant women in the light of the limited capacity to cope with the rising demand from local women. It was given to understand that spare obstetric service capacity was available in some private hospitals. PAS(H)2 further advised that should individual Hong Kong residents need assistance for their Mainland spouse to give birth in Hong Kong, the Administration would provide the relevant information as far as practicable. As regards the arrangements for the provision of obstetric services to non-local pregnant in the next year, the parties concerned were working out on this.

Action

12. Members noted with concern that Mainland women whose spouses were civil servants in Hong Kong were allowed to use public obstetric services in the manner same as local women. PAS(H)2 advised that civil servants' Mainland spouses were eligible for subsidized obstetric services as part of the civil service medical benefits. Ms Cyd HO suggested that the Administration should consider purchasing obstetric services from private hospitals for Mainland spouses of civil servants, in order to release the reserved public obstetric service capacity to other Mainland women whose spouses were also Hong Kong residents but could not afford the obstetric service charges of private hospitals. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a written response to Ms Cyd HO's suggestion.

Admin

III. Any other business

13. The Chairman said that members would be informed of the date of the next meeting in due course.

14. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 January 2012

**Proceedings of the 18th meeting of the
Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families
on Tuesday, 14 June 2011, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Implementation progress of applications of Mainland "overage children" of Hong Kong residents under the One Way Permit("OWP") Scheme</i>			
000000 - 000329	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000230 - 000530	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration on the implementation progress of application for One Way Permit ("OWP") by Mainland "overage children" of Hong Kong residents. [LC Paper No. CB(2)1994/10-11(01)]	
000531 - 001212	Mr WONG Kwok-hing Chairman Administration	<p>Enquiries raised by Mr WONG Kwok-hing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number of OWP applications by "overage children" pending approval; (b) the number of OWP applications by "overage children" had been rejected, together with the reasons; and (c) the distribution of OWP quotas for Mainland "overage children" by provinces. <p>The Administration's response -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) according to the Mainland authorities, the arrangement for "overage children had been implemented in a smooth and orderly manner since 1 April 2011; (b) the exact number of eligible "overage children" applicants was not available. As the OWP applications by "overage children" had just started for about two months, most applications were still being processed, and therefore the number of rejected cases was not yet available. The Administration would maintain close communication with the Mainland authorities to exchange views on the application and related matters; and (c) it was expected that the OWP quotas for "overage children" would be allocated according to demand, although experience from OWP applications showed that the majority of applications came from the Guangdong Province. 	

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		<p>The Administration was requested to make periodic report at half-yearly or annual basis to the Subcommittee on the implementation progress of OWP applications of Mainland "overage children" of Hong Kong resident.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
<p>001213 - 002353</p>	<p>Ms Cyd HO Chairman Administration</p>	<p>Referring to the submission from the Justice & Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese [LC Paper No. CB(2)2077/10-11(02)], Ms Cyd HO raised the following concerns -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the up-to-date number of OWP applications by "overage children" and the status of the applications; (b) whether the Administration would discuss with the Mainland the introduction of a points system to determine the eligibility of applicants and promulgation of the waiting time for the issue of OWPs by provinces on the website; and (c) whether the Administration would study the profile of and conduct a longitudinal study on the newly arrived Mainland "overage children" to better understand their service needs and to facilitate their smooth integration into the community. <p>The Administration's response -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the phased submission of applications by "overage children" to the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the Public Security Bureau ("PSB") would be scheduled chronologically according to the order in which their natural fathers or mothers obtained their Hong Kong identity cards. The Administration would keep the Subcommittee informed of the latest implementation progress in due course, and would convey to the relevant Mainland authorities the suggestion of promulgating the status of OWP applications on the website; and (b) the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") and the Immigration Department ("ImmD") compiled and published on a quarterly basis the information concerning OWP entrants. The data on demographic and social characteristics was collected by the ImmD when the OWP holders first entered Hong Kong via the Lo Wu control 	<p>Admin</p>

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		<p>point. HAD conducted a survey on new arrivals from the Mainland when they applied for the Hong Kong identity cards. The survey focused on the service needs and current situation of the new arrivals from the Mainland. The combined statistical report was disseminated to relevant Government departments and non-governmental organisations for service planning, and was uploaded onto the HAD website. HAD started to collect information on the service needs of overage children OWP holders amongst other new arrivals. The Administration (including the relevant bureaux and departments) would consider how to incorporate such information in the quarterly statistical reports.</p> <p>The Administration was requested to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) provide the Subcommittee with the quarterly statistics on new arrivals from the Mainland after the implementation of the arrangement for "overage children"; and (b) consider the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal study on the newly arrived Mainland "overage children" to better understand their service needs so as to facilitate their smooth integration into the community. 	<p>Admin</p>
002354 - 003454	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Chairman Administration	<p>Issues raised by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it was unacceptable that the Administration did not have information on the estimated number of eligible Mainland "overage children" applicants; (b) whether there was any daily OWP quota for Mainland "overage children" and whether the corresponding arrangements to support the "overage children" were adequate to cope with the service demand; and (c) whether HAD would consider designing a specific survey on "overage children" to better understand their profile and service needs. <p>The Administration's response -</p>	

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		<p>(a) there was no deadline for the submission of applications for OWP by "overage children". The exact number of eligible applicants dispersed throughout the Mainland was not available, but the number was estimated to be tens of thousands. It was expected that more information on the eligible applicants would be available later;</p> <p>(b) the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities had been actively discussing the implementation details, with the objective of working out a sound and fair arrangement to facilitate the orderly and early entry of eligible applicants for family reunion based on objective and transparent criteria. It was expected that around 80 000 accumulated unused OWP quotas over the past 10 years would address the needs of "overage children"; and</p> <p>(c) the surveys on new arrivals from the Mainland covered demographic and social characteristics of the OWP entrants, such as age, marital status, districts of residence in Hong Kong, educational attainment, occupation in the Mainland, difficulties in adapting, supporting service need, etc. The findings of the surveys provided useful information on the demographic and social characteristics of the OWP entrants, including "overage children". The Administration agreed to provide the quarterly report on the survey findings for members' information.</p> <p>The Chairman's enquiry on the estimated commencement date for the next phase of OWP applications by "overage children". The Administration's advice that as the first phase applications had just started for two months, details of subsequent phases would be worked out and promulgated in due course.</p>	Admin
003455 - 004529	Mr TAM Yiu-chung Chairman Administration	<p>Mr TAM Yiu-chung's enquiries about whether Hong Kong parents of Mainland "overage children" could seek information and assistance relating to application procedures and required documents via the ImmD's hotline service.</p> <p>The Administration's response that -</p> <p>(a) ImmD would answer enquiries about</p>	

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		<p>application procedures relating to OWP applications by "overage children";</p> <p>(b) in the event that the natural parents of "overage children" could not attend an interview in the Mainland due to genuine hardship, ImmD would convey to the relevant Mainland authorities to consider waiving the arrangement; and</p> <p>(c) OWP applicants in the Mainland were required to provide documents to prove their relationship with their natural parents resided in Hong Kong.</p> <p>Enquiries raised by the Chairman -</p> <p>(a) whether OWP applications by "overage children" should be submitted through the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;</p> <p>(b) the average processing time for an OWP application by Mainland "overage children"; and</p> <p>(c) the distribution of 170 "overage children" who were issued with OWPs according to their place of origin.</p> <p>The Administration's reply to (a) above was in the negative. As for (b) above, it was expected that the approving authorities would take longer time to process OWP applications by "overage children" and verify the supporting documents. Although the Administration did not have information on the distribution of the 170 OWPs issued to "overage children" in the past two months, it was learnt that the arrangement for "overage children" had been implemented in a smooth and orderly manner since April 2011.</p>	
004530 - 005934	Mr WONG Kwok-hing Chairman Administration	<p>Concerns raised by Mr WONG Kwok-hing -</p> <p>(a) whether the processing of OWP applications by "overage children" could be expedited and the OWP quota for "overage children" could be increased to facilitate early reunion of the applicants with their families; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should enhance the communication with the Mainland authorities to exchange views and enhance</p>	

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		<p>transparency on application and related matters to facilitate early family reunion for Mainland "overage children".</p> <p>The Administration's response that although about 170 "overage children" were issued with OWPs to enter Hong Kong in the last two months, it did not imply that the number of OWPs to be issued would stand at some 80 per month. It was understood that no prescribed quota was set for applications from "overage children". OWPs for "overage children" would be issued to eligible applicants. It was also expected that around 80 000 accumulated unused OWP quotas over the past 10 years would address the needs of "overage children".</p> <p>To assess the progress of approving OWP applications by "overage children", the Chairman requested the Administration to collect and promulgate the following information -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the total number of eligible OWP applications from "overage children"; (b) the number of applications received with all valid documents; and (c) the number of OWPs issued to "overage children", <p>together with a breakdown by provinces.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that the Mainland authorities had allocated additional resources for processing such OWP applications. It was expected that the processing of applications would soon speed up.</p> <p>Mr WONG Kwok-hing took the view that the Subcommittee should revisit the arrangement for OWP application by "overage children" in about six months later.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
005935 - 010451	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Chairman Administration	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's enquiry whether any complaints were received by the Administration relating to the application for OWP by "overage children".</p> <p>The Administration's response -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) no complaints had been received so far. The Mainland authorities had adopted stringent processing and monitoring 	

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		<p>mechanism in respect of OWP applications; and</p> <p>(b) information relating to the eligibility criteria for OWP applications by "overage children" and the status of application was available at the PSB website.</p>	
010452 - 011042	Ms Cyd HO Chairman Administration	<p>Ms Cyd HO appealed to the Administration to convey to the Mainland authorities to set up a central monitoring mechanism to deal with complaints relating to OWP applications by "overage children".</p> <p>The Administration was requested to provide the hyperlink of the PSB website on OWP applications by "overage children".</p>	Admin
<i>Agenda item II – Population policy relating to Mainland-HKSAR families</i>			
011043 - 011707	Chairman Administration	<p>Briefing by the Administration on the population policy relating to Mainland-HKSAR families. [LC Paper No. CB(2)1994/10-11(03)]</p>	
011708 - 012041	Chairman Administration	<p>Briefing by the Administration on the latest situation of obstetric services provided by the public hospitals for non-local women. [LC Paper No. CB(2)1994/10-11(04)]</p>	
012042 - 013020	Mr WONG Kwok-hing Chairman Administration	<p>Criticism made by Mr WONG Kwok-hing -</p> <p>(a) instead of focusing the study on two topics tasked by the Chief Executive in the Policy Address 2010-2011, the Steering Committee on Population Policy ("SCPP") should conduct a comprehensive review of the population policy; and</p> <p>(b) instead of prohibiting all Mainland women from using public obstetric services irrespective of whether their husbands were Hong Kong residents, it was incumbent upon the Government to ensure the provision of adequate obstetric services to meet the local demand and the need of Mainland women whose spouses were Hong Kong residents.</p> <p>The Administration's response that -</p> <p>(a) the two topics being studied by SCPP covered a wide range of complex issues involving different policy areas;</p>	

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		<p>(b) since the introduction of the OWP Scheme, Mainland spouse and children of Hong Kong residents had been settling in Hong Kong for family union; and</p> <p>(c) the definition and eligibility of eligible persons for public medical services subsidized by public funds was revised in 2003 to ensure that the public healthcare services could meet public demand and could sustain in the long-term within limited financial resources. Non-eligible persons might seek non-emergency public healthcare services when there was spare service capacity.</p>	
013021 - 014026	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Chairman Administration	<p>Views of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che that the focus of the current study by SCPP on the ramifications of children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women was on the wrong track. The study should cover two different types of Mainland women giving births in Hong Kong, i.e. those with Hong Kong husbands and those with no marital ties in Hong Kong.</p> <p>The Administration's reiteration that the policy objective was to accord priority to Hong Kong residents to use public healthcare services. The residence requirement for using subsidized healthcare services would apply to Two Way Permit holders and other visitors. The Hospital Authority ("HA") had stopped accepting bookings for obstetric services from non-local pregnant women in the light of the limited capacity to cope with the rising demand from local women.</p> <p>Pointing that some 80 pregnant Mainland women with Hong Kong husbands were unable to secure bookings for obstetric services in HA hospitals, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che called on the Administration to render assistance to these women.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that in view of the limited service capacity, public hospitals stopped accepting bookings of obstetric service from non-local women to ensure adequate service could be provided to local women. To its understanding, spare obstetric service capacity was available in some private hospitals. Should individual Hong Kong residents need assistance for their Mainland spouses to give birth in Hong Kong, the Administration would provide the relevant information as far as</p>	

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		practicable.	
014027 - 015650	Mr WONG Yuk-man Chairman Administration	<p>Views of Mr WONG Yuk-man that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it was discriminatory against Mainland women with Hong Kong husbands as they were treated differently with those whose spouses were civil servants, as the latter were entitled to use public obstetric services in the same manner as local women; (b) the Administration should actively consider ways to address the imminent needs for obstetric services of some 80 pregnant Mainland women whose spouses were Hong Kong residents; and (c) the Administration should be committed to resolving the problem of inadequate obstetric service capacity from the policy perspective by allocating more resources to enhance the service. <p>The Chairman's dissatisfaction at the population policy and obstetric service arrangements which were detrimental to family unity and social integration as well as contrary to the Government's call for closer integration with the Mainland.</p> <p>The Administration's response -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it would be detrimental to the benefits of Hong Kong children born to Mainland mothers if these new born babies were to be brought up in Hong Kong while their mothers had to stay in the Mainland to wait for the issue of OWPs; (b) the waiting time for separated spouses under the OWP Scheme had been shortened to four years. As such, the accompanying dependent children would be at young age when settling in Hong Kong and receive local education. This was in line with the population policy; and (c) SCPP's study on the topic of ramifications of children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women returning to Hong Kong to study and live covered a wide range of complex issues including the use of local obstetric services by Mainland women. Issues of concern raised by members in 	

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		<p>this respect would be conveyed to the Chief Secretary for Administration and SCPP for consideration. SCPP would hold its next meeting shortly. It was expected that measures and arrangements relating to the use of local obstetric services would be announced in the third/fourth quarter of 2011.</p>	
015651 - 021408	<p>Ms Cyd HO Chairman Administration Mr WONG Yuk-man</p>	<p>Views of Ms Cyd HO that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the rationale for allowing Mainland women whose spouses were civil servants to use public obstetric services in the manner same as local women was unjustifiable and discriminatory in nature; (b) the Administration should render immediate assistance to those some 80 Mainland pregnant women with Hong Kong husbands and who were affected by HA's recent decision to stop accepting bookings of obstetric service from non-local women; and (c) the Administration should consider purchasing obstetric services from private hospitals for Mainland spouses of civil servants, in order to release the reserved public obstetric service capacity to other Mainland women whose spouses were also Hong Kong residents but who could not afford the obstetric service charges of private hospitals. <p>The Administration's advice -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Mainland spouse and children of Hong Kong residents had been settling in Hong Kong for family reunion through the OWP Scheme; (b) the consideration behind drawing eligibility criterion for receiving public benefits was to accord priority to residents of Hong Kong to ensure the services could meet the demand and could sustain within limited financial resources; (c) the arrangements for the provision of obstetric services to non-local pregnant women in the next year were being worked out by the parties concerned, although there was no intention to set aside specific quota for non-local women whose spouses were 	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>Hong Kong residents;</p> <p>(d) resources for overall obstetric services in Hong Kong would be studied in the context of the long-term planning for healthcare services; and</p> <p>(e) civil servants' Mainland spouses were eligible for subsidized obstetric services as part of the civil service medical benefits.</p> <p>The Administration was requested to provide a written response to Ms Cyd HO's proposal of purchasing obstetric service places from private hospitals.</p> <p>The Chairman's request of SCPP to give priority to and expedite the review relating to the use of local obstetric services in the context of population policy and produce proposals as soon as practicable.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
<i>Agenda item III – Any other business</i>			
021409 - 021449	Chairman	Discussion item for the next meeting.	