

立法會
Legislative Council

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the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/ED

Panel on Education

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 25 May 2009, at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
- Members attending** : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
- Members absent** : Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Public Officers attending** : Mr Kenneth CHEN, JP
Under Secretary for Education, Education Bureau

Mrs Betty IP
Deputy Secretary for Education (3), Education Bureau

Mr David WONG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics), Security Bureau

Mr Peter George Else
Chief Superintendent (Narcotics Bureau), Hong Kong Police Force

Ms IP Siu-ming
Acting Assistant Director (Youth and Corrections), Social Welfare Department

Dr Heston KWONG Kwok-wai
Assistant Director (Special Health Services), Department of Health

Attendance by invitation : The Hong Kong Bar Association

Mr Rimsky YUEN, SC
Barrister-at-Law

Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor

Mr CHONG Yiu-kwong
Chairperson

Wu Oi Christian Centre

Mr LEE Fai-ping
Executive Director

Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association - Social Work Officer Grade Branch

Mr LEUNG Kin-hung
Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Kam-ki
Vice-Chairman

Christian Zheng Sheng Association

Mr LAM Hay-sing
Chief Executive Officer

Mr CHAN Siu-cheuk
Executive Director

Civic Party

Mr Alan WONG
Vice Chairman, Kowloon East Branch

Young Civics

Mr Ken TSANG
Exco Member

Mr CHOI Chi-kwan
Social Worker

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Lynn LAW
Officer (Family & Community Service)

Mr Ken CHAN
Chief Officer (Children & Youth Service)

Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church -
Hong Kong Synod

Mr Billy TANG
Program Coordinator

學校霸權關注組

Mr CHIN Wai-lok
Executive Member

Hong Kong Playground Association

Ms Christine CHEUNG Yeuk-tip
"Unusual Academy" Service-in-charge

Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong

Mr Paul LO
Team Leader

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council

Mr Charles CHAN Kin-hung
Service Director

Caritas Youth and Community Service

Mr FUNG Hing-kau
Supervisor

The Democratic Party

Mr YIM Ka-wing
Committee Member, Youth Committee of the
Democratic Party

Student Christian Movement of Hong Kong

Mr YUNG Ka-chun
Chairperson

Mr LAW Yan-chi
Member

Youth Union

Mr MOK Hiu-fung
Member

Mr POON Lap-yan
Member

The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council

Mr LAU Wai-lap
Social Worker

Mr CHOI Chung-fai
School Social Work Service Supervisor

Young DAB

Mr JO Chun-wah
Member

Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools

Mr WONG Wai-yu
Chairman

Mr YUEN Pong-yiu
Vice Chairman

Clerk in attendance : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2)6

Staff in attendance : Mr Stanley MA
Senior Council Secretary (2)8

Ms Judy TING
Council Secretary (2)3

Miss Jenny LEE
Legislative Assistant (2)6 (Acting)

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Before proceeding to the agenda item, the Chairman invited members' view on any urgent items which they wished to discuss in June and July 2009 before the end of the current legislative session.

Monitoring of Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools

2. In view of the recent incident of Pegasus Philip Wong Kin Hang Christian Primary School cum Junior Secondary School (Pegasus School), Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong proposed to discuss the monitoring of DSS schools.

3. Mr Tommy CHEUNG considered no urgency to discuss the subject, and said that it could be considered at a regular meeting. The Chairman said that the Administration might arrange sponsorship transition for the Pegasus School before or after the summer vacation, and she considered it necessary to discuss the matter as soon as practicable.

4. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that the arrangement of sponsorship for the Pegasus School did not involve policy issues, but this should be dealt with by the

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Administration. He considered that the Panel should discuss policy issues concerning licensing and monitoring of DSS schools at the meeting in July 2009. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong raised no objection.

5. The Chairman asked the Under Secretary for Education (USED) whether the incident of the Pegasus School was under the investigation of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). USED replied that he did not have any information on the matter. The Chairman said that even if the incident was being investigated by the ICAC, provided that the discussion did not involve the investigation, the Panel could discuss the subject. She suggested discussing the monitoring of DDS schools at one of the meetings in July 2009.

6. Mr Tommy CHEUNG asked whether the stakeholders such as school personnel and parents of the Pegasus School would be invited to the meeting. The Chairman declared interest and said that Ms Ada WONG Ying-kay, one of the directors of the Pegasus School, had financially supported her to run in the 2008 Legislative Council (LegCo) election. She suggested that the proposed meeting should be chaired by the Deputy Chairman.

7. Mr Tommy CHEUNG opined that the discussion would not be about the Pegasus School but the broader issue of monitoring of DSS schools. Nevertheless, he agreed with the Chairman's view that the proposed meeting could be chaired by the Deputy Chairman, or one of the members of the Panel should the Deputy Chairman be unavailable for the meeting.

8. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that should the Panel invite the stakeholders of Pegasus School to the meeting, the focus of the discussion would invariably be on the issues related to the incident instead of the monitoring of DSS schools. He considered it inappropriate to invite the stakeholders of the Pegasus School to the meeting. Should members wish to follow up the incident concerning the Pegasus School, the Complaints Division of the LegCo Secretariat should be approached and the incident would be handled as an individual case. Mr Andrew LEUNG shared the view of Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, and said that the Panel should discuss policy issues and not individual cases.

9. While agreeing that the Panel should not discuss individual cases, Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that members could better understand the broader issue of monitoring of DSS schools from the experience of the Pegasus School such as why a DSS school could operate for such a long period on provisional registration. It would be desirable to listen to the views of both sides, including the Pegasus School and the Administration.

10. The Chairman concluded that the Panel would discuss the monitoring of DSS schools in July 2009. Meanwhile, she would observe the development of the Pegasus School and consult members about the arrangements of the meeting

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nearer the time. Members agreed.

(Post-meeting note: the subject of the monitoring of DSS schools was included in the agenda for the special meeting of the Panel on 6 July 2009.)

I. Drug abuse in schools

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1414/08-09(01), CB(2)1393/08-09(01) and IN12/08-09]

11. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Security had discussed the progress of implementation of recommendations of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse (the Task Force) at its meeting on 5 May 2009, and the Panel had decided to revisit the subject in the next LegCo session.

Oral presentation by deputations

*The Hong Kong Bar Association
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1690/08-09(01)]*

12. Mr Rimsky YUEN presented the views of the Hong Kong Bar Association as detailed in its submission. He supplemented that should compulsory drug testing be considered necessary, the relevant issues including human rights and privacy must be addressed. The provisions of the new legislation must be clear to avoid the possibility of being challenged in court. Any proposed legislative measures concerning drug testing should be proportionate to the problem of youth drug abuse.

*Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1717/08-09(01)]*

13. Mr CHONG Yiu-kwong presented the views of Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor as detailed in its submission.

*Wu Oi Christian Centre
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1690/08-09(02)]*

14. Mr LEE Fai-ping presented the views of Wu Oi Christian Centre as detailed in its submission.

*Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association – Social Work Officer Grade Branch
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1444/08-09(01)]*

15. Mr LEUNG Kin-hung presented the views of Hong Kong Chinese Civil

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Servants' Association – Social Work Officer Grade Branch as detailed in its submission.

Christian Zheng Sheng Association
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1414/08-09(02)]

16. Mr LAM Hay-sing said that the Education Bureau (EDB) should take a leading role in combating the problem of youth drug abuse. However, it had all along adopted a passive attitude and had not provided sufficient resources and support to schools. Mr LAM was given to understand that many schools were well aware of drug abuse problem in their campus. Without support from EDB, schools used their own ways to deal with students found to be abusing drug. For example, students having a similar problem were assigned to the same class and arrangements were made to minimize their interaction with other students. Drug abuse students would eventually lose interest in study and leave school. These students were not followed up by EDB and were often ended up as law breakers for rehabilitation in Christian Zheng Sheng College (CZSC). Mr LAM stressed that EDB had deprived these students of the right to education. He requested EDB to provide the number of such school drop-outs every year.

Civic Party
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1690/08-09(03)]

17. Mr Alan WONG presented the views of the Civic Party as detailed in its submission. He supplemented that the Civic Party objected to compulsory drug testing. Notwithstanding the implementation of various measures to tackle drug problem, 5% of the world population were found to have such problem. This called into question the conventional means to address the problem. Mr WONG added that CZSC was in dire need for resources, but the Administration had not responded to its need.

Young Civics
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1690/08-09(04)]

18. Mr Ken TSANG said that the Young Civics shared the views of the Civic Party and objected to compulsory drug testing. He then presented the views of the Young Civics as detailed in its submission.

Mr CHOI Chi-kwan, Social Worker
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1717/08-09(02)]

19. Mr CHOI Chi-kwan presented his views as detailed in his submission.

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*The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1623/08-09(01)]*

20. Ms Lynn LAW presented the views of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) as detailed in its submission. She supplemented that HKCSS had reservations about school-based drug testing. According to the findings of a study on drug testing in schools commissioned by the Australian National Council on Drugs in 2008, the accuracy and reliability of school-based drug testing had been doubted and drug testing had adversely affected teacher-student and parent-child relationship. She added that in HKCSS's view, school-based drug testing would breach basic rights, such as privacy right, and create mistrust and stigmatization.

*Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1688/08-09(01)]*

21. Mr Billy TANG presented the views of Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Synod as detailed in its submission.

*學校霸權關注組
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1543/08-09(01)]*

22. Mr CHIN Wai-lok presented the views of 學校霸權關注組 as detailed in its submission. He supplemented that members should not consider the issue of school-based drug testing simply from the perspective of parents, and they should also take into account the rights of students.

*Hong Kong Playground Association
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1690/08-09(05)]*

23. Ms Christine CHEUNG Yeuk-tip presented the views of Hong Kong Playground Association as detailed in its submission.

*Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1823/08-09(01)]*

24. Mr Paul LO presented the views of Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong as detailed in its submission.

*Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1688/08-09(02)]*

25. Mr Charles CHAN Kin-hung presented the views of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council as detailed in its submission. He supplemented that the Council urged the Administration to provide more resources and support to

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schools to implement the Healthy School Policy.

Caritas Youth and Community Service
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1688/08-09(03)]

26. Mr FUNG Hing-kau presented the views of Caritas Youth and Community Service as detailed in its submission.

The Democratic Party
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1654/08-09(01) and CB(2)2236/08-09(01)]

27. Mr YIM Ka-wing presented the views of the Democratic Party as detailed in its submissions.

Student Christian Movement of Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1688/08-09(04)]

28. Mr LAW Yan-chi presented the views of Student Christian Movement of Hong Kong as detailed in its submission.

Youth Union
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1800/08-09(01)]

29. Mr POON Lap-yan presented the views of Youth Union as detailed in its submission.

The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council

30. Mr LAU Wai-lap said that he was concerned that schools had their own ways to deal with student drug abuse problem instead of following the policy of EDB. It was not uncommon for schools to group students having drug problem in the same class and isolate them from other students. Gradually, these students would lose interest in study, drop out from school and finally lose their right to education. After being marginalized by the community, these students would commit crime readily, and the problem of youth drug abuse would become intensified. Mr LAU called on the Administration to make reference to overseas experience of combating youth drug abuse. In overseas places, rehabilitation services for young drug abusers were mainly provided by families and communities. Young drug abusers were not marginalized but were supported by an integrated social network, which helped them stay away from peer influence on drug abuse behaviour.

Mr CHOI Chung-fai, School Social Work Service Supervisor
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1690/08-09(06)]

31. Mr CHOI Chung-fai presented his views as detailed in his submission.

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Young DAB

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2071/08-09(01)]

32. Mr JO Chun-wah presented the views of Young DAB as detailed in its submission.

Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools

33. Mr WONG Wai-yu expressed concern about the few representatives from the education sector attending the meeting. As drug abuse in schools was a controversial issue, he urged the Panel to consider arranging another meeting in the near future and invite representatives from the education sector to join the discussion. Mr WONG said that many school personnel were aware of the grave problem of drug abuse in schools. Students as young as nine years old had had the experience of abusing and trafficking drugs. Since principals and teachers were unfamiliar with the legal implications relevant to the handling of drug abuse in schools, Mr WONG urged the Administration to draw up clear policy and protocols in this regard.

34. The Chairman informed the deputations that the Council had held a motion debate on the subject at the meeting on 29 April 2009.

The Administration's response

35. USED said that the Administration shared the views of many social worker deputations that the causes of youth drug abuse were complex. He considered it important for the community as a whole to foster a culture of acceptance, tolerance and care for young people.

36. USED further said that the education sector had a role to play in tackling drug abuse in schools. In the New Senior Secondary Curriculum to be implemented in September 2009, anti-drug education would be included and emphasized in the core subject of Liberal Studies and the elective subject of Health Management and Social Care. The Healthy School Policy had been designed to help students adopt a healthy lifestyle and positive values in personal development. USED stressed that isolation and segregation of drug abuse students was definitely not the means of helping them, and the Administration did not condone such practice in schools. Since the release of the Report of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse (the Report), EDB had been working closely with Narcotics Division (ND) regarding the implementation of a pilot school-based drug testing scheme in schools on a voluntary basis. He emphasized that the Administration would take into account the views of different stakeholders before launching the school-based drug testing scheme.

37. Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics) Security Bureau (PAS(N)/SB)

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said that the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drug had adopted a political declaration in March 2009, calling for the adoption of "an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies". He pointed out that the recommendations of the Report were in line with the spirit of the political declaration, and had included a number of enhanced measures for preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation and law enforcement.

38. PAS(N)/SB elaborated that many young drug abusers had overlooked the detrimental effect of psychotropic substances on their health and believed that the substances were less harmful than heroin to health. These youngsters had developed a sub-culture which legitimized drug abuse. In order to disseminate the message of the harmful effect of psychotropic substances to them, ND had recommended that in publicity and preventive education, drug abuse should be called "吸毒" instead of "濫藥" in Chinese, and drugs should be referred to as "毒品".

39. PAS(N)/SB further pointed out that the demand for treatment and rehabilitation services by young drug abusers had increased substantially over the recent years. In view of this, following the Task Force's recommendations, the Administration opened two new Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers (CCPSAs) and strengthened the manpower of District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams and Overnight Outreaching Service for Young Night Drifters. Additional funding had also been deployed to subvent places in residential rehabilitation centres.

40. PAS(N)/SB added that in the school sector, EDB and ND would reach out to parents for improved home-school cooperation and enhanced parents' awareness of the problems of youth drug abuse. Also, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had been commissioned to run teacher training programmes to equip teachers with the knowledge on drug prevention. A large number of young drug abusers did not recognize the potential damage of drug abuse on their health and did not see the need for changing their behaviour. According to statistics, about 60% of the young drug abusers had indicated that the most common reason for taking drugs was peer influence. Given the hidden and epidemic nature of psychotropic substance abuse, the Task Force had recommended the adoption of drug testing.

41. As regards school-based drug testing, PAS(N)/SB stressed that it was appropriate for schools to adopt it on a voluntary basis having regard to the gravity of the drug abuse problem of their students. He added that ND and the relevant bureaux and departments had been working to commission a study on voluntary drug testing to address pertinent issues such as privacy, stigmatization, downstream support service, workload on teachers, etc. Research would be conducted on the experience regarding the implementation of voluntary school-based drug testing in overseas schools and local international schools.

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Based on the findings of the study, a pilot drug testing scheme in some schools would be implemented.

42. PAS(N)/SB further said that in considering the need to introduce new legislation to empower law enforcement agencies to carry out compulsory drug testing, ND was aware of the concern about possible violation of rights such as privacy and human rights. Human rights concern could be addressed properly and should not prevail over the need for introducing new legislation to tackle youth drug abuse. A consultation paper would be issued to seek public views on how these concerns could be addressed if compulsory drug testing was considered necessary. The new legislation, if introduced, would also be proportionate to the problem of youth drug abuse.

43. PAS(N)/SB further pointed out that drug testing was a means contemplated by the Task Force to achieve the goal of protecting youngsters from abusing drugs. He echoed the views of some deputations that youth drug abuse reflected many deep rooted problems in family, study, personal development, etc. To tackle the problem at root and to promote a community culture of care for young people, the initiative "Path Builders" had been launched. PAS(N)/SB stressed that the Government was committed to tackling youth drug abuse in a holistic manner by launching a host of measures in close collaboration with different stakeholders.

Discussion

44. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the Task Force had put forward comprehensive strategies to tackle youth drug abuse, and school-based drug testing was one of such strategies. The relevant issues relating to drug abuse had been discussed at the meeting of the Panel on Security on 5 May 2009, and the Panel on Education should focus its discussion on school-based drug testing.

45. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong further said that the problem of youth drug abuse was becoming more and more serious. The mean age of first-time abusers under the age of 21 was 15, and youth drug trafficking had recorded an increase of 115%. During the motion debate on the subject, it had been noticed that LegCo and the Administration had consensus on four major points. First, after a student had been tested positive for taking drugs, the identity of the student should be kept confidential. Second, the student concerned would not be expelled from school. Third, appropriate treatment and rehabilitation services should be provided to the student. Fourth, the student would not be deprived of the right to education. Since LegCo and the Administration agreed on the important aspects of youth drug abuse, the focus should therefore be on the provision of support services to young drug abusers.

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Provision of support services to young drug abusers

46. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the less serious young drug abusers should receive rehabilitation treatment at the community-based counselling centres while continuing their study in schools. Their identities should be kept confidential and they should not be subject to any forms of discrimination. As regards the more serious young drug abusers, they should be admitted to drug treatment and rehabilitation centres with a view to receiving rehabilitation and education services concurrently. Given the expected increase of identified cases once drug testing was implemented, Mr CHEUNG was concerned about the adequacy of rehabilitation services including the provision of drug rehabilitation schools to enable the drug abuse students to continue education. He stressed that young drug abusers, like other youngsters, were entitled to 12-year free education under the new senior secondary academic structure.

47. In response, USED explained that the Administration had all along provided education services to young drug abusers while they received rehabilitation treatment. There were nine counselling and rehabilitation centres, operated by five NGOs, offering 17 education programmes to young drug abusers. Financial resources, in terms of lump sum of funds and subsidies, were provided to NGOs for organizing the relevant education programmes.

48. PAS(N)/SB supplemented that the Task Force had recommended the implementation of the Fifth Three-Year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services (2009-2011) which included the provision of education programmes to young drug abusers.

49. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che agreed with the views of many deputations that the existing downstream support services were far from adequate. Although many teachers were willing to help students with drug abuse problem, the overwhelming workload prevented them from providing counselling and education to the students at the same time. The proposed increase of the manpower of school-based social workers could not meet the demand. Mr CHEUNG requested the Administration to take concrete actions to help CZSC relocate to a bigger site to accommodate its increasing number of youth drug abusers.

50. Miss Tanya CHAN urged the Administration to provide more resources to CZSC, and to promote public understanding of the services provided by CZSC. She was given to understand that young drug abusers who were willing to receive rehabilitative service had to wait for as long as four months for treatment. This would dampen their motivation for rehabilitation. She stressed the importance of allocating adequate resources to enhance the support services. She sought views from the deputations on the difficulties encountered by front-line workers in assisting youth drug abusers.

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51. Ms Starry LEE said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong was concerned about the relocation of CZSC and understood that it was in urgent need for resources. She urged the Administration to accord adequate support to CZSC to facilitate its relocation.

Drug testing

52. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that he noted with concern the skepticism expressed by many deputations about the proposed voluntary drug testing in school, worrying that this would turn out to be compulsory drug testing. It appeared that the general public had little faith in the Administration for carrying out such a controversial project. He called on the Administration to endeavour to make voluntary drug testing a success. As teachers and parents lacked the knowledge and skill to handle drug abuse, and the downstream support services were far from sufficient, it was necessary for the Administration to allocate sufficient resources to improve downstream support services to enhance parental education and teaching training in order to tackle the problem of drug abuse in schools.

53. USED responded that the Administration would continue to enhance home-school cooperation in the anti-drug cause.

54. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said that the Administration had not been listening to the views of the youth representatives who had stated their objection to the proposed voluntary drug testing. He shared their concern that the proposed voluntary drug testing would eventually become compulsory drug testing because under such an unbalanced power structure, students could not genuinely say "no" if their parents had given their consent. He was also worried that many schools would readily resort to isolation or dismissal to handle drug abuse students. As regards students trafficking drugs in schools, Mr LEE opined that the Administration should attach more importance to tackling the problem at source and promote a culture of acceptance, tolerance and care for young people in families and the community.

55. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che shared Mr LEE Cheuk-yan's concern that voluntary drug testing might become compulsory drug testing.

56. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that he spoke on behalf of Mr WONG Yuk-man who could not attend the meeting. In his view, both the upstream and downstream services were blatantly inadequate. The number of school social workers was too few and teacher-to-student ratio too low. There was no need to implement school-based drug testing since drug abuse students could easily be identified by teachers in daily interaction. The crux of the issue was how these students would be followed up. Mr LEUNG considered it deplorable that Hong Kong, being a well-developed city, had spent too little on education in terms of

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Gross Domestic Products. He stressed that unless the Administration could allocate sufficient resources to enhance upstream and downstream support services, the problem of youth drug abuse could not be resolved.

57. Miss Tanya CHAN said that in her view, the upstream issue of youth drug abuse was the source of drug supply to the youngsters and the midstream issue concerned the manpower of school-based as well as front-line social workers. She called on the Administration to draw up guidelines and protocols for school personnel to handle drug abuse cases. She was worried that after the drug abuse students had been expelled from school, they would continue their drug abuse habit in a more hidden place, such as home. Consequently, these students would become hidden in the community and it would become even difficult to rehabilitate them.

58. USED reiterated that EDB had been committed to strengthening parents' understanding of youth drug abuse and to promoting home-school cooperation in the anti-drug cause. The Administration had also commissioned NGOs to run the teacher training programmes to enhance teachers' knowledge on drug prevention and early identification.

Enhancing parental awareness

59. Ms Starry LEE considered it important to let youth and parents understand the serious consequences of drug abuse. She sought information on measures to enhance parental awareness of youth drug abuse.

60. USED replied that in order to improve home-school cooperation in the anti-drug cause, a resource kit was being developed to help various organizations plan and implement anti-drug programmes for parents. Police school liaison officers would help promote better understanding of youth drug abuse. Ms Starry LEE commented that simply compiling a resource kit was not sufficient, and suggested that more resources should be allocated to schools for arranging activities such as anti-drug seminars for parents. USED responded that there were funds allocated for the purpose.

61. The Chairman invited the deputations who represented the views of youngsters to respond to the discussions at the meeting.

62. Mr Ken TSANG of the Young Civics disagreed with the views of PAS(N)/SB that human rights concern should not prevail over the need for introducing new legislation to tackle youth drug abuse. He stressed that the principle of human rights should be safeguarded.

63. Mr CHIN Wai-lok of 學校霸權關注組 echoed the views of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan that under an unbalanced power structure, voluntary drug testing would eventually become compulsory drug testing. He cautioned that the school

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management would tend to dismiss problematic students from school in order to keep its reputation intact.

64. Mr YIM Ka-wing of the Democratic Party said that there had been an upsurge of drug trafficking in schools, and suggested that the Administration should invoke the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance for drug trafficking offences so that heavier penalties could be imposed to deter sale and supply of drugs.

65. Mr LAW Yan-chi of Student Christian Movement of Hong Kong said that the Administration should give due consideration to the provision of appropriate downstream treatment and rehabilitation services, such as providing resources to CZSC. He added that the issue of stigmatization should not be under-estimated.

66. Mr POON Lap-yan of Youth Union was concerned with the well-being of the young night drifters and the lack of concrete measures on the part of the Administration to assist them not to become drug abusers.

67. Mr JO Chun-wah of Young DAB urged the Administration to increase the manpower of police school liaison officers and social workers to effectively combat the problem of youth drug abuse at source.

68. Concluding the discussions, the Chairman said that under an unbalanced power structure, students would be forced to undergo drug testing which would adversely affect student-school and parent-child relationship. Youth drug abuse reflected many root problems in family, study, and personal development.

II. Any other business

69. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:43 pm.