

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1280/08-09
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 13 February 2009, at 8:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Tanya CHAN (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
- Member attending** : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
- Members absent** : Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon WONG Sing-chi

Public Officers : Item IV
attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Home Affairs Department

Mrs Pamela TAN, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Miss Adeline WONG
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1)

Miss Victoria TANG
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Thomas CHOW, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Mr Paul CHEUNG
Assistant Director (Leisure Services) (1)

Mr LEE Yuk-man
Assistant Director (Libraries and Development)

Item V

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr SO Kam-shing, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Miss KWOK Wai-ling, Polly
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture) 2

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi, JP
Deputy Director (Culture)

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

Mr Louis YU
Chief Executive

Item VI

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Grace LUI Kit-yuk, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Ms Maria LAM Man-ki
Senior Manager (Centre for Youth Development)

Architectural Services Department

Mr Patrick HAU
Chief Project Manager 301 (Acting)

Mr Daniel CHOW
Senior Architect 5

Mr Zenith CHAN
Associate Director, P&T Architects and
Engineers Limited

Clerk in attendance : Ms Betty FONG
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Janet SHUM
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Ms Anna CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

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I. Confirmation of minutes
[LC Paper No. CB(2)817/08-09]

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2008 were confirmed.

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II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

2. Members noted that the following papers from the Administration had been issued since the last meeting -

- (a) paper on procurement of third party risks insurance by owners' corporations and issues related to building management [LC Paper No. CB(2)640/08-09(01)];
- (b) paper on the handling of unmet funding demands by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the research study to develop a new set of assessment criteria for the major performing arts groups, and the plan to promote the development of inclusive arts [LC Paper No. CB(2)798/08-09(01)];
- (c) progress report on outstanding leisure and cultural services projects of the former municipal councils [LC Paper No. CB(2)839/08-09(01)]; and
- (d) paper on an increase in the approved project estimate for development of the capital works project in Aldrich Bay Park [LC Paper No. CB(2)840/08-09(01)].

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)818/08-09]

3. Members noted the following in relation to items for discussion at the next meeting:

- (a) "Territory-wide Survey on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Hong Kong" would be discussed at the next regular meeting scheduled for 20 March 2009;
- (b) the Administration would advise the Panel towards the end of February on whether "Measures to address gambling-related problems" would be ready for discussion at the next regular meeting; and
- (c) the Administration proposed to defer the discussion on "Development of public library services" from March to April 2009 as the Public Libraries Advisory Committee would discuss in March the draft strategic plan for mapping out the development path for the Hong Kong Public Libraries for the coming 10 years.

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(Post-meeting note: Members were informed via LC Paper No. CB(2) 959/08-09 on 24 February 2009 that "Measures to address gambling-related problems" would be discussed at the regular meeting in March.)

4. Prof Patrick LAU suggested that "2009 East Asian Games" which had been scheduled for discussion in April 2009 should be discussed together with "Promotion of sports development". He also enquired about the schedule for discussion of "Tree preservation and maintenance in Hong Kong". Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the issues related to the funding and development of inclusive arts should be followed up by the Panel. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that the Administration should report to the Panel on the progress in its study of the provision of an allowance for village representatives. The Chairman said that he would follow up with the Administration on members' suggestions.

IV. Implementation of recommendations of the 2006 District Council Review

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)818/08-09(01)-(03)]

5. Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) briefed members on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2006 District Council (DC) review.

District Minor Works projects

6. In view of the numerous complaints on the performance of the term consultants in implementing District Minor Works (DMW) projects, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming asked whether the Administration would consider engaging in-house professionals, such as engineers of the Works Section of the Home Affairs Department (HAD), to handle these projects.

7. Director of Home Affairs (DHA) said that, compared with the some \$60 million worth of minor works projects that HAD's Works Section used to handle in the past, the \$300 million provision for DMW projects effective from April 2008 represented a huge increase. As there was strict control over the size of the civil service, the manpower of the Works Section could not be enhanced commensurate with the increase in funding for minor works projects. As such, the Works Section did not have the capacity to implement all the DMW projects and the services of term consultants were required.

8. As regards the term consultancy approach, DHA explained that this was designed to enhance the capacity and capability of DCs in the delivery of projects of larger scales and greater complexity. To ensure that the number of DMW projects would be large enough to attract high standard consultancy firms and to enable the term consultants concerned to build up the relevant experience, the Administration had commissioned four term consultants, each

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working respectively for DCs of the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories East and New Territories West.

9. Referring to Ms Cyd HO's suggestion for DCs to coordinate the direct engagement of consultants among themselves, DHA said that according to the Government's procurement procedures, the appointment of term consultants should be undertaken by public officers to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

10. In response to Mr WONG Yung-kan's enquiry, SHA said that DMW provision was a dedicated capital works block vote approved by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and the unspent portion could not be carried forward to the following financial year.

11. Noting that a large number of approved DMW projects were related to recreational and leisure facilities, such as pavilions and rain shelters, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong asked whether the cost ceiling for DMW projects had barred DCs from implementing projects which had more direct impact on the livelihood of the local community, such as drainage improvement works. DHA advised that DCs could initiate DMW projects costing up to \$21 million each, which was the cost ceiling for a minor works project funded under a block allocation approved by FC. Individual works projects which exceeded \$21 million, such as large scale drainage improvement works, were not covered by the block allocation and the approval of FC would be required.

12. In view of the budget constraints, Mr CHEUNG suggested that the Administration should put in place a standing mechanism for DCs to propose one major works project item in each district each year for the consideration of LegCo. SHA undertook to consider Mr CHEUNG's suggestion.

Communication between the Government and DCs

13. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that the arrangement for senior government officials to attend DC meetings would be more fruitful if there were more discussions on broader policy issues. He pointed out that in the past, the Steering Committee on District Administration (SCDA), chaired by SHA or Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (PSHA) and attended by the relevant Heads of Departments (HoDs), had provided an effective platform for the Administration to coordinate the strategies and measures to tackle district issues requiring inter-departmental collaboration. He asked whether such an arrangement would continue. Ms Cyd HO added that in the absence of a close partnership and collaboration with DCs, the attendance of senior officials at DC meetings was merely an act of formality.

14. SHA said that while District Officers (DOs) were dedicated to consult DCs on specific district issues to ensure that district needs were promptly met, Principal Officials and HoDs were mainly engaged in exchanging views with

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DC members on territory-wide policy issues, such as the Financial Secretary's annual Budget. SHA pointed out that the SCDA was able to facilitate effective coordination among government departments to deal with district issues. He further advised that the next SCDA meeting would be convened shortly to discuss street management matters. Mr WONG Yung-kan suggested that measures to expedite the implementation of DMW projects should also be discussed at the SCDA meeting.

Role and functions of DCs

15. Prof Patrick LAU emphasised the need to enhance DC's role in district planning which in his view should reflect the specific characteristic of the local community and synchronize with the overall planning at the territory level. He asked how the Planning Department (PlanD) would work with DCs in this regard. The Chairman and Mr WONG Yung-kan echoed similar views. The Chairman further suggested that HAD should relay this view to the respective DCs.

16. SHA responded that PlanD had collaborated closely with DCs to seek their views on matters relating to district planning. While the Government would take heed of the views of the local community in district planning, it was of equal importance that the local community should give due consideration to the overall development strategies of the community as a whole, particularly in the planning of territory-wide public utilities.

17. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS) said that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had taken great care to integrate district themes in the design of beautification projects such as mural painting, sitting-out areas and street lighting facilities. In response to Mr KAM Nai-wai's enquiry on library services, DLCS advised that with the support of DCs, LCSD would extend the operating hours of 33 major and district libraries by nine to 10 hours each week to better meet the needs of the public, with effect from 1 April 2009.

18. Ms Cyd HO said that the Central and Western District Council (C&W DC) had repeatedly requested the Administration to address the public housing need of the lower income groups in the district but to no avail. For DCs to discharge their role and functions more effectively, Ms HO considered that they should not remain as an advisory body but should assume an active role in the planning of public facilities and services closely linked to the livelihood concerns of the local community, such as housing, education and medical services; and an independent secretariat should be put in place to provide professional support to DCs. Mr KAM Nai-wai added that additional manpower support for DC Secretariats were required to relieve the workload of civil servants whose working capacity had been tightly stretched.

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19. SHA responded that -

- (a) the main functions of DCs, as stipulated in the Basic Law, were to serve as an advisory body in district administration and other affairs and to provide services in such fields as culture, recreation and environmental sanitation. The suggestion for DCs to participate in the planning of housing policy was not within the ambit of DC;
- (b) urban renewal projects were of prime importance to the development of C&W District where land shortage had been a prevailing problem. These projects had been taken forward in consultation with C&W DC; and
- (c) DC Secretariats were part of the civil service establishment and HAD would continue to work towards strengthening their manpower support.

20. The Chairman considered that DCs should participate in the management of district facilities relating to food and environmental hygiene, which affected directly the quality of life of the local community. SHA agreed to explore the feasibility of expanding the role of DCs to cover other facilities if DCs generally share the same views in this regard, taking into account the capacity of DCs in managing district facilities. .

21. Mr KAM Nai-wai considered that the frequent objections by local communities to the Administration's proposals on district projects were attributed to its policy in demarcating DC constituencies based on a very small population size. As a result, public policies and community issues were often discussed from a narrow perspective, thus neglecting the interest of different sectors and the community as a whole. For the effective implementation of district administration, Mr KAM said that the DC election and appointment system should be reviewed. SHA remarked that issues raised by Mr KAM had been addressed by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in his oral reply to a question raised at the LegCo meeting on 11 February 2009.

Follow up on issues relating to 2006 DC Review

22. Mr KAM Nai-wai criticized the Administration for its piecemeal approach in addressing the problems of DCs in the 2006 DC Review. He suggested that further meetings should be arranged for the 18 DCs to express their views on various issues concerning district administration, and for LegCo members to discuss with the relevant bureaux/departments on a range of unresolved issues, including inadequate manpower support for DC Secretariats, insufficient allowances to cover DC members' office expenses, and measures to enhance DCs' effectiveness in the management of district facilities and projects.

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23. The Chairman agreed that a meeting should be arranged for LegCo members to discuss with senior officials of the relevant bureaux/departments, such as the Development Bureau, Food and Health Bureau and HAD, on various issues relating to the operation of DCs and measures to enhance the communication in the management of district facilities and services. As to Mr KAM's suggestion on meeting with members of the 18 DCs, the Chairman said that a standing mechanism was already in place for such purpose.

24. Referring to Ms Cyd HO's suggestion to further discuss DMW-related issues, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming considered that it would be more fruitful to review these issues in late 2009 (i.e. in the middle of the current DC term) to allow more time for observing the progress of these projects. Mr WONG Yung-kan shared similar view. In view of members' concern on DMWs, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the relevant issues should be scheduled for further discussion in the 2009-2010 financial year.

V. Development of Cantonese Opera and other Xiqu and future of the Sunbeam Theatre

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)818/08-09(04)&(05)]

Development of Cantonese Opera and other Xiqu

25. Referring to the proposed inscription of Cantonese Opera on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the long-term measures taken by the Administration in the promotion and conservation of Cantonese Opera. She added that the successful revitalization of Qun Opera should provide a useful reference in this regard. To facilitate public understanding of the work of the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee, she suggested that the minutes of the Committee's meetings should be uploaded onto the internet in a timely manner. Mr KAM Nai-wai considered that efforts made by the Administration in the promotion of Cantonese Opera were inadequate.

26. SHA said that Cantonese Opera was a fine art with popular support in Hong Kong and a different approach was adopted in its development. Efforts were made to sustain and revitalize the art within the community. For example, secondary schools and the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts had provided young people with the opportunity to learn this art form, and an increasing number of budding artists dedicated to Cantonese Opera had joined the profession. SHA stressed that the Administration was committed to the preservation and development of Cantonese Opera and had explained its policy in clear and concrete terms in the Administration's paper. He considered that allegations against the Government for being inert in this respect were unsubstantiated.

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27. In response to Mr Timothy FOK's suggestion for the Administration to foster closer cooperation with cities in the Pearl River Delta in the preservation and development of Cantonese Opera, SHA said that the Administration was working towards that direction.

28. Prof Patrick LAU asked whether the Administration would consider encouraging and facilitating the setting up of bamboo theatres for performing Cantonese Opera excerpts at open spaces at the former North Point estate and the West Kowloon Cultural District. DSHA(3) said that bamboo theatres were set up for presenting ritual performances of Chinese Opera during traditional festivals in the rural villages and open areas of housing estates and playgrounds managed by LCSD. The construction cost of a bamboo theatre, as estimated by the operator, was around \$800,000, and the high audience turn-out during the traditional festivals should sustain the operation of these performances.

29. Mr Paul TSE enquired about the effectiveness of the Administration's measures in promoting Cantonese Opera as a major tourist attraction. He further suggested that Cantonese Opera excerpt performances should be staged as long-run programmes to enhance their appeal as a regular night entertainment programme for visitors from overseas and the Mainland.

30. DSHA(3) said that HAB had worked in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote Cantonese Opera, and guided cultural tours were organized during weekends for tourists to enjoy excerpts of Cantonese Opera performances. While the tours had attracted the interest of tourists, more efforts would be required to facilitate their appreciation of the performances through provision of more English and Chinese subtitles. HAB would collaborate with the tertiary institutions in this regard. SHA added that the Yau Ma Tei Xiqu Activity Centre due for completion in 2011 should become another attraction for tourists interested in traditional Chinese culture.

31. Ms Cyd HO urged the Administration to accord priority to the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong (CAAHK)'s application for revitalising the North Kowloon Magistracy under the "Revitalising Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme" (the Scheme). She said that the high ceiling of the Magistracy had made it an ideal venue for Cantonese Opera training and rehearsals. She considered that it would be a waste of government property and resources if the most deserving candidate was not selected to join the Scheme.

32. SHA said that HAB was in support of CAAHK's proposal from a cultural policy perspective. However, the Scheme was under the ambit of the Development Bureau which would make the final decision upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Revitalisation of Historic Buildings. Ms Cyd HO remarked that collaborative efforts should be made by bureaux/departments concerned in the conservation of traditional arts. She hoped that SHA would seek the support of the Executive Council on CAAHK's application.

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Sunbeam Theatre

33. The Deputy Chairman sought SHA's clarification on the allegation about the Administration's reluctance to follow up issues relating to the tenancy renewal of the Sunbeam Theatre. SHA responded that the allegation was unfounded.

34. Mr KAM Nai-wai urged the Administration to acquire the Sunbeam Theatre for reasons that (a) the Theatre was conveniently located and easily accessible by its elderly audience; (b) it embodied the community's collective memory and was of heritage value in the old district of North Point; (c) it would offer a long-term solution to future lease renewal problems; and (d) there was a precedent of acquisition of a private property for built heritage conservation purpose by the Administration. Despite the Administration's efforts in developing alternative venues such as the Ko Shan Theatre (KST) annex building, Mr KAM stressed that there was no substitute for the Theatre for its historical value and unique status in the promotion of Cantonese Opera.

35. Mr WONG Kwok-hing shared similar views. He said that the Theatre was a landmark of the old district and together with the nearby food stalls, markets, and tram depot, represented the collective memory of the local community. With the signature of some 500 opera fans, he appealed to the Administration to save the Theatre from closure.

36. SHA said that in renewing the lease with the operator of the Sunbeam Theatre, the landlord had made clear his plan to redevelop the Theatre three years later and on that basis, the Administration had focused its effort in redeveloping an alternative performance venue for Cantonese Opera at KST. This included the construction of an annex building to KST which currently provided similar seating capacity as the Sunbeam Theatre, and improvement works on various supporting facilities, such as provision of additional toilet cubicles, dressing rooms and directional signboards, etc. The Administration would also step up efforts to promote the use of KST for Cantonese Opera performances.

37. While noting the historic value of the Sunbeam Theatre, SHA pointed out that the Administration did not consider it justifiable to acquire the Theatre taking into account the considerations that –

- (a) the Government should refrain from intervening in commercial decisions as to whether a private cinema should continue to operate;
- (b) the territory-wide distribution of performance venues managed by LCSD, which currently stood at 15, could be used for staging Cantonese Opera performances; and

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- (c) the Administration should ensure the prudent use of public money.

38. Mr WONG Yuk-man said that the new rental charges of the Sunbeam Theatre which added up to some \$9 million per year was relatively small in comparison with the government subsidy of \$56 million in 2007-2008 to the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He shared the view that the Theatre should be preserved together with the vicinity of the old district, and suggested that the Administration might consider the buy-and-lease option. Mr KAM Nai-wai expressed concern about the little amount of subvention for Cantonese Opera in comparison with other arts form such as dance and repertory theatre.

39. SHA stressed that in comparison with Qun Opera and orchestral music, Cantonese Opera was a more popular art form which operated with vitality under the market mechanism. Any form of government intervention should be deliberated with caution. He reiterated that the acquisition option was a commercial decision and it was unrealistic to ask the Administration to adopt this option irrespective of the market situation. As regards the subvention for Cantonese Opera, SHA advised that the Administration had invested some \$32 million in the promotion of the art in 2008-2009 excluding the provision for constructing new venue.

40. The Chairman asked whether the rental for the Sunbeam Theatre, which had sharply increased under the new tenancy agreement, was in line with the market rate. He further enquired whether subsidy would be provided to assist the operation of the Theatre.

41. SHA said that the rental of the renewed contract was an outcome of the negotiation between the landlord and the operator. To assist the operator to make up for the rent, HAB had been actively seeking outside donations from patrons. Subsidy would also be provided to Cantonese Opera troupes hiring the Theatre through the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. SHA also advised members of the possibility for the operator to adjust the hiring charges to cover the increase in rental. The Chairman remarked that the ticket price of the operatic shows should be affordable to the public at large.

42. Referring to Mr KAM Nai-wai's suggestion for the Panel to move a motion urging the Administration to consider acquiring the theatre building where the Sunbeam Theatre was housed, the Chairman expressed reservation about the appropriateness for a panel to move a motion which involved the acquisition of a private property. The Deputy Chairman shared similar view and suggested that the issue related to the Sunbeam Theatre and the long-term development of Cantonese Opera should be further pursued in future and deputations could be invited to express their views, if so needed.

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43. After discussion, Mr KAM Nai-wai agreed that the following motion should be moved instead-

"本委員會認為高山劇場與新光戲院可共同發展，且新光戲院在粵劇界表演的歷史和地位，是香港粵劇重要的集體回憶，政府應考慮新光戲院的文化保育，以保存傳統粵劇表演場地。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel opines that the development of the Ko Shan Theatre and the Sunbeam Theatre may go in tandem, and given the history and status of the Sunbeam Theatre in the Cantonese Opera sector as part of the important collective memory of Cantonese Opera in Hong Kong, the Government should consider the cultural conservation of the Sunbeam Theatre so as to preserve a performance venue for traditional Cantonese Opera."

44. The Chairman put the motion to vote. Six members voted in favour of the motion and no member voted against it. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

VI. Hong Kong Centre for Youth Development

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)778/08-09(01) & CB(2)818/08-09(06)]

45. The Chairman invited members' view on the Hong Kong Centre for Youth Development (HKCYD) where a visit was arranged for members on 7 February 2009.

Construction Works

46. Mr KAM Nai-wai pointed out that the fitting-out works of HKCYD, particularly those in the Auditorium, were below standard and queried the criteria adopted by the Architectural Services Department (ASD) in accepting the handover of the building from the contractor.

47. Chief Project Manager 301 (Acting) said that in accordance with the normal trade practice, ASD had ensured the contractor's compliance with the basic design and technical requirements as stipulated in the contract for the handover of the centre to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). The centre was currently under the defect liability period within which the contractor was obliged to follow up on the defects and improvement works. The retention money for the project would only be issued upon the contractor's satisfactory completion of all the relevant requirements. The Associate Director of P&T

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Architects and Engineers Limited assured members that despite the technical completion of the construction work, the contractor would endeavour to expedite the defect rectification works as required under the contract. The Chairman reminded the Administration to monitor closely the improvement works taking into consideration members' views.

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48. The Deputy Chairman considered that a direct access between the dressing rooms and the backstage areas should be provided. She also requested the Administration to provide a layout plan of the centre for members' information.

49. On the multi-purpose areas at 5/F to 9/F of the main block, Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired about their future usage; Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che asked how the related consultation would be conducted and whether FC's approval was required for their fitting out work, and Prof Patrick LAU suggested that arts and sports activities should be organized in areas with high ceilings.

50. DSHA(1) explained that the purpose of the multi-purpose areas was to allow flexibility in the future allocation and design of these areas to cater for different youth development needs. The areas would be used for multiple functions, such as offices for youth groups, classrooms/training rooms or conference rooms, as well as for exhibition purpose, and there was no need to seek additional funding approval from FC for the fitting-out work. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry, DSHA(1) advised that drop-off areas were provided for large coaches at one of the centre's entrances at Chai Wan Road.

Management and operation

51. Mr KAM Nai-wai and Prof Patrick LAU expressed concern about the timetable for the opening of the well furnished hostel block. Prof LAU said that the Administration should consider advancing the opening of the hostel block so as to make full use of the resources.

52. Given that the government would collect all incomes generated from the centre and provide funding for the centre's necessary recurrent expenditure, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was worried that the management and operation services contractor might not have the incentive to promote and improve the service of the centre. He also enquired about the respective number of tenders submitted by commercial contractors and non-governmental organisations. Noting that some youth organisations were very keen to set up offices in the centre, he further enquired about details on rental application.

53. DSHA said that -

- (a) HKCYD would come into operation in phases after the second quarter of 2009 and prior to that, trial runs on the use of the centre's facilities would be conducted;

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- (b) a hotel/guesthouse licence would be required for the operation of the hostel, and HAB would consider making use of the premises for other activities in the interim;
- (c) the result of the tender exercise would be announced by the first quarter of 2009 and before that, relevant details of the exercise should be kept confidential;
- (d) HAB would directly take up the responsibility for managing and operating HKCYD by funding the necessary recurrent expenditure. It would strive to achieve full cost recovery by making every effort to operate the centre in a cost-effective manner. The contractor would have to comply with the performance indicator, e.g, a guarantee of 70% usage rate of the youth hostel as stipulated in the tender documents. Failure to achieve this target might result in a deduction of service fee; and
- (e) the leasing policies and the level of rental charges of the centre facilities were being studied by the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) which would advise HAB of its deliberation when ready.

54. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong reminded SHA that the Administration should be vigilant about the future operation and management of HKCYD which would possibly become a focus of severe public criticism in future, taking into account the unsatisfactory aspects including its long construction time, changes of management mode, defects in building works, and delay in opening schedule, etc.

Management Advisory Committee

55. Mr KAM Nai-wai queried the composition of MAC, where no LegCo Member was represented. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that members of MAC should be invited to the Panel meeting in future to discuss issues relating to HKCYD. Prof Patrick LAU commented that MAC should have been set up before the design stage of the project.

56. DSHA(1) said that MAC was set up early this year following the completion of the construction works for HKCYD for tendering advice to HAB to facilitate its formulation of the overall strategy in the management and operation of HKCYD and its facilities. The onus was with HAB to report back to LegCo Members for their monitoring of issues relating to the centre.

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VII. Any other business

57. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:55 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 April 2009

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