

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2346/08-09
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 12 June 2009, at 8:30 am
in the Conference Room A 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
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, 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 CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
- Member attending** : Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
- Members absent** : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Public Officers attending** : Item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Ms Jenny WONG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home
Affairs (Culture)¹

Education Bureau

Dr Catherine CHAN Ka-ki
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Culture)

Item V

Home Affairs Bureau

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

Ms Jenny WONG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home
Affairs (Culture)¹

Mr Jacky LUM
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home
Affairs (Civic Affairs)¹

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

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

Miss Vivien POON
Council Secretary (2)1

Ms Anna CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

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I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1789/08-09]

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2009 were confirmed.

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 -

LC Paper No. CB(2)1514/08-09(01) -- Updated information provided by the Administration on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1574/08-09(01) -- E-mail dated 13 April 2009 from a member of the public expressing views on the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) and the Administration's reply dated 6 May 2009
& (02)

LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1575/08-09(01) -- Letter from the Panel Clerk sent on behalf of the Panel Chairman to the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) dated 8 May 2009 and HKFA's reply dated 12 May 2009
& (02)

LC Paper No. CB(2)1576/08-09(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration in relation to Village Representative Election (Amendment) Bill and other issues related to village representatives

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- LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1577/08-09(01) -- Letter dated 11 February 2009
& (02) from Hon Albert CHAN relaying the request of residents of Fuk Yuen Wo Liu in Yuen Long to list the village in the Schedules to the Village Representative Election Ordinance (Cap. 576) and the Administration's reply dated 12 May 2009
- LC Paper No. CB(2)1578/08-09(01) -- Supplementary information provided by the Administration on the distribution of media/press centres and the 100-day countdown cum torch relay of the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games
- LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1677/08-09(01) -- Letters dated 9 and 21 May
& (02) 2009 from Mr KWOK Cheuk-kin, a resident of Cheung Chau, requesting to list Cheung Chau in the Schedules of the Village Representative Election Ordinance (Cap. 576) and the Panel Clerk's written reply
- LC Paper No. CB(2)1744/08-09(01)
- LC Paper No. CB(2)1677/08-09(03) -- Letter dated 20 May 2009 from a group of residents of Yuen Long Kau Hui to the President of the Legislative Council raising objection against listing Yuen Long Kau Hui in the Schedules of the Village Representative Election Ordinance (Cap. 576)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)1790/08-09]

3. Members agreed to discuss the item "Hong Kong Jockey Club's proposals on horse racing activities" proposed by the Administration at the next meeting. Mr WONG Sing-chi considered that the 30% reduction in the number

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of life-guards engaged by the Leisure & Cultural Services Department (LCSD) since 2006 had attributed to the continuous rise of drowning incidents at public swimming pools in recent years. As the peak swimming season was approaching, he suggested that the Panel should discuss with the Administration issues relating to staff deployment and management of the public swimming pools at the next meeting. Members agreed.

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4. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che proposed and members concurred to include "Government policy on youth development" in the list of outstanding items for discussion. The Administration agreed to provide an information paper to report on the launching of youth summer programmes for members' reference.

IV. Strengthening the arts and cultural software of Hong Kong
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 1790/08-09 (01) and (02)]

5. Under Secretary for Home Affairs (USHA) conducted a powerpoint presentation to brief members on the initiatives that were currently being undertaken and new initiatives that would be pursued by the Government in strengthening the arts and cultural software of Hong Kong.

General issues

6. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered that the Administration should review its effort in cultural development in a more critical and self-reflective manner to meet the challenges arising from the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project. Referring to the Government's recent refusal of entry of overseas artists invited to the June Fourth rally, Mr CHEUNG stressed the importance of upholding artistic freedom in Hong Kong. Mr Paul TSE considered that a Cultural Council/Bureau should be set up to facilitate the formulation of a more comprehensive cultural policy and improve co-ordination among bureaux/departments in providing cultural services.

7. USHA responded that to prepare for the WKCD development, the Administration was mindful of the need to review its cultural policy critically, and would give due consideration to the views of the public expressed during the public engagement exercise for the WKCD project. USHA further advised that a steering group co-organised by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Commercial and Economic Development Bureau would be set up later this year to co-ordinate cross-bureaux and inter-departmental efforts in the further development of cultural software.

Arts education and manpower planning

8. Referring to the introduction of the new senior secondary (NSS) curriculum in the 2009-2010 school year, whereby students might choose Music and Visual Arts as elective subjects, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that

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the Education Bureau (EDB) should follow through the students' learning process and maintain records on the implementation of these subjects, such as the number of schools offering and students taking these subjects. Mr CHEUNG also expressed concern about the general trend for schools to focus on core subjects such as Chinese and English Languages and Mathematics rather than arts subjects. He said that students interested in taking arts subjects should not be discouraged and urged EDB to put in place arrangements to facilitate students attending classes on these subjects.

9. Deputy Secretary for Education (5) (DS(Ed) 5) responded that the learning of core subjects should complement the study of arts subjects, or vice versa. Regarding the implementation of the NSS curriculum, she advised that-

- (a) more than 70% of the local secondary schools had indicated interest in offering Visual Arts as an elective subject in the new school year, and EDB would maintain a database to keep track of the implementation of the NSS curriculum as such information would be required by tertiary institutions for the future planning of undergraduate programmes;
- (b) a "diversity learning grant" would be provided for schools without adequate resources to offer selective subjects so that they might co-organize the subjects with other schools. Classes on arts subjects and arts-related applied learning courses would be scheduled at a designated time such as on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings to facilitate students' attendance; and
- (c) the public assessment system to support the NSS structure would include a component of school-based assessment. Teachers responsible for the implementation of the school-based assessment would monitor the relevant aspects in relation to the implementation of the NSS curriculum, including the arts subjects.

10. To complement the promotion of arts education, Ms Cyd HO suggested that internship schemes should be arranged to prepare students for future career in the creative/cultural industry. She further suggested that EDB should consider introducing the artist-in-residence scheme to all schools. The Deputy Chairman envisaged that the supply of graduates from the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts (HKAPA) would be inadequate to meet the demand for arts talents, particularly upon the implementation of the WKCD project. The Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to strengthen the manpower training for arts professionals, and suggested that a mechanism should be established to enable students taking arts subjects under the new curriculum to pursue tertiary studies in arts administration and related subjects.

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11. DS(Ed)5 responded that EDB had arranged workshops and briefing sessions to advise parents and students on the career prospects in taking arts subjects. She further agreed to explore the feasibility of implementing the artist-in-residence scheme in schools for the promotion of arts education. USHA said that the consultancy study on performing arts groups to be commissioned in 2009 would cover the future development of small and medium sized arts groups, which would play a key role in providing job opportunities for arts graduates in future.

Arts sponsorships

12. Ms Cyd HO supported the public and private partnership approach in launching arts programmes such as the exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art sponsored by Fondation Louis Vuitton pour la Creation (LV Foundation). She asked about the distribution of financial commitment between the sponsor and LCSD, and whether LCSD had a dedicated team for soliciting commercial sponsorship. Mrs Sophie LEUNG considered it more worthwhile to focus the resources on the promotion of popular arts with a view to bringing arts closer to the general public. She added that major performing arts groups should be encouraged to seek sponsorship instead of consistently relying on government subvention. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the Administration's effort in encouraging private donation and sponsorship for the arts. She further suggested that the Administration should consider setting up an arts bank for the promotion of artworks of budding artists to the commercial sector.

13. USHA and Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture) responded that -

- (a) to encourage support for the development of arts from the community and the corporate sector, the Hong Kong Arts Community Fund would be set up under the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) in 2009-2010. To promote the healthy development of performing arts groups, the consultancy study to be commissioned in 2009 would examine a new funding mechanism for major performing arts groups and an "entry and exit" mechanism to the league of majors;
- (b) the LV Foundation shared about 75% of the total production cost which included the costs for transportation and insurance of the exhibits and their curatorial expenses, while LCSD was responsible for the remaining 25% which covered the costs of venue provision and programme publicity. Although LCSD did not have a dedicated team for soliciting arts sponsorship, it had endeavoured to strengthen partnership with sponsors from the private and commercial sector; and

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- (c) to strengthen the promotion of the works of local artists, in collaboration with the HKADC, LCSD had launched the Artwork on Loan Scheme to allow holders of public library cards to borrow replicas of artworks of local artists for display. Members' suggestion for the development of an arts bank would be further explored.

Arts promotion, community arts and arts audience development

14. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that to encourage community involvement in the arts, the Administration should strengthen venue and funding provision for the arts and cultural societies at district level, which had been relying on limited funding from the District Councils (DCs) and support from the local community.

15. USHA acknowledged the importance of community involvement for arts and culture to take roots, and advised that LCSD had worked in partnership with DCs and cultural institutions in organising district carnivals, cultural events, festivals and community based arts programmes such as the School Arts Animateur Scheme and the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme. USHA further advised that the Government would study a new set of assessment criteria for the provision of funding to major arts groups, taking into account, amongst other indicators, their impact on the community. In response to Mrs Sophie LEUNG's suggestion on the promotion of street performances at the district level for participation by local and international artists, USHA said that street performances would be included in the community arts activities jointly organized by the Home Affairs Department and arts and cultural societies in the 18 districts in the last quarter of 2009.

16. Mrs Sophie LEUNG remarked that the development of cultural software would promote creativity and was conducive to enhancing the competitiveness and cultural quality of the community. She considered that the Administration should target at the public at large in arts promotion. Mr Paul TSE asked whether the Administration had studied the profile of the targeted arts audience in the formulation of marketing strategy in arts promotion. He envisaged that retirees, new immigrants from the Mainland and visitors from the neighbouring regions would likely become the main audience of WKCD.

17. USHA responded that the Administration had conducted surveys on arts audience, such as in the planning of museum service. She considered that the promotion of arts was a challenging task, the success of which should be underpinned by the joint efforts of the government, the media as well as arts critics. In response to the Deputy Chairman, USHA said that pursuant to the signing of the Agreement on Closer Cultural Partnership Arrangement with the Ministry of Culture of the Central Government, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Macau had jointly promoted the International Museum Day. The three places would also collaborate in staging Cantonese operatic programmes staged by artists of the three places.

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Inclusive arts

18. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che urged the Administration to strengthen its support to the Arts with the Disabled Association of Hong Kong, which had been promoting inclusive arts for disabled artists. He pointed out that the uncertainty over the sustainability of funding support from the government and difficulty in securing performance venues were the major obstacles for the development of inclusive arts.

19. USHA said that HKADC would continue its current policy to support quality inclusive arts projects through the provision of grants under the 3-year subvention scheme and other schemes under the auspice of HKADC. This apart, the Labour and Welfare Bureau had provided funding support for disabled artists through the Jockey Club Arts for the Disabled Scheme, and LCSD had assisted these artists in arts programmes such as the "Theatre of the Silence". USHA added that subvention for inclusive arts would also be considered in the consultancy study on performing arts groups.

Architectural arts and literary arts

20. Prof Patrick LAU urged the Administration to include architecture in its formulation of arts and cultural policy and take concrete measures to promote architecture as a form of art. He considered that the Government should set up a museum of architecture highlighting the historical aspects of Hong Kong architecture, and provide more resources to enable the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biannual Awards Exhibition to become an annual event. USHA said that the Administration would consider Prof LAU's suggestion to feature architecture as an exhibition theme. She further advised that Hong Kong had participated in high profile arts events such as the La Biennale di Venezia (since 2001) and the International Cultural Industries Fair in Shenzhen (since 2005).

21. Ms Cyd HO urged the Government to set up a literary museum in WKCD to promote well-known Chinese writers who had resided in Hong Kong in the past, and to provide support for the publication of arts journals and magazines and literary criticism with a view to enhancing the cultural literacy of the community and inciting public interest in the arts.

22. USHA said that for the promotion of literary arts, the Literary Arts and Arts Criticism Panel set up under HKADC had given awards on literature and arts criticism, and the Hong Kong Central Library had collected manuscripts, artefacts and other information on Hong Kong literature and displayed items of well-known Chinese writers in the library. As to the establishment of a literary museum in WKCD, USHA said that she would convey the suggestion to the WKCD Authority.

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V. Youth development through volunteer service

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1790/08-09(03) and FS26/08-09]

23. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) (DSHA1) briefed members on the Administration's initiative to allocate an additional \$10 million for the promotion of youth development through participation in volunteer service.

24. Noting that the Administration's proposal was one of the relief measures announced by the Financial Secretary on 26 May 2009, Dr LAM Tai-fai and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che considered that there was no apparent relationship between youth volunteering and alleviation of economic hardship. Moreover, they did not see how the promotion of youth volunteering would help marginalised youth combat the influence of gambling and drug abuse, as stated in paragraph 4 of the Administration's paper. They held the view that the youth development and juvenile problems were issues of different nature which should be handled separately.

25. The Deputy Chairman and Mrs Sophie LEUNG shared similar views. The Deputy Chairman further opined that the Administration should study the different profiles of marginalised youth prior to designing programmes to address their individual problems. Mrs LEUNG also expressed concern about young people's increasing exposure to the negative influence of the virtual world through the Internet. She suggested that the additional funding could be better used to equip social workers with the knowledge for tackling youth problems so arising.

26. DSHA1 clarified that the proposed project was designed to build positive values among young people through their participation in volunteer service; this might result in helping young people to combat the negative influence of drug abuse and gambling. She added that the Administration had devised a number of measures to boost the economy, and the deployment of additional resources for various youth volunteer programmes was one of these initiatives.

27. Dr LAM Tai-fai enquired about the reasons for HAB to select the Commission on Youth (COY), HKADC and HKAPA as collaborating partners in implementing the project, and how the additional funding of \$10 million would be apportioned among them. Mr CHAN Hak-kan suggested that HAB should allocate the fund directly to front-line volunteer groups to save the administration work for the organisations concerned in bidding for the fund.

28. DSHA1 responded that COY, HKAPA and HKADC were chosen to take forward the proposed project because youth development was within the purview of COY and the cultivation of arts and culture was considered to be an important aspect of youth development. Of the \$10 million provision, \$7 million and \$3 million would be allocated respectively to COY and HKAPA/HKADC. The fund was allocated to COY instead of front-line

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volunteer service groups to ensure that the provision would be used in compliance with the objective of youth development. Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture)¹ supplemented that the work of HKAPA and HKADC in relation to the nurturing of artists and cultural development had involved young people to a large extent.

29. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che asked about the number of youth to be targeted in the project and how far marginalised youth would participate in the proposed programmes. Mr CHEUNG further pointed out that the subjects of volunteer service and marginalised youth should be under the purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau or Social Welfare Department, which were equipped with the service interface in the relevant areas. He suggested that HAB should take forward the project in collaboration with these government agencies to avoid mismatch of resources. He also considered it more cost effective to organise volunteer service locally in view of the limited provision for the project.

30. DSHA1 responded that the number of youngsters to be targeted in the project had yet to be worked out as the programme details were still under planning. The objective of COY and its partnering organisations was to recruit youth on a territory-wide basis under the project. DSHA1 agreed to consider member's suggestion in consultation with the relevant bureaux/departments.

31. In response to Mr CHAN Hak-kan's suggestion regarding the organisation of youth volunteer work for the 2009 East Asian Games (EAG) under the proposed project, DSHA1 said that as the volunteer programme for the 2009 EAG had already commenced for some time, HAB would capitalize on the volunteer network for the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games in recruiting volunteers for the proposed programmes.

32. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the proposal hastily prepared by HAB within two weeks after the Financial Secretary's announcement of the Government's relief measures had put HAB at the risk of squandering public money. He urged the Administration to give more thought to the objectives of the project, the proposed programmes and the selection of partnering organisations. Ms Cyd HO said that given the limited funding, it would not be realistic to achieve all the objectives and organise the wide range of programmes as set out in the Administration's paper. For the effective implementation of the project, she considered that it would be more practical for the Administration to focus on one or two initiatives.

33. The Chairman summed up that members in general considered that the Administration should revise its proposal and ensure the effective use of the \$10 million funding for the purpose of youth development. In response, DSHA1 said that the Administration would take into consideration members' views and revert to the Panel.

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VI. Any other business

34. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:30 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 August 2009