

Panel on Home Affairs

**List of issues suggested to be considered
(as at 13 October 2008)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Setting up an intermediary body for the effective enforcement of maintenance orders

This item was last discussed on 13 June 2008. Some members were of the view that instead of making piecemeal changes to the existing system of enforcement of maintenance orders, the Administration should consider the establishment of an intermediary body for the collection of maintenance payments and make reference to the successful experience of Australia. These members considered that such a body could assist the maintenance payees in handling the cumbersome legal procedures in collecting maintenance payments.

Not suggested for discussion in the near future
(Note)

Note: The Administration maintains the view that an intermediary body per se would not bring significant benefits over and above those that can be achieved by improving the existing system through various legislative and administrative measures. The Administration does not consider that there are justifiable reasons to support the establishment of an intermediary body to help maintenance payees to collect maintenance payments.

2. Membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of Heung Yee Kuk (HYK)

At the meeting of the Duty Roster Members with representatives of the Association of the New Territories (NT) Indigenous Residents on 16 December 2002, the latter expressed dissatisfaction with the Heung Yee Kuk (HYK) Ordinance (Cap. 1097) under which the NT Justices of the Peace (JPs) served as Ex Officio Councillors of the Full Council and Ex Officio Members of the Executive Committee of HYK. They considered that the NT JPs, and Special Councillors and Co-opted Councillors of HYK could not represent and protect the interests of the villagers and indigenous inhabitants of NT and requested that the HYK

Not suggested for discussion in the near future
(Note)

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membership should be reviewed. Their views were referred to this Panel for consideration on 24 December 2002.

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item along with item 4 on traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT.

Note: The Administration has advised that it does not propose to discuss this item and item 4 in the near future as more research work has to be carried out so that the discussions will be fruitful.

3. Promotion of youth development

At the policy briefing on 15 January 2003, members noted that the Commission on Youth (COY) had submitted a draft report on unemployment problems of young people to the Chief Executive. The Panel requested to be briefed on how the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) would cooperate with COY in tackling youth problems.

Not suggested for
discussion in the
near future
(Note)

The Administration submitted the full report of the Task Force on Continuing Development and Employment-related Training for Youth to this Panel and the Panel on Manpower on 17 July 2008 for circulation to members [LC Paper No. CB(2)2635/07-08(01)].

Note: According to the Administration, COY submitted a report entitled Continuing Development and Employment Opportunities for Youth to the Chief Executive in March 2003. The report recommends, among other things, the setting up of a fund for new initiatives and pilot projects for non-engaged youth. The Government accepted this recommendation and established in 2004 a \$50 million fund under the former Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB), now renamed as Education Bureau, to experiment trial schemes and promote opportunities for training, placement and employment for young people. A Task Force on the Continuing Development and Employment-related Training for Youth (the Task Force) has been set up under EMB. The Task Force is an inter-departmental and inter-disciplinary task force to oversee the implementation of various youth training and employment programmes. With the reorganisation of the Government Secretariat on 1 July

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2007, the Task Force was subsumed under the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). LWB is liaising with other relevant bureaux and departments on the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Task Force's latest report, and will report to relevant Panels in due course.

4. Traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers of NT

At the LegCo Members' meetings with HYK Councillors on 10 June 2003 and 2 March 2004, a proposal of enacting legislation to implement Article 40 of the Basic Law regarding the protection of lawful traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers as well as issues relating to the exemption from payment of Government rent were discussed. Members agreed that the issues involved policy consideration about the traditional rights and interests of indigenous villagers in NT, and should be referred to this Panel for follow-up. Members also suggested that HYK Councillors should be invited to attend the relevant meeting(s) of this Panel to give views when the issues were discussed.

See item 2 above
(Note)

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item together with item 2 on membership of the Full Council and Executive Committee of HYK.

Note: See item 2 above.

5. Measures to address gambling-related problems

After its scrutiny of the Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2006, the Bills Committee has referred issues concerning measures to address gambling-related problems and the scope of services financed by the Ping Wo Fund, which was established by HAB in 2003 to finance preventive and remedial measures to address gambling-related problems, to this Panel for discussion.

End of 2008
(Note)

Note: HAB has commissioned the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to review the effectiveness of the four pilot gambling counselling and treatment centres funded by Ping

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for discussion**

Wo Fund. HAB will report to the Panel on this item upon consideration of the consultancy report on the review of the four pilot centres and the advice of the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee.

6. Review of advisory and statutory bodies

This item was last discussed on 13 January 2006. The Panel discussed 14 interim reports and a progress report on the review during the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 sessions, and the interim report No. 15 on 13 January 2006. The Administration will continue to submit interim reports on various topics concerning the review to this Panel.

To be confirmed

When the Bills Committee on Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2005 discussed a proposed amendment to the Legal Aid Services Council (LASC) Ordinance (Cap. 489) on extending the deadline for LASC to submit its annual report, some members expressed concern that there should be consistency in the time limit within which statutory bodies should submit their annual reports. HAB has then agreed to include review of the time limit for submission of annual reports by statutory bodies in its current review of advisory and statutory bodies.

7. Strengthening the software and humanware for culture and the arts

The Panel first discussed the subject on 14 December 2007 and received views from deputations on 15 February, 9 May and 30 June 2008. The Panel agreed to follow up on this item and relevant issues, such as the Administration's plan to conduct research study to develop a new set of assessment criteria for the major performing arts groups for future funding purpose, as well as the development of inclusive arts for persons with disabilities.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Operational problems of national sports associations (NSAs)

This item was last discussed on 3 July 2006 and was proposed by Hon Albert CHAN at the meeting on 11 October 2007 for further discussion, with emphasis on problems with NSAs' selection process of athletes to represent Hong Kong for participation in international sports events. He suggested that when the Panel discussed this subject, representatives of those NSAs which had selected athletes to represent Hong Kong should be invited to join the discussion.

Not suggested for discussion in the near future
(Note)

Note: According to the Administration, the selection of Hong Kong athletes to compete in international sporting events is a prerogative of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) and its member NSAs which are the local governing bodies of individual sports. This is in line with the Olympic Charter, which states that a fundamental principle of Olympism is that "The organization, administration and management of sport must be controlled by independent sports organizations". The Administration fully respects the Olympic Charter and would not interfere with the prerogative of SF&OC and NSAs in the selection of athletes to compete in international sporting events. The Administration does not propose to discuss this issue.

9. Proposal to provide an allowance for village representatives

This item was proposed by Hon Andrew CHENG at the meeting on 11 October 2007. He suggested that the Administration should explain its considerations of this proposal, as well as whether the same arrangements should be made for other holders of public offices and the criteria. At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman and the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) on 30 October 2007, the Administration explained that it would not be ready to discuss this item as it needed more time to consider this proposal.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10. Provision of arts and cultural facilities in Hong Kong

At the informal meeting between the Panel Chairman and SHA on 30 October 2007, the Administration agreed that it would report to the Panel on its overall review of the provision of arts and cultural facilities in Hong Kong.

To be confirmed
(Note)

At the LegCo Members' meeting with Sha Tin District Council (STDC) members held on 22 May 2008, STDC members expressed concern about the inadequate provision of community halls (CHs) and recreational facilities in the district. The meeting agreed to refer relevant issues to this Panel for consideration.

Note: The Administration advises that currently, Sha Tin District has the largest number of CHs/community centres(CC) among the 18 districts (with a total of 12 CCs/CHs) and active planning is underway on the provision of a new CH in the Sports Centre cum Public Library in Area 14B, Sha Tin. The planning of CH is stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) according to which CH will be planned and provided on a need basis taking account of a number of factors including population size, area characteristics, and community aspirations. Also, with a view to optimizing the utilization of government site, CH should be developed as joint-user project instead of a stand-alone development. The Home Affairs Department will continue to actively pursue the planning of CH in conjunction with departments concerned to identify and take forward justifiable CH proposals. The Administration does not propose to discuss the item on the general planning of CH at this Panel.

As for the provision of arts and cultural facilities in Hong Kong, the Administration will further advise on the appropriate timing for discussion.

11. Future development of museum services

When the Panel discussed the future development of private museums at its meeting on 11 January 2008, the Panel agreed to follow up on (a) the establishment of a standard mechanism for supporting the operation of private museums and (b) progress made by the Administration in the

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

establishment of a statutory Museums Board and in the consultation with museum staff on the proposed changes in mode of governance.

12. Regulation of property management companies

The Panel received a briefing by the Administration on the findings of the first phase of a consultancy study on the regulation of property management companies at its meeting held on 4 July 2008. A motion was passed at the meeting urging the Administration to expeditiously introduce licensing control of property management companies. The Panel agreed to follow up on this issue.

Upon completion
of the second
phase consultancy
study in 2009
(Note)

Note: The Administration will conduct the second phase consultancy study to examine the detailed arrangements and the pros and cons of possible models for the regulation of property management companies. The Administration will report to the Panel on this item upon completion of the study.

13. Difficulties encountered by District Councils in undertaking district minor works projects

At the LegCo Members' meeting with Wong Tai Sin DC (WTSDC) members held on 10 April 2008, WTSDC members discussed difficulties encountered by DCs in the tendering and management of minor works projects. They considered that there was a need to enhance the tendering system for works projects managed by DCs. Hon CHAN Yuen-han, who attended that meeting, wrote to this Panel on 8 July 2008 proposing to include this item on this list. Miss CHAN suggested that this Panel should discuss DCs' management of the district minor works projects and difficulties encountered by them in handling the relevant tendering procedures.

Not suggested for
discussion in the
near future
(Note)

Note: According to HAB, the Administration is required to select works contractors under the District Minor Works Programme in accordance with the tendering procedures in the Government's Stores and Procurement Regulations, as required under the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) in order to ensure transparency and fairness in the contractor management and selection. In the past few months, due to

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

inflation and rising construction cost, in some cases, the pre-tender cost estimates exceeded the original cost estimates or, the tender prices exceeded the pre-tender cost estimates. DCs have been briefed on this. Starting from June 2008, an additional Quantity Surveyor has already been provided to the Home Affairs Department to strengthen the professional support in project cost estimation work. The Administration does not propose to discuss this item.

14. Procurement of third party risks insurance by owners' corporations

During the scrutiny of the Building Management (Third Party Risks Insurance) Regulation (the Regulation), which prescribes detailed requirements for the compulsory third party risks insurance for an Owners' Corporation, the Administration agreed to defer the implementation date of the Regulation in view of members' concern that the insurance premium would pose a heavy financial burden on owners of old buildings who might have very low income.

Dec 2008

The Administration will report the progress of procurement of third party risks insurance by Owners' Corporations and seek the Panel's views on the commencement date of the Regulation.

15. Village Representative Election (Amendment) Bill

This item is proposed by the Administration. According to the Administration, the object of the Bill is to amend the Village Representative Election Ordinance (Cap. 576) to implement the recommendations drawn up by the Rural Elections Review Working Group set up by the Home Affairs Department and Heung Yee Kuk with a view to improving the arrangements for village representative election.

Nov 2008