

For Information
20 October 2008

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau

Introduction

The Chief Executive (CE) set out the policy objectives in his 2008-09 Policy Address on 15 October 2008. A full list of the new and ongoing initiatives in the 2008-09 Policy Agenda under the purview of Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is at Annex. This paper highlights the main tasks to be carried out by HAB in the coming year, including enhancing District Administration, the promotion of national education, the further promotion of sports and cultural development, and the roll-out of the West Kowloon Cultural District project.

Enhancing District Administration

2. The Government will continue to promote district administration and better respond to the public needs so as to ensure effective implementation of policies at the district level. The District Councils have actively participated in the management of some district facilities. They have also made use of the available resources in drawing up plans for collaboration with local organisations of different sectors and initiate proposals with district characteristics aiming at a wide spectrum of social objectives with encouraging results.

3. We will continue to render full support to District Officers to enable them to foster close cooperation with different organisations and sectors in the districts. We have also established a coordination mechanism on tackling district issues concerning people's livelihood through collaboration amongst various bureaux and departments.

Rural Affairs

4. The Heung Yee Kuk (HYK) has all along been an important partner of the Government on New Territories affairs. We have been maintaining close contact and collaborating with HYK on rural affairs

and other issues affecting residents in the New Territories.

5. On village representative (VR) election, the Rural Elections Review Working Group jointly set up by the Home Affairs Department and HYK has reviewed the arrangements for VR election and drawn up a set of improvement measures. The Administration plans to introduce an amendment bill into the Legislative Council next year with a view to implementing those measures in the next village ordinary election in 2011.

Promotion of National Education

6. We will continue to enhance the work on the promotion of national education outside schools in conjunction with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) and the Commission on Youth (COY). It will be the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China next year. We will adopt this as the main theme for promoting national education and launch a series of activities in order to enhance the understanding of our country from various perspectives and foster a sense of belonging to the motherland among various sectors of the community. The activities will include production of a new series of announcements in the public interest featuring the national anthem and a series of television programmes on China, distribution of a national educational video disc, a stamp design competition as well as other national education activities.

7. We will also encourage community organisations to take an active part in promoting national education and will continue to provide funding for them to conduct national education activities, including the organization of visit/familiarization tour to the Mainland for young people so that they can gain first-hand experience in the development of the Mainland and enhance their understanding of the motherland and their sense of national identity. In addition, we will provide resources for setting up a "Youth National Education Funding Scheme" to sponsor community organisations to organise large-scale national education projects to promote national education in a more in-depth manner among the youth.

8. We will continue to work with the CPCE and COY to promote national education and the Basic Law through different channels, such as competitions, publications, as well as providing training for uniformed groups on flag-raising.

Promotion of Sports Development

9. In order to capitalise on the widespread public enthusiasm for the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will implement a number of intensified initiatives, in collaboration with all sectors of the community, to further promote sports development in Hong Kong.

10. To encourage wider participation in sports, we will continue to promote community sports, along the following six key strategies as formulated by the Community Sports Committee-

- (a) to formulate systematic and objective indicators to measure the effectiveness of the “Sports for All” policy;
- (b) to coordinate and strengthen liaison and collaboration amongst major partners involved in promoting community sports;
- (c) to organise the biennial Hong Kong Games, with a view to promoting public participation and a sense of belonging to our community;
- (d) to intensify the scope of the School Sports Programme and better utilise the school sports facilities;
- (e) to develop district sports activities with local characteristics; and
- (f) to introduce suitable sports activities to people of different age groups.

11. We are conducting a study on the “Participation Patterns of Hong Kong People in Physical Activity” in order to objectively assess the effectiveness of the work done in the promotion of community sports. The study is targeted for completion by end 2008. Based on the recommendations of the study, we will work out plans to further promote community sports. Having regard to the demographic changes and needs of the public, we will suitably adjust the mix of recreation and sports programmes and continue to develop and upgrade recreation and sports facilities in consultation with the District Councils. In addition, we will encourage the business sector to sponsor more underprivileged groups, such as children from low-income families and people with disabilities, to join major sports events as spectators and participants in side programmes.

12. The availability of adequate young potential athletes is essential if we are to sustain the development of elite sports. As such, we aim to have a more effective feeder system worked out for elite sports.

Joining hands with relevant sports organisations, we will refine the current system of sports development and invite the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI), District Sports Associations (DSAs) and schools to support the identification and training of young, potential athletes. We will also request HKSI to offer more coach training programmes. In respect of hardware support for training of junior athletes at the district level, we will allocate additional resources for DSAs, National Sports Associations (NSAs) of elite sports and two associations of sports for the disabled to provide new facilities and equipment where justified.

13. As our elite athletes are preparing for the 2010 Asian Games as well as the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will build on the established framework to further enhance support to elite athletes, including disabled athletes and young athletes with potential, in key areas including financial support, training, educational and vocational opportunities. Thanks to the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China in setting up the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme in mid-2008, we will encourage the sports sector and other stakeholders in the community, particularly the education and business sectors, to offer more development opportunities for our athletes.

14. With close to a total of \$1.8 billion already approved by the Legislative Council in 2007 and 2008, HKSI is actively pursuing its re-development project, with a view to providing world-class training facilities for local athletes by end 2011. Taking the advice of the Elite Sports Committee, we have invited HKSI to identify, support and develop “up-and-coming” sports up to elite level. Support to selected sports will cover coaching, athletes support, training and competition on a two-year cycle, starting as soon as the second quarter of 2009. As a complement to the current mechanism of developing elite sports, identifying and designating support to “up-and-coming” sports will enhance Hong Kong’s medal hope in the international sports arena.

15. To establish Hong Kong as a major sports events capital, we launched the “M” Mark System and Support Packages (the System) in 2004 to help NSAs develop more sustainable major sports events in Hong Kong. Funding has been earmarked from the Arts and Sports Development Fund (the Sports portion) to provide financial support for recognised “M” Mark events. In order to refine the System, the Major Sports Events Committee completed a review on the System in early 2008 and proposed a set of recommendations which have been implemented by stages since July 2008. The basic measure remains that we will continue to provide a platform for the closer collaboration of the

sports and business sectors in organising more sustainable and self-financing international sports events. What is more, we will strengthen the promotion of these events both locally and overseas so as to optimise the benefits of major sports events staged in Hong Kong, stimulate public participation as spectators and supporters in major sports events, and attract more visitors to Hong Kong.

16. Hong Kong will host the first-ever regional multi-sport games, namely the 5th East Asian Games (EAG), in 2009. We are carrying out the necessary improvement works to bring our existing sports venues to international standards required for staging the 2009 EAG. As regards publicity, the 2009 EAG Mascot has been unveiled earlier this year and the 2009 EAG merchandise items are now on sale at the 2009 EAG Souvenir Shop. To celebrate the one-year countdown of the 2009 EAG, we are planning a ceremony to be held in December 2008. Collaborating with the sports sector and the District Councils, we will encourage community involvement in sports activities and the 2009 EAG, thereby enhancing our sporting culture.

Continued Development of Culture and the Arts

17. With the decision to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), we shall continue our efforts undertaken since last year to support the further development of the performing arts scene in Hong Kong. Apart from continuing enhanced support to the major performing arts groups, we shall set aside new funding for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to support the small and medium sized arts groups in their booking and use of non-LCSD venues. This initiative will, on the one hand, help to ease the current pressure on LCSD venues and on the other, build up alternative arts venues in the community to usher in a more vibrant performing arts scene.

18. Apart from nurturing artists and arts groups, we shall make further efforts to engage the other stakeholders including the arts intermediaries, including the arts administrators and curators, and the arts consumers, including students and the general public. We have supported the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in organizing an international arts administration forum in Hong Kong in mid October this year. Through this and similar initiatives, we aim to build an international network for our local arts administrators and curators and their international counterparts. We shall be launching a public arts

education research before year end to take stock of the delivery of public arts education in Hong Kong with a view to identifying room for improvement to tie in with the vision for WKCD. Meanwhile, LCSD will also be strengthening audience development and arts education programmes at the district level, including the launch of specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events and student performances to prepare the readiness of our community for WKCD.

West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Project

19. The WKCD project is a major initiative to implement the Government's policy on arts and culture by meeting the long-term infrastructural and development needs of Hong Kong's arts and culture. Following the passage of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD Authority) Bill by the Legislative Council on 3 July 2008 and the approval of an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion to the WKCD Authority by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 4 July 2008, the Government is in the process of establishing the WKCD Authority. One of the first and foremost tasks of the WKCD Authority is to prepare a Development Plan for the WKCD. Apart from developing the arts and cultural facilities as early as possible, the WKCD Authority will also start to plan for the programmes for the arts and cultural facilities.

Hong Kong Maritime Museum

20. The Government is committed to encouraging community participation and establishing partnership among the Government, the business community and the cultural sector. From the cultural policy perspective, we welcome and encourage the establishment of private museums, which complement publicly-funded museums in maintaining a diverse, pluralistic and vibrant cultural ecology in Hong Kong and are conducive to our development as a cultural hub in the region.

21. We will provide financial support to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum's relocation to the Central Pier 8. The expanded maritime museum would not only be a testimony to Hong Kong's century-old maritime history, but also a cultural tourist spot that appeals to both local and overseas visitors.

22. We will also organize the Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum in 2009 to foster partnership between Governments in the Asian region and enhance Hong Kong's position as the cultural hub of Asia.

Home Affairs Bureau
October 2008

**The 2008-09 Policy Address
Policy Agenda**

[Extract: Policy Initiatives relevant to Home Affairs Bureau]

Chapter 1

Developing the Infrastructure for Economic Growth

Ongoing Initiatives

We are:

- Continuing to work closely with the arts sector to strengthen our cultural software and human resources in preparation for the WKCD. We have enhanced our funding support to the performing arts groups in 2007-08 to launch more arts education and audience building initiatives. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has also strengthened their arts education and audience building work.

- Assisting the WKCD Authority to press ahead with the preparation of the development plan for the WKCD and other strategic matters to bring the operation of the Authority into full swing.

Chapter 2

Quality City And Quality Life

New Initiatives

We will:

- Capitalise on the public enthusiasm for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games to promote “Sports for all” through a number of measures, including –
 - (a) working more closely with the District Councils and National Sports Associations to introduce more sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups;
 - (b) liaising with the business sector to sponsor more underprivileged groups to attend major sports events as spectators and participants in side programmes;

- (c) strengthening the promotion of major sports events both locally and overseas with a view to further stimulating public participation as spectators and supporters and promoting Hong Kong as an events capital; and
 - (d) establishing a more effective feeder system for early identification of young potential athletes.
- Provide additional funding to the small- and medium-sized performing arts groups to support their use of non-Leisure and Cultural Services Department venues to enrich the cultural life across the districts and to usher in a more vibrant and lively arts scene prior to the coming on-stream of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) facilities.
- At the district level, launch specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events, student performances, etc. through the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for audience development and arts education to further develop the local cultural software fabric.
- Provide funding support for the Hong Kong Maritime Museum's relocation to the Central Pier 8 in order to establish a larger-scale and more representative maritime museum for Hong Kong. We should have a maritime museum that is commensurate with Hong Kong's standing as an international port city for over a century and as a regional cultural hub.
- Work closely with the WKCD Authority to develop the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, at the same time provide a variety of good quality arts and cultural activities as early as possible, and broaden Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art and performing arts, so as to enrich people's cultural life.
- Organise the Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum in 2009 to foster partnership between Governments in the Asian region and enhance Hong Kong's position as the cultural and creative hub of Asia.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Continuing our support for initiatives to nurture creative talents. We have facilitated the successful commissioning of the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre in March 2008 to provide creative arts space for artists.
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to assist owners of older buildings to properly manage and maintain their buildings. We are also continuing our efforts to enhance building management and maintenance of private buildings through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies.
- Continuing to enrich cultural and recreational facilities taking into account community needs, including the implementation of suitable projects of the former Urban Council and Regional Council.
- Continuing to pursue the planning of the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in Kai Tak, including firming up the project scope and carrying out the technical feasibility study for the project.
- Encouraging the business sector to support the National Sports Associations in organising international major sports events in order to strengthen Hong Kong's position as the sports events capital in Asia.
- Identifying and designating support for "up-and-coming" sports, so as to enhance Hong Kong's medal hope in the international sports arena.
- Continuing to work with stakeholders on measures to further enhance the support to elite athletes as they prepare for the participation in the 2010 Asian Games and the 2012 Olympic Games.

- Continuing to facilitate the re-development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute in order to provide world-class training facilities for local athletes.
- Developing and implementing a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups.
- Making preparation in full gear for the 5th East Asian Games in 2009. Collaborating with the sports sector to provide competition venues of international standards, encourage community involvement in sports activities and the Games, thereby enhancing our sporting culture.
- Planning and organising the 10th meeting of the Greater Pearl River Delta Co-operation Forum in Hong Kong in early 2009 to continue our efforts to build the regional cultural network in the PRD.
- Supporting the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in establishing the first Hong Kong Arts Community Fund to garner public and corporate support for culture and the arts.
- Devoting attention to the preservation and development of Cantonese opera as a local indigenous art form, and facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, so as to highlight our status as an international city.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Performing Arts with a view to enhancing the operation and management of cultural services and venues, rationalising the use of existing performance venues through the venue partnership scheme and identifying alternative arts venues to address the venue shortage problem.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Museums through various improvement measures with a view to enhancing the management and operation of public museums.

- Formulating strategies and measures for the development of library facilities and services to achieve the broader cultural mission of the Hong Kong Public Libraries.
- Commissioning an agency to compile a comprehensive inventory of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage in accordance with the requirement of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with a view to strengthening their preservation and promotion in Hong Kong.
- Conducting more publicity to encourage owners' corporations to procure third party risks insurance as soon as possible for the benefit of property owners.

Chapter 3

Investing for a Caring Society

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Working closely with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee on the use of the Ping Wo Fund to finance public education to prevent gambling-related problems, to provide counselling and support services to pathological gamblers, and to conduct research on studies on gambling-related issues.
- Together with stakeholders, encouraging further development of social enterprises to help enhance the employability of the able-bodied unemployed. Reinforcing the district-based approach in alleviating poverty through implementing the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme and other district co-ordination work.
- Working closely with the Family Council to promote family core values and family education, to study and address problems from a family perspective, and to create a pro-family environment and foster work-life balance.

Chapter 5

Developing Democracy And Enhancing Governance

New Initiatives

We will:

- Capitalise on the “60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China” in 2009 and launch a series of national education programmes in 2008-09.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Finalising the improved arrangements for village representative elections with a view to introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in 2009 for implementation in the next village ordinary election in 2011.
- Continuing to enhance the communication between District Councils (DCs) and the Administration through participation of Heads of Departments in DC meetings and briefings for DC members on government policies. We organised a Summit on District Administration in May 2008 and issued a report on the views collected and the action agenda of concrete follow-up measures discussed at the Summit.
- Strengthening our liaison network through District Officers.
- Continuing to consult DCs on government policies and proposals.
- Continuing to take into account public opinion gathered during policy-formulation.
- Strengthening our network at district level to facilitate the collation, assessment and analysis of community feedback.
- Working with the Commission on Youth, the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education and the youth uniformed groups to provide young people with appropriate non-formal education and

training, prepare for the commissioning of the Centre for Youth Development, enhance the promotion of youth development and civic education outside schools, particularly on the civic and social participation of young people and the promotion of national education.