

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1189/09-10
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 5 February 2010, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
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

Members absent : Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Item V
Home Affairs Bureau
Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Raymond YOUNG Lap-moon, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Miss Salina YAN Mei-mei, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Shuk-yee, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

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

Item VI

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Raymond YOUNG Lap-moon, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

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

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

Staff in attendance : Miss Vivien POON
Senior Council Secretary (2)2 (Acting)

Miss Amy WONG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

Miss Monique TSEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2)2

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I. Election of Deputy Chairman

The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Miss Tanya CHAN

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on 29 January 2010. Mr KAM Nai-wai was nominated by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong and the nomination was seconded by Ms Cyd HO. Mr KAM Nai-wai accepted the nomination. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Mr KAM Nai-wai elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the remainder of the 2009-2010 session.

II. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)859/09-10]

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2009 were confirmed.

III. Information papers issued since the last meeting

3. Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting -

LC Paper Nos. CB(2)777/09-10(01) -- Two letters from members of
and (02) the public expressing views on
a proposal to relocate a soccer
pitch in Peng Chau

LC Paper Nos. CB(2)888/09-10(01) -- Referrals from the meeting
and (02) between Legislative Council
(LegCo) Members and Sham
Shui Po District Council
members held on 7 January
2010 summarising discussions
relating to the shortage of
large-scale performance venues
in Sham Shui Po, and the public
rental housing development
project on Site 6 of North West
Kowloon Reclamation

IV. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendix I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)858/09-10]

4. At the suggestion of the Chairman, members agreed to advance the date of the next regular meeting from 19 to 17 March 2010. Members further agreed that -

- (a) the item "Promotion of local football" should be discussed at the next meeting as scheduled, and representatives of the Hong Kong Football Association should be invited to join the discussion; and

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- (b) in view of public concern on building safety and management following the tragic building collapse incident at Ma Tau Wai Road in January 2010, the Panel should meet with representatives of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), the Development Bureau, the Hong Kong Housing Society, and the Urban Renewal Authority to discuss issues relating to support provided to building owners and owners' corporations to facilitate building management and maintenance at the next meeting, and consequently the item "Strengthening the arts and cultural software of Hong Kong", originally scheduled for discussion at the next meeting, should be deferred to the Panel meeting in May 2010.

(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, a new item "Staffing proposal relating to the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Project in Home Affairs Bureau" was added to the agenda for the next meeting in view of the urgent need to discuss this item.)

V. Future development of museum services

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)858/09-10(01) and (02) and CB(2)909/09-10(01)]

5. SHA briefed members of the Administration's considerations in its decision for public museums to maintain the existing mode of governance under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). He said that the establishment of a statutory Museums Board to oversee the provision of museum services, as recommended by the Committee on Museums (CoM), involved highly complicated legal, administrative and technical issues. These included the provision of a legislative and administrative framework for the statutory body, formulation of a mechanism to ensure the standard of its governance, arrangements for the smooth transition of existing staff, allocation and ownership of collections, re-alignment of roles and identities among public museums.

6. After carefully examining the intrinsic relationship among these elements and assessing the complexity of the migration process, the Administration noted that it would be practically difficult if not impossible to design a new structure to cater for the relevant factors in pursuance of the option of corporatisation. It also noted the many controversies arising from similar overseas experience. Under the circumstances, the Administration considered that further improvement to public museum services, as recommended by CoM, could be better achieved under the existing mode of governance by way of proactive administrative measures to strengthen the missions of public museums, sharpen their identity and focus, and expand the pool of museum advisors and curators.

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7. SHA further advised that overseas experience had indicated that different modes of governance had their own advantages and disadvantages and it would not be appropriate to advocate one single mode of governance to be universally applicable to and suitable for all museums. Moreover, the future M+ at WKCD would serve as a reference of statutory-body run museum in Hong Kong under the management of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority. SHA reckoned that the co-existence of different modes of governance for museums was conducive to the promotion of a pluralistic and vibrant museum culture, and hence the development of cultural software in Hong Kong.

Mode of governance of museums

8. While the Chairman welcomed the Administration's decision on the future mode of governance for public museums, he expressed regret about the undue delay for it to come to the decision, which in his view had taken toll on the morale of public museum staff because of the lingering uncertainty over their future prospects.

9. Mrs Sophie LEUNG expressed support for a pluralistic approach on museum services, which would provide room for the organic growth of museums with a variety of missions, themes and characteristics. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong agreed that the proposed statutory Museums Board might not be desirable taking into account the structural changes and staff issues involved, but considered that the Administration should endeavour to promote an environment conducive to the healthy competition among different types of museums. Prof Patrick LAU opined that the Administration should formulate policies and mechanisms governing the operation of museums run by statutory bodies, non-profit corporations and private enterprises in the long run.

10. SHA said that to support the development of cultural and creative industries as announced in the 2009-2010 Policy Address, it was an opportune time for the Administration to devise appropriate policy and mechanism to promote the development of museum services through a diversified approach. In response to Prof Patrick LAU's enquiry on the annual subvention to public museums, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS) advised that the total recurrent provision to the 14 LCSD museums in 2008-2009 was about \$580 million, including administration charges and depreciation.

Staff recruitment for LCSD museums

11. Noting that the Administration would soon resume the recruitment of civil service staff to fill museum-related posts, Mr WONG Kwok-hing strongly requested the Administration to give due consideration to applications from museum staff currently employed on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms, accord priority for these staff to fill the civil service vacancies, and re-deploy those who were not selected in the exercise to take up other NCSC posts in public museums.

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12. DLCS advised that the Administration's decision to resume the recruitment of civil servants to fill museum-related posts was well-received by museum staff. Recruitment of staff for filling the 70 civil service posts would be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed by the Civil Service Bureau. As a general principle, applicants who met the entry requirements for the posts would be shortlisted for further consideration, and those who were found most suitable would be selected. Given the relevance of their experience, DLCS believed that in general NCSC staff of LCSD museums should have a competitive edge over other candidates. She further pointed out that, given the need to implement a wide range of new and improved services in the coming years, the Department would still need to employ NCSC staff to provide museum-related services in the near future. She assured members that where appropriate, consideration could be given for NCSC staff who were not selected for civil service posts to perform duties arising from other museum-related service needs. Upon members' request, DLCS agreed to provide statistics on the number and duration of service of the NCSC staff working in LCSD museums.

Admin

Improvement measures to museum services

Public accountability and community involvement

13. Ms Cyd HO said that there had been calls from the community for a review of the existing governance of public museums in order to keep pace with the changing community needs and expectations, and achieve close integration with the community at large. She considered that the Administration should introduce measures to enhance the accountability and transparency of public museums, including drafting a charter stating the missions of public museums, publishing an annual report detailing their activities and financial position, and organising public hearings annually to solicit public views on their services. She said that the experience and insight so gained should provide useful reference for the development of a legislative framework for the regulation of museum services. The Deputy Chairman enquired about measures to be taken by the Administration to foster closer partnership and community participation in the operation and management of public museums.

14. SHA took note of Ms HO's suggestions, and assured members that the Administration would endeavour to increase professional and community involvement in the operation of public museums. DLCS then advised members of the Government's initiatives to enhance community participation in public museum services. These measures included: (a) the setting up of a Panel of Museum Advisors, comprising individuals of different background and expertise, for each of the three streams of museums (viz. arts, history and science) to advise LCSD on the strategies for the development, promotion, and management of public museums; (b) the continued engagement of guest curators to curate museum programmes; and (c) the organisation of exhibitions

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and programmes to showcase the works of local artists to local and overseas audience.

15. DLCS also cited some notable examples of museums' efforts and activities in bringing arts to the community and supporting local artists, such as the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biennial Art Awards Exhibition, the "Artists-in-Neighborhood" Scheme, and the "Arts in the Park" initiative. She further assured members that the Administration would continue to enhance the operation of public museums by deepening and broadening the extent of public engagement and community involvement through closer dialogue and collaboration with various stakeholders, including guest curators, collectors, Districts Councils, non-governmental organisations, the business and education institutions.

Publicity of museum services

16. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that more structured and innovative marketing strategies, such as the production of a museum guide outlining the locations of and routing to all local museums and the provision of annual museum passes for easy access to these museums, should be formulated to promote the publicity of local museums. SHA said that the Administration would give due consideration to these suggestions.

Donations to public museums

17. Mrs Sophie LEUNG highlighted the need to strengthen the professionalism of the curatorial staff and the public image of public museums, which were important factors in inspiring confidence and trust of collectors/donors in donating or loaning their collections to museums. She also requested the Administration to provide information on major private collections donated to LCSD museums. Prof Patrick LAU urged the Administration to devise policy and mechanism aiming at encouraging private donations to public museums. In response, SHA said that a donation culture had begun to take root in the community, and the Administration would endeavour to draw up policy and facilitating measures to encourage private donations to public museums with a view to building up high quality collections.

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Development of private museums

18. Mrs Sophie LEUNG believed that the development of arts and culture should not be bound by any pre-defined framework or subject to excessive monitoring. She considered that the Administration should promote curatorial independence and institutional autonomy in the development of private museums, and step up its efforts in encouraging the establishment of private museums for showcasing the rich private collections in the community. She further suggested that for the sustainable development of private museums,

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consideration could be given to imposing an admission charge to these museums.

19. The Deputy Chairman pointed out that the need to monitor the use of government subvention would inevitably restrict the flexibility in the operation of private museums. He enquired about the criteria for the grant of financial support to private museums and how the Administration would resolve this dilemma.

20. Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs explained that from the cultural policy perspective, the Administration welcomed and encouraged the establishment of private museums, which complemented publicly-funded museums in maintaining a diverse museum presence in Hong Kong. Having regard to the unique nature and operational needs of individual private museums, requests for financial support from these museums would be examined and processed on a case-by-case basis against the five main parameters set out in paragraph 27 of the Administration's paper.

21. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong highlighted the significance of private museums, which had rich collections featuring specific, lively and interesting themes, in supplementing the collections in public museums, and facilitating the promotion of a more vibrant museum culture. He urged the Administration to put in place a legislative regime to provide a system for the selection, accreditation and regulation of private museums, with a view to giving proper recognition and status to those which met the prescribed requirements. The Chairman and Mr Paul TSE echoed similar views.

22. Referring to the submission from the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) tabled at the meeting, Mr Paul TSE shared the view that the Administration should devise a clear legal and policy structure for the development of private museums, and promote a level playing field between publicly funded museums and privately funded museums.

(Post-meeting note: HKMM's submission was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)909/09-10(01) on 5 February 2010 (for the English version) and on 22 February 2010 (for the Chinese version).)

23. SHA responded that while the Administration saw the benefits of formulating, in the longer term, a proper framework and mechanism for the accreditation, grading, funding, performance monitoring and evaluation of private museums, it also recognised the complexity of the task, for instance, in devising a definition for museums and determining the grading criteria. The Administration would need more time to consider the issue and was open to further suggestions in this regard. Nevertheless, SHA reiterated that requests for Government support from private museums should be examined on a case-by-case basis. He would consider if general guidelines on the detailed requirements of providing funding support to private museums should be drawn up in the longer term.

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Visit to public museums

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24. To further monitor the provision of public museum services, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that arrangements should be made by the Administration for members to visit LCSD museums at an appropriate time.

VI. Government policy on youth development

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)858/09-10(03) and (04)]

25. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the meeting should be extended for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time of the meeting at 10:30 a.m. in accordance with House Rule 24A(a).

Youth development policy

26. Dr LAM Tai-fai opined that the crux of youth problem was the widening gap between the rich and the poor in the community, which had resulted in depriving many young people, in particular those of low income families, of the opportunity for upward social mobility. He considered that the key solution to the issue laid in the promotion of education and creation of employment for young people, so as to boost their self-confidence and enable them to cultivate a positive attitude towards life. Dr LAM further opined that a targeted approach should be more effective in coping with youth problem and catering for their developmental needs. In this connection, the Administration should study the needs of the younger generation in the light of the present-day circumstances, analyze the problems from their perspectives, and devise measures focusing on their specific concerns and requirements.

27. Mrs Sophie LEUNG stressed the need to equip young people with fundamental but essential skills for the expression of views in a constructive manner. She suggested that HAB and the Education Bureau should collaborate in supporting programmes/activities for enriching the General Education curriculum, and emphasis should be placed on an 'inspiration' instead of 'impartation' mode of teaching at school with a view to developing the creativity and independent analytical ability among students. Mr Paul TSE observed that youth today faced new challenges brought about by globalization and advances in Internet technology, and it would be advisable for the Administration to adjust its youth policy in the light of these developments. Mr WONG Kwok-hing hoped that the Administration could take heed of the need of poverty-stricken youth, for instance, in the provision of library facilities for young people at the Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung. SHA took note of members' views and suggestions.

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Commission on Youth

28. Pointing out that the Commission of Youth (COY) was tasked to advise the Government on matters pertaining to youth development, the Deputy Chairman enquired whether the Administration would increase the representation of young people in the Commission, in particular those holding different political views. He further suggested the Administration to improve the design of HAB's website to make it more convenient for interested individuals to indicate interest in serving on the respective advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs), for instance, by providing hyperlinks to individual ASBs to facilitate public participation in the work of these bodies. Mr WONG Kwok-hing shared the view that the Administration should revamp the composition of COY with a view to enhancing youth participation in the Commission. Dr LAM Tai-fai however considered that COY should have a balanced mix of representatives of various age groups and backgrounds to facilitate the exchange of views from different perspectives.

29. SHA confirmed the Government's intention to increase the number of youth representatives in COY. He said that as in the case of other ASBs, the suitability of a candidate for appointment to COY was mainly considered on the basis of his merits, such as ability and experience, rather than the political stance. To promote the expression of views from different perspectives, members of COY would be drawn from a wide spectrum of sectors in the community.

30. SHA further advised that interested individuals might indicate their willingness to serve on individual ASBs by downloading a curriculum vitae form from the HAB website, and submitting the completed form to the Government for inclusion in a centralized database, which contained the membership records of non-official members serving on these bodies as well as the personal data of interested individuals. Moreover, the Administration would consider measures to improve Internet access to ASBs, as suggested by the Deputy Chairman in paragraph 28 above. The Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) (DSHA(1)) supplemented that at present, most ASBs had made available a "contact us" icon at their website for members of the public to communicate with the ASBs.

Youth Summit and youth forums

31. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che sought clarification from the Administration as to whether it would support the continuous operation of district youth forums. SHA advised that in the preparation for the Youth Summit to be held in March 2010, focus group meetings had been organised to take the place of district youth forums in gauging views from youth groups and organisations on social issues. For the arrangement of district youth forums, DSHA(1) advised that the idea originated from the Youth Summit organised by COY. COY subsequently considered that a main purpose of the district youth forums was to

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prepare for the territory-wide Youth Summit and decided to rename them as focus groups. DSHA(1) supplemented that COY adopted a new approach for the Youth Summit 2010 to enable the participation of more youth groups and organisations. The Summit was thus organised by COY in partnership with 18 youth groups and organisations, including uniformed groups (UGs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

32. While Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che had no strong view on the focus group format, he considered that the Administration should re-establish a standing consultation platform in the 18 districts for young people to express their views and participate in social affairs on a more regular basis. He also called for collaboration between HAB and the Labour and Welfare Bureau to capitalize on the network provided by the latter's some 130 Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres in the promotion of youth development activities.

33. SHA reassured members of the Government's commitment to enhancing communication with the youth and encouraging their greater participation in public affairs through different channels and programmes provided/organised by the Government and relevant UGs/NGOs.

Communication with the youth

34. Mr WONG Kwok-hing considered that the Administration should provide more communication channels/platforms for young people especially the "post-eighties" and "post-nineties" generations, who had actively participated in social movements and voiced their views on various social issues in recent years.

35. SHA advised that the Government would conduct public consultation in formulating major policy initiatives through various consultation mechanisms and structure, and young people were welcome to express their views through these channels, as well as other non-governmental forums in the community. As young people preferred to express their views at social websites via the Internet platform, the Government was actively considering how to make better use of the Internet to communicate with them so as to better understand their views and concerns. The recent initiatives in the case of some Principal Officials having dialogue with members of the public on the Facebook was an effort towards that direction.

Support for youth uniformed groups

36. Mr Paul TSE affirmed the contribution of UGs in promoting positive values and proper life attitude among young people. However, he was worried that government funding support and recognition to UG activities were diminishing in recent years. DSHA(1) informed members that with the provision of additional funding to UGs in the past few years to make up for the decline in subvention during the earlier economic downturn, there was no

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reduction to the overall government subvention to UGs. As announced in the 2009-2010 Policy Address, funding support for UGs would be further enhanced, and COY would strengthen its collaboration with UGs and various youth organisations in the promotion of core family values to young people.

37. Professor Patrick LAU enquired about support provided by the Administration for programmes/activities organised independently by young people. In his view, these opportunities were effective in promoting their growth and development. DSHA(1) responded that it had been the Administration's policy to encourage the involvement of young people in the planning and organisation of youth activities, for example, in programmes initiated by HAB-subsented UGs and NGOs, and those organised under the Community Participation Scheme administered by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education. This apart, consideration would also be given to providing funding support to programmes initiated by young people, where appropriate.

Youth Square

38. Noting that HAB would strive to achieve full cost recovery in managing and operating the Youth Square, Mr CHAN Hak-kan enquired about measures to promote the usage/occupancy of facilities at the Square. DSHA(1) informed members that some 55 000 visitors were recorded during the phased opening of the facilities from mid to late 2009, and over 16 000 visitors during the first three weeks of January 2010. The occupancy rate of Y-Loft (the youth hostel in the Youth Square) was 32% and 55% in December 2009 and January 2010 respectively. As the Square had now come into full operation, its patronage should continue to build up. DSHA(1) further advised that the Youth Square Management Advisory Committee met in December 2009 to deliberate measures to promote the Square's mission as the focal point of youth development activities, including initiatives to enhance the publicity, service quality and liaison network of the Square as well as its rental strategy, having regard to the views of various focus groups.

VII. Proposal to undertake overseas duty visit to study the experience relating to the development of cultural software

39. The Chairman informed members that four Panel members had responded to a questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat on the proposed duty visit issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)776/09-10 on 18 January 2010, expressing their views on the scope and places to be covered by and the timing of the visit. On the basis of these returns, members agreed that the visit should be arranged during the first week of August 2010 to study the experience relating to the development of cultural software in Japan and South Korea. At the suggestion of the Chairman, members further agreed that the Clerk should proceed with further planning and preparation for the visit, including seeking the

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Clerk

endorsement of the House Committee on the visit in accordance with House Rule 22(v) in due course.

VIII. Any other business

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:42 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 March 2010