

Panel on Home Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(as at 12 May 2010)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Female participation in Village Representative (VR) Elections

At the Panel meeting on 9 April 2010, Ms Emily LAU, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong and Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about the low female participation rate in Village Representative (VR) Elections. As the publicity campaign for the next VR election would commence around the end of May 2010, members agreed at the Panel meeting that issues relating to female participation in VR elections should be included for discussion at the next regular meeting in May, and written submissions be invited from Heung Yee Kuk, Rural Committees and the 28 female VRs to seek their views on the difficulties encountered by female voters/candidates, and measures to improve female participation in these elections.

May 2010

2. Strengthening the arts and cultural software of Hong Kong

The Panel discussed the subject at the Panel meeting on 12 June 2009. Members noted that the Administration would (a) commission a study in 2009 to review the funding mechanism and assessment criteria for the major performing arts groups and (b) set up a steering group in 2009 to coordinate cross-bureaux and inter-departmental efforts in further developing the cultural software in Hong Kong. As advised by the Administration, the study is expected to be commissioned in early 2010, and the first meeting of the steering group was held on 10 September 2009.

May 2010

At the informal meeting on 9 November 2009, the Administration suggested that this item should be discussed in March 2010 regarding the progress of the consultancy study.

At a meeting held between LegCo Members and Kowloon City District Council members on 2 July 2009, a district

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

council member suggested the revitalization of Ma Tau Kok Cattle Depot Artist Village into a cultural and tourist attraction. Members attending the meeting agreed that the matter should be referred to this Panel for consideration/follow up.

At a meeting held between LegCo Members and Sham Shui Po District Council (SSPDC) members on 7 January 2010, LegCo Members present at the meeting agreed that the concerns of SSPDC members on the shortage of large-scale performance venues in Sham Shui Po should be referred to this Panel for consideration.

At a meeting held between LegCo Members and Yau Tsim Mong District Council (YTMDC) members on 26 November 2009, LegCo Members present at the meeting agreed that the suggestion of YTMDC members to establish a large-scale cultural square in Yau Ma Tei should be referred to this Panel for consideration.

3. Construction of an annex building for the Ko Shan Theatre and injection of fund into the Cantonese Opera Development Fund

At the informal meeting on 9 November 2009, the Administration advised that it would brief the Panel on the funding proposal for the construction of an annex building for the Ko Shan Theatre in May 2010. In connection with the proposal, the Administration would also report to the Panel on other issues relating to the promotion of Cantonese opera, including:

May 2010

- (a) the progress in the conversion of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Red Brick Building into a Xiqu activity centre; and
- (b) measures to safeguard and promote Cantonese opera. (the proposed injection of \$69 million into the Cantonese Opera Development Fund in 2010-11 to support the development of Cantonese opera).

4. Setting up an intermediary body for the effective

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

enforcement of maintenance orders

At the regular meeting on 13 November 2009, the Administration agreed to provide an information paper and brief the Panel at its meeting in December 2009 on the implementation of the improvement measures to help maintenance payees to collect maintenance payments before a decision was made on the deletion of the item, as requested by Hon Cyd HO.

June 2010

At the meeting on 11 December 2009, members expressed disappointment over the lack of progress in the implementation of legislative and administrative measures for strengthening the enforcement of maintenance orders by the Administration. In the absence of effective legislative and administrative measures, members reiterated the need for the Administration to re-consider the option of establishing an intermediary body to collect and enforce maintenance payments, which in their view was the ultimate solution to resolving issues of default by maintenance payers. Members requested the Administration to further review the problems encountered by maintenance payees, make recommendations to resolve these problems and devise a timetable for implementing these measures. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel in about three months.

5. Regulating of karting facilities

At the meeting on 9 April 2010, members agreed to Hon KAM Nai-wai's suggestion for the discussion of the Government policy in the operation and regulation of karting facilities in June 2010.

June 2010

6. Regulating of internet cafes

At the meeting on 9 April 2010, members agreed to Hon WONG Kwok-hing's suggestion for the discussion of the regulation of internet cafes in June 2010.

June 2010

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Review on the financial assistance to Mutual Aid Committees

At the meeting on 15 October 2009, Hon WONG Kwok-hing suggested that the Administration should review its support to Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) which played an important role in district management.

June 2010

During the discussion of the proposal to grant an honorarium to village representatives at the meeting on 11 December 2009, members considered that the Administration should also give due recognition to the services and contributions of MACs to the local community, particularly in the area of building management. Members agreed that issues relating to enhancing support for MACs should be further discussed by the Panel.

At the meeting on 9 April 2010, the Administration sought members' view on the proposed review on financial assistance to MACs. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel on the findings of the review at its meeting in June 2010.

8. Development of public library services

At the regular meeting on 9 April 2010, members agreed that a special meeting should be arranged to exchange views with members of the Public Library Advisory Committee on the development of library services, as suggested by Hon Emily LAU and Hon WONG Kwok-hing.

14 June 2010

9. Implementation of recommendations of the 2006 District Council (DC) Review

Following a preliminary review on the subject at the Panel meeting on 13 February 2009, members considered that the implementation of recommendations of the 2006 DC Review (including the progress of the District Minor Works projects) should be further discussed towards the end of 2009, i.e. two years after the full implementation of the recommendation of the Review. Hon IP Kwok-him suggested that senior officials of the relevant Bureaux should be invited to attend the meeting. At the Panel meeting on 20 March 2009, members agreed that the opportunity might also be taken to

July 2010

(Note)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

discuss issues relating to the construction of civic centres, such as the new Tai Po Civic Centre, as deemed necessary.

Note: The issue of having a new civic centre in Tai Po was followed up by the District Facilities Management Committee under the Tai Po District Council (TPDC(DFMC)). As a new cross-district civic centre would be constructed in the North District which would also serve Tai Po, the proposal of constructing a new Tai Po Civic Centre at Plover Cove Road, Area 1, was shelved. The site has been earmarked for the provisioning of "G, I/C" facilities including a community hall, a sports centre (with a 25m x 25m indoor heated swimming pool) and two 7-1-side soccer pitches in consultation with TPDC(DFMC). LCSD is the lead department and has also agreed to upgrade the existing Tai Po Civic Centre. Moreover, the Administration has commenced a review of the implementation of the District Minor Works projects and the mode of organizing community involvement programmes. We shall engage District Council members in the coming months.

10. The Role of Home Affairs Department in dealing with disputes under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) and Regulation of property management companies

At the LegCo Members' meeting with members of the Eastern District Council held on 12 March 2009, a district council member suggested the Administration to review the role of the Home Affairs Department under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) in dealing with disputes between owners and the Owners' Corporations. Members attending the meeting agreed that the matter should be referred to this Panel for follow up.

July 2010

(Note)

At the informal meeting on 9 November 2009, the Administration suggested that the item should be discussed in June 2010 as it would need more time to study this issue.

The Panel received a briefing by the Administration on the findings of the first phase of a consultancy study at its meeting on 4 July 2008. The Panel agreed to follow up on this issue. The Administration indicated at the informal meeting on 9 November 2009 that it would brief members on

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

the progress of the second phase consultancy study on the regulation of property management companies in the third quarter of 2010.

Note : the Administration proposes that the two items of "HAD's roles in dealing with disputes under BMO" and "Regulation of property management companies" be merged, as disputes over building management matters frequently involve not only owners and Owners' Corporations (OCs) but also property management companies.

11. Community development services

At the regular meeting on 13 November 2009, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the provision of community development services, in particular those services provided by the Home Affairs Department in collaboration with the welfare sector, should be discussed.

To be confirmed

12. Monitoring of unlicensed hotels and guesthouses

At the regular meeting on 11 December 2009, Hon Paul TSE suggested and the Panel agreed the deferral of the discussion on the item.

To be confirmed

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 May 2010