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25 November 2010

Mr Raymond LAM
Clerk to the Panel on Security
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax: 25070775)

Dear Mr LAM,

**Panel on Security
Supplementary Information on Anti-drug Efforts**

At the meeting on 2 March 2010, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the resources and effectiveness in various areas of anti-drug work. The information is provided below.

Additional Resources

2. The Administration has all along adopted a five-pronged strategy in the fight against youth drug abuse. In view of the deteriorating youth drug abuse situation, the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse (the Task Force) led by the Secretary for Justice put forward over 70 recommendations in 2008 with a view to tackling the problem in a holistic and sustainable manner. Since July 2009, the Administration has further enhanced and expedited the anti-drug efforts along five directions promulgated by the Chief Executive, namely community mobilisation, community support, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, and drug testing.

3. To support the enhanced anti-drug efforts, the Administration has provided additional resources for three consecutive financial years since 2008-09 for implementing a series of anti-drug initiatives. Major items are tabulated at **Annex**.

Beat Drugs Fund

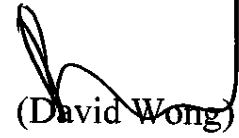
4. The Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) has financed worthwhile anti-drug projects since 1996 using income generated from investment of its \$350 million capital base. To complement the enhanced anti-drug efforts, the BDF funding has increased substantially over the past three years. Apart from the special projects set out at Annex, the BDF allocated \$33 million, \$23 million and \$54 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively to support a total of 192 projects in the general funding scheme covering such areas as preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation and research. The Government's injection of \$3 billion into the BDF in this financial year will enable the BDF to generate an enhanced level of income and thus provide more resources to sponsor a wide range of community initiated projects to combat drug abuse.

Effectiveness of the Initiatives

5. In taking forward these anti-drug initiatives, bureaux and departments have put in place a mechanism to monitor implementation and ensure effectiveness. On the whole, there are indications that the youth drug abuse problem has abated to some extent. The total number of drug abusers reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse in 2009 was 13 909, a drop of 2.3% from 13 909 in 2008. Among them, the number of drug abusers aged 21 or below dropped by 3.3%, from 3 473 to 3 359. The total number of newly reported drug abusers also decreased from 4 625 to 4 396, a drop of 5%. The downward trend has continued into the first half of 2010. The total number of reported drug abusers dropped by 13.9%, from 9 023 to 7 765, as compared with the same period in 2009. Similarly, in the first half of 2010, the number of persons arrested for drug offences decreased by 25.8%, from 4 432 to 3 287, while the number of reported drug abusers aged 21 or below dropped by 21.5%, from 2 205 to 1 732.

6. Drug abuse is a complex social issue. The tackling of the problem requires sustained joint efforts of the whole community and the fostering of a caring culture for the youth, enabling them to “stand firm” against drugs. The Administration will sustain the enhanced anti-drug efforts along the five strategic directions set by the Chief Executive, based on the five-pronged approach in combating drug abuse. We look forward to working closely with various sectors on this front.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Wong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical stroke extending upwards from the end of the name.

for Commissioner for Narcotics

c.c. Secretary for Education(Attn: Mr Benjamin Yung)	Fax:25304451
Director of Social Welfare(Attn: Mr ML Fung)	Fax:28380757
Director of Health(Attn: Dr Tina Mok)	Fax:21267515
Commissioner of Police(Attn: Mr. John Ribeiro)	Fax:25291814
Commissioner of Custom and Excise(Attn: Mr. John Lee)	Fax:28434215

Additional Resources

Initiatives	Full-year additional provision ¹ (unless specified otherwise)
Preventive Education and Publicity	
Launching a territory-wide anti-drug publicity campaign, including the production of anti-drug advertisements and publicity materials, anti-drug TV drama series, as well as other large-scale publicity programmes in 2008-09 and 2009-10.	\$9.5 million (one-off non-recurrent commitment)
Mobilising various sectors of the community to fight against drug abuse and bringing the anti-drug campaign to a community-wide level in 2010-11.	\$2.8 million
Continuing to organise the Community Programme against Youth Drug Abuse in 2010-11, which was launched by the Home Affairs Department in August 2009 in all of the 18 districts to reach out to young people who are at risk or have abused drugs and provide them with different types of activities and skill training.	\$9 million
Providing on-site and advanced training programmes for teachers from 2008-09.	\$5 million
Stepping up anti-drug education for primary students from 2008-09, including enhancing the student coverage rate and extending the service to cover primary three students in the 2010/11 school year.	\$1.25 million

¹ Additional resources required in a financial year for fully implementing the new initiatives.

Initiatives	Full-year additional provision ¹ (unless specified otherwise)
Launching an anti-drug resource kit for schools in March 2010, followed by a series of briefing sessions for the school management, guidance and discipline teachers, student guidance personnel, school social workers as well as class and subject teachers.	\$2 million (BDF special project funding)
Launching an anti-drug resource kit for parents in June 2009, accompanied by a series of seminars for parents and “train-the-trainer” programmes.	\$0.9 million (BDF special project funding)
Treatment and Rehabilitation	
Enhancing services by strengthening the manpower of the 16 District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams and 18 teams of Overnight Outreaching Service for Young Night Drifters from 2008-09.	\$9.9 million
Further strengthening the manpower of the 16 District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams from 2010-11.	\$7.9 million
Increasing the capacity of the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (DTRCs) subvented by the Social Welfare Department from 2008-09.	\$7.6 million
Increasing the capacity of the DTRCs subvented by the Department of Health from 2010-11.	\$3.66 million
Increasing the number of Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers (CCPSAs) to seven by setting up two new centres from 2008-09.	\$7.3 million

Initiatives	Full-year additional provision ¹ (unless specified otherwise)
Providing on-site basic medical support at the CCPSAs from 2009-10.	\$4.74 million
Further increasing the number of CCPSAs to eleven by setting up four new centres from 2010-11.	\$19.8 million
Implementing a two-year pilot project on enhanced probation service at two probation offices from October 2009 to provide more focused, structured and intensive treatment programmes for drug offenders aged below 21.	\$1.79 million
Strengthening the urine testing service provided by the Government Laboratory to tie in with the pilot project on enhanced probation service.	\$2.95 million (one-off non-recurrent commitment)
Procuring hair drug testing equipment in 2010-11 to support the hair drug testing pilot scheme, with a view to transferring the technology to industry in due course.	\$6.3 million (one-off non-recurrent commitment)
Re-deploying resources in 2008-09 to re-open the Substance Abuse Clinic (SAC) of Queen Mary Hospital and set up a new SAC in Kowloon East, thus increasing the number of clinics to seven.	NA
Enhancing the psychiatric medical social work service of SACs from 2008-09.	\$1.7 million
Further strengthening SAC services from 2009-10.	\$22.5 million ²

² In 2009-10, the Hospital Authority (HA) made an additional provision of \$12.5 million to enhance the services of its seven SACs to cope with the anticipated increase in demand for services. In 2010-11, the HA made a further provision of about \$10 million.

Initiatives	Full-year additional provision ¹ (unless specified otherwise)
Implementing the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District in 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years and commissioning a comprehensive assessment.	\$20 million ³ (BDF special project funding)
Legislation and Enforcement	
Increasing the number of Police School Liaison Officers from 2008-09.	\$1.2 million
Strengthening the manpower for the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme and the Community Support Service Scheme from 2008-09.	\$3.04 million
Setting up a cyber patrol team to enhance the Police's capability in gathering intelligence from 2008-09.	\$1.1 million
Enhancing the Customs' detector dog services at the boundary control points from 2008-09.	\$3.4million
Stepping up drug detection work of the Police Dog Unit and increasing the number of Police School Liaison Officers from 2010-11.	\$6.7 million
Research	
Conducting research to study the drug scene in depth and the harmful effects of various kinds of drugs to facilitate formulation of policies. It includes conducting regular surveys of drug use among students,	\$2.3 million (departmental project funding)

³ Including about 18 million for implementing the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District in 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years, and \$2 million for commissioning a comprehensive assessment.

Initiatives	Full-year additional provision ¹ (unless specified otherwise)
reviewing the various methodologies for estimating the drug abusing population and studying the drug abuse situation of non-engaged youth.	