

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2219/11-12
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by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 10 June 2011, at 8:30 am
in the 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
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
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 Paul TSE Wai-chun
Hon Tanya CHAN
- Members absent** : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Public Officers : Agenda item III
attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Jonathan McKINLEY, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr Benjamin MOK
Principal Assistant Secretary
(Recreation and Sport)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Mr Bobby CHENG, JP
Deputy Director (Leisure Services)

Ms Joanne FU
Chief Leisure Manager (Sports Funding)

Agenda item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Florence HUI
Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Home Affairs Department

Home Affairs Department

Mr Jack CHAN
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2)

Miss Dora FU
Assistant Director (3)

Clerk in : Mr Thomas WONG
attendance : Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Alice LEUNG
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Yvonne OA-YANG
Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Monique TSEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2 (Acting)

Action

I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

Members noted the following papers issued since the last meeting -

LC Paper No. CB(2)1776/10-11(01) -- Administration's response to a written submission from a member of the public on the services of public libraries

LC Paper No. CB(2)1878/10-11(01) -- Administration's response to a written submission from a Peng Chau resident on matters relating to village representatives elections

LC Paper No. CB(2)1880/10-11(01) -- Letter dated 17 May 2011 from Hon WONG Sing-chi to the Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") on a capital works project proposal to develop a joint-user complex in Area 44, Fanling

LC Paper No. CB(2)1880/10-11(02) -- Panel Chairman's reply to a letter dated 19 May 2011 from Hon WONG Sing-chi

LC Paper No. CB(2)1880/10-11(03) -- Letter dated 20 May 2011 from Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che to the Panel Chairman on

Action

a capital works project proposal to develop a joint-user complex in Area 44, Fanling

LC Paper No. CB(2)1920/10-11(01) -- Letter from a member of the public on advertisements in Mass Transit Railway stations promoting casinos in Macau

LC Paper No. CB(2)2006/10-11(01) -- Submission from a sports organization on the monitoring of Private Recreational Leases ("PRLs") and granting of short-term land leases for the purpose of leisure and sports activities

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendixes I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)1973/10-11]

2. Members noted the following items to be discussed at the next regular meeting on 8 July 2011-

- (a) Regulation of the property management industry; and
- (b) Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation.

PRLs

3. Further to the discussion on the Government's policy on PRLs at the Panel meeting on 13 May 2011, the Deputy Chairman and Miss Tanya CHAN requested and the Chairman agreed that the Administration should revert to the Panel at its July meeting on the progress of the Government's review of its policy on PRLs and provide the historical background of PRLs and considerations in granting PRLs to different types of organizations, such as private sports clubs, social and welfare organizations and uniformed groups.

[*Post-meeting note:* The Administration agreed to discuss the matters on PRLs at the Panel meeting on 8 July 2011.]

Action

Sports and arts education in schools

4. In view of the shortage of sports and cultural facilities in districts, Ms Emily LAU hoped that the Administration would discuss with the Panel as soon as possible the development of public library services stated in item 8 in Appendix I to LC Paper No. CB(2)1973/10-11. She also hoped that further to the joint meeting held by the Panel with the Panel on Education on 13 May 2011 on the promotion of sports and arts education in schools, the two Panels would hold another joint meeting to further discuss the matters. The Chairman advised that given the packed agenda for the July meeting, the Panel might follow up Ms LAU's concerns in the 2011-2012 legislative session.

III. Sports development in Hong Kong

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1973/10-11(01) - (04)]

(a) Promotion of sports for all and construction of sports venues

5. At the Chairman's invitation, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs(2) ("DSHA(2)") briefed members on the Administration's measures to promote "Sport for All" and the progress of the construction of new sports venues.

Construction of sports venues

6. Mr WONG Kwok-hing sought information on the implementation timetable for the planned public swimming complex in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai, and the plans of redeveloping the Yuen Long Stadium and expanding the existing soccer pitches to cope with the public demand for 11-a-side soccer pitches in Yuen Long.

7. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") advised that the Administration noted the shortfall of sports facilities in Yuen Long. As indicated in Annexes II and III to the Administration's paper, certain sports facilities had been under construction or advanced planning in the district, and an indoor swimming pool was scheduled for completion in Tin Shui Wai in 2011. The Administration has been implementing the sports facilities projects in Yuen Long based on priority. The public swimming complex in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai, was under planning, and the Administration was discussing the scope of the project with the Yuen Long District Council ("DC"). While the project had not been mentioned in the Administration's paper, the Administration would continue to

Action

discuss with the Yuen Long DC the priority of implementing various sports facilities in Yuen Long, particularly Tin Shui Wai. The redevelopment plan of the Yuen Long Stadium would proceed after working out the interim venue arrangements for Division I football matches, athletes' training and school sports games when the Stadium was closed for redevelopment. The Administration would report to Yuen Long DC on the progress of the redevelopment plan.

8. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming sought information on the Administration's criteria for determining the provision of sports and recreational facilities in various districts. DLCS advised that in planning the provisions of facilities in districts, the Administration made reference to, among other things, the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines ("HKPSG") issued by the Planning Department. The first reference was population. For instance, the standard of provision for standard swimming pool complex was one per 287 000 residential population; for sport centre was one per 50 000-65 000 residential population. The Administration also took into account other factors such as the district's demographic data and views of the DCs concerned.

9. Miss Tanya CHAN recalled that at the special meeting of the Panel on 29 November 2010, the Hong Kong Elite Athletes Association advised in its submission for the bid to host the 2023 Asian Games in Hong Kong that according to the relevant standard in HKPSG, there was a shortfall of 209 tennis courts in Hong Kong. She asked whether the standard would be reviewed to cope with the changing demand for sports facilities. She also raised concern about the inadequacy in competition venues of international standards in Hong Kong. In particular, she sought information on the progress of the improvement works for the auxiliary facilities, such as the spectator stand, in the Shing Mun River as requested by the Hong Kong Canoe Union ("HKCU").

10. DSHA(2) responded that the Administration regularly discussed with "national sports associations" (NSAs) the need for sports venues suitable for staging top-level international events. For instance, it had been discussing with the Hong Kong Tennis Association Limited and the Hong Kong Cricket Association plans to build new venues for their respective sports. The Administration had also discussed with Hong Kong, China Rowing Association (HKCRA) the feasibility of converting the existing Shing Mun River channel into a venue suitable for top-level international competition or developing the Kai Tak Approach Channel into an international standard course. The Administration would respect HKCRA's professional advice on the related requirements. He added that HKPSG were advisory in nature, and that in planning new sports facilities

Action

in a district, the Administration would take into account not only HKPSG but also the estimated usage rate of the facility and the demographic data and needs of the district.

11. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong welcomed the Administration's plan to provide at least 36 third-generation artificial turf soccer pitches by 2015 as stated in the Administration's paper. He sought information on whether the distribution of such pitches would be related to that of schools in various districts, and whether each district would have a soccer pitch with a spectator stand having a considerable seating capacity, so as to encourage the development of a district football team in each district with a home pitch.

12. DLCS advised that new 11-a-side third generation artificial turf soccer pitches would be built mainly in the New Territories where suitable sites could be identified more easily. If suitable sites were unavailable in urban districts, 7-a-side instead of 11-a-side third generation artificial turf soccer pitches would be built where practicable. Existing hard-surface soccer pitches in various districts would be converted into artificial turf pitches to cope with demands. Priority would be given to some districts with a shortfall of soccer pitches like Yuen Long. The Administration also considered it important to provide spectator seating for new soccer pitches, so as to encourage more people to attend football matches at various levels. Generally speaking, several hundred seats should be sufficient for pitches holding Divisions 2 and 3 soccer matches while more than 1 000 seats should be provided for pitches staging Division 1 matches. DSHA(2) added that according to the criteria laid down by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), at least four stadiums with a seating capacity of at least 5 000 each would be needed for Premier League matches meeting AFC criteria to be held in Hong Kong. At present, Hong Kong already had four such stadiums.

13. Mr WONG Yung-kan expressed dissatisfaction with the abortion of the recreational project in Area 33, Tai Po after years of planning. DLCS expressed regret about the failure of the project to pass the hazard impact assessment. The proposed Sports Centre, including an indoor heated swimming pool, in Area 33 would be relocated to the Plover Cove Road site in Area 1, Tai Po. The Administration had accorded high priority to the project, as Tai Po currently lacked an indoor heated swimming pool. The Administration undertook to provide an implementation table for the project as soon as possible.

Admin

14. Mr WONG Yung-kan also expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of progress in taking forward the Tai PO DC-supported relocation of the

Action

Tai Po Boat Club ("TPBC") to the adjoining site which had been reserved for the development of a water sports training centre but left idle for 10 years. Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) ("PAS(R&S)") advised that the Home Affairs Bureau would continue to follow up the matter with the Tai Po District Officer on the new site of TPBC.

15. The Deputy Chairman expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration had planning standards only but did not have a concrete timetable and financial commitment to implement various long-delayed leisure and cultural services ("LCS") projects. Nor did the Administration have any long-term objectives to promote sports development through the provision of adequate sports facilities. He called on the Administration to provide a comprehensive plan to take forward the outstanding projects in various districts.

16. DSHA(2) agreed that the availability of resources was a key factor when planning new facilities in districts. Nevertheless, 15 sports facilities with a total investment of over \$9.2 billion were currently under construction. It was difficult to ascertain precisely which facilities would be completed in the next 10 years, as their implementation priority might change vis-à-vis other public works projects, but as indicated in Annex III to the Administration's paper, in the next few years several new facilities were under planning and the Administration would seek resources to implement them.

17. Ms Emily LAU recalled that the Panel had appointed in the Third LegCo the Subcommittee to Follow up the Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils ("the Subcommittee") to monitor and expedite the implementation of various outstanding ex-Municipal Councils ("MCs") LCS projects. She asked whether a similar subcommittee should be set up to assist the Administration in taking forward the outstanding sports facilities requested by DCs.

18. DSHA(2) responded that should such a subcommittee be established, the Administration would be willing to provide information to facilitate its work. The Administration noted various DCs' requests for more sports facilities and regularly reported on progress with regard to the planning and development of sports facilities to the relevant committees under the DCs. PAS(R&S) added that since the dissolution of the Subcommittee in December 2007, the Administration had submitted regular reports to the Panel on the progress of outstanding ex-MCs projects and attached importance to DC's views on the priority of outstanding sports projects in districts.

Action

19. Dr LAM Tai-fai doubted whether the Administration had really listened to DCs' views, as the long-proposed sports facilities projects in Areas 14B and 24D, Sha Tin, were still in planning stage. Declaring that he also lived in Sha Tin, DSHA(2) stressed that the Administration had been listening to DCs' views. The planning of the two projects mentioned by Dr LAM Tai-fai was approaching completion and the Administration would seek resources to implement them at an appropriate time.

Promotion of sports

20. Noting that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") would strengthen its School Sports Programme by providing more opportunities for students to watch high-level sports competitions, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that in view of the problem of under-attendance for local football matches, the Administration might consider sponsoring students to watch matches free of charge, with a view to improving the competitive atmosphere of matches and broadening the audience base.

21. DSHA(2) responded that the current \$20 admission fee for students was not expensive. The Administration had discussed with the Hong Kong Football Association ("HKFA") how to encourage higher levels of attendance at football matches. HKFA would consider offering more free tickets to students and the elderly.

22. Dr LAM Tai-fai considered that the low attendance at football matches could be attributable to not only their quality and remote location of football pitches but also various restrictions on spectators. For instance, no audio equipment, such as drums and brass, might be brought into the pitches. Such restrictions were not conducive to the creation of the match atmosphere in pitches and the development of sports culture.

23. In view of the success of the Third Hong Kong Games concluded in early June 2011 in promoting sports for all, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming called on the Administration to provide long-term support for local organizations to organize teams and nurture athletes to participate in the Games. DLCS undertook to consider his suggestion.

24. Ms Emily LAU said that she had expressed concern about the decrease in the total hours of schools' use of major public sports facilities in the past three years at the joint meeting held by the Panel and the Panel on Education on 13 May 2011. She reminded the Administration to follow up her concern as soon as possible.

Action

(b) Governance and monitoring of and funding for NSAs

25. At the Chairman's invitation, DLCS briefed members on LCSD's measures to improve the governance of NSAs set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1973/10-11(03)).

Monitoring of NSAs

26. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper, Miss Tanya CHAN asked how the computerized system being developed by LCSD would strengthen its monitoring of NSA's performance and whether the existing monitoring system had any deficiencies. DLCS advised that a recommended measure in the Report of LegCo's Public Accounts Committee issued in 2010 was to computerize the submission of reports by NSAs to LCSD. In the past, a NSA had been required to manually submit three reports on one programme run by it, and LCSD needed to process tens of thousands of such reports from NSAs every year. The computerized system to be phased in over the next few years would provide a template to facilitate NSAs' reporting and allow them to submit their reports, which might contain confidential information, through an intranet network.

27. Miss Tanya CHAN expressed support for the Administration's provision of funding to NSAs to strengthen their accounting capacity by engaging additional staff but was concerned whether adequate training would be provided to such staff. The Deputy Chairman shared a similar concern.

28. DLCS advised that LCSD had all along organized workshops to advise NSA staff on compliance issues. Upon completion of the Review of the Sports Subvention Scheme, LCSD had conducted several briefing sessions and workshops to introduce the new improvement measures for them. LCSD would invite the Independent Commission Against Corruption to brief NSAs on best practices in governance and internal controls, and had provided additional resources to NSAs to engage personnel with accounting knowledge in order to enhance their reporting capability. LCSD had introduced a commendation and subvention adjustment system under which NSAs with good performance in different aspects, such as timely submission of financial reports to LCSD, would receive a Certificate of Appreciation, whereas those failing to submit required reports to LCSD despite repeated reminders might have their subvention reduced. Miss Tanya CHAN suggested that the criteria for increasing or reducing the subvention for NSAs had to be fair and

Action

transparent, and NSAs had to be fully informed of such criteria. DLCS agreed.

29. Ms Cyd HO sought information on the specific criteria under which a NSA would receive a commendation or penalty, and the number of NSAs which had their subvention reduced owing to their failure to meet the performance targets under LCSD's four Key Performance Areas ("KPA's") mentioned in paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper, viz. organization of programmes, performance of athletes, development of sport, and corporate governance and compliance.

30. DLCS advised that the performance-based approach in determining the subvention to NSAs only commenced on 1 April 2011, and NSAs had been given a one-year grace period to prepare for the new subvention adjustment mechanism which would be implemented if necessary from 2012-13 onwards. She believed that such a mechanism would drive NSAs to fulfill their reporting duty.

31. The Deputy Chairman asked whether LCSD could make public the information on the performance of a NSA in relation to the four key factors set out in paragraph 14 of the Administration's paper, viz. the development potential of the sport promoted by the NSA, the staff strength and past expenditure pattern of the NSA, the performance of the NSA against the targets set for the previous financial year, and the practicability and effectiveness of the annual plan and mid-term development plan submitted by the NSA.

32. DLCS advised that the Administration would report to LegCo on the implementation of the new monitoring mechanism through the Government Minute. She also advised that of the 58 NSAs receiving subvention from the Government, 49 had been registered as limited companies under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32). Members of the public might access their financial statements from the Companies Registry. The Administration had encouraged other NSAs which had not been registered under Cap. 32 to upload their financial statements onto their websites, and some of them had already done so. While some NSAs had incomes from sources other than the Government, the Administration would consider with them the feasibility of disclosing the information on their use of the Government's subvention to the public. The Deputy Chairman suggested that if such information could not be made public, it should be submitted to LegCo. DLCS responded in the affirmative.

33. Declaring that she had close affiliation with HKFA and was a founding member of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors ("HKID"), Mrs

Action

Sophie LEUNG suggested that the Administration might organize programmes and workshops in conjunction with HKID for the management staff of NSAs on financial management and duties of directors, among others, to help improve the governance of NSAs.

Funding to NSAs to promote individual sports

34. Noting from paragraph 14 of the Administration's paper that in determining the amount of subvention to an individual NSA, LCSD would take into account the development potential, among others, of the sport promoted by the NSA, Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed concern about how the development potential of an individual sport would be assessed. He opined that the identification and development of talents for an individual sport would take time and involve a lot of efforts. Should the assessment criteria be too stringent, NSAs might have difficulties to seek funding to promote sports with development potentials.

35. DLCS advised that the development potential of an individual sport included not just the potentials of nurturing elite athletes but also its potential of becoming a popular community sport. The development potential of an individual sport was one of the four key factors mentioned in paragraph 31 that LCSD would take into account in determining the amount of subvention to the NSA concerned. The amount of annual subvention to a NSA would usually remain at similar level, unless there were significant changes in NSAs' participation in major sports competitions or the number of programmes organised.

36. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong asked whether the Government would provide more subventions to NSAs which were promoting more popular sports. DLCS advised that the amount of the Government's subvention that a NSA might receive hinged on a number of factors, including the development potential of the sport promoted by the NSA, the NSA's organizational capability and the performance of its elite athletes. At present, sports that received more funding were those in which local athletes performed better, such as badminton, squash, table tennis and swimming. Resources had also been increased to promote football, given its considerable development potential as a community sport and the public support it received.

37. Noting from Appendix III to the LegCo Secretariat's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1973/10-11(04)] that some NSAs had their subvention increased by 60% in 2010-2011 compared to the previous year but some had their subvention reduced significantly, Ms Cyd HO asked whether there was any strategic consideration behind the funding allocation.

Action

38. DLCS reiterated that the Administration would take into account various factors in determining the amount of subvention to a NSA every year, including its participation in mega sports events. For instance, to support the preparation of the University Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China for the World University Games held every two years, the amount of subvention it received had increased from \$610,000 in 2008-2009 to \$1.1 million in 2009-2010 and from \$650,000 in 2010-2011 to \$1.3 million in 2011-2012.

IV. Vibrant people, harmonious community activities

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1973/10-11(05)]

39. At the Chairman's invitation, Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") briefed members on the progress of implementation of the Diversified Community Activities, also known as the "Vibrant People, Harmonious Community Activities" ("VPHCA"), over the past year [LC Paper No. CB(2)1973/10-11(05)]. About 1 000 activities around four designated themes, viz. get into vitality, get into creativity, get into discovery and get into harmony, under VPHCA were organized in the 18 districts or coordinated by the Home Affairs Department and other relevant government departments, and attracted over 6 million participants.

40. Mr WONG Kwong-hing expressed appreciation for the success of the activities but opined that many souvenirs which were made up of metal, crystal or plastic and brochures distributed by the hosting organizations were not environmentally friendly. He suggested that the souvenirs for similar activities in future should be simple and made up of recyclable materials, and green plants and seeds might be used as souvenirs.

41. USHA advised that the Administration had strived to make souvenirs simple and environmentally friendly. To save papers, the printed materials for the activities had been reduced as far as practicable and information on the activities had mostly been uploaded onto the Internet.

42. Dr LAM Tai-fai and Mr Paul TSE asked how to assess the effectiveness of VPHCA, whether the Administration was satisfied with its outcomes and if yes, whether new funding would be sought to conduct another round of such activities. USHA advised that with the objective of fostering social cohesion, VPHCA had attracted more than 6 million

Action

participants, including the underprivileged and new arrivals, and received positive feedbacks from various sectors. Both DCs and the business organizations sponsoring VPHCA had expressed interest in continuing the activities around the four designated themes. The Administration planned to arrange an experience sharing session for DC members in September or October 2011.

43. Mrs Sophie LEUNG declared that she ran a project under VPHCA but stressed that the project had not been planned when she voted for the funding for VPHCA. Her project provided a workshop for local residents on how to live a happy life and was well-received. She hoped that such a project would continue in the 18 districts regardless of whether it would remain to be funded. The Administration should consider seeking funding to extend VPHCA projects that were considered beneficial to the grassroots, especially new arrivals, given the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

44. USHA said that consideration could be given to extending VPHCA if necessary, given the positive feedbacks it had received. However, as the funding for VPHCA was one-off, the Administration hoped that with reference to the successful experience of VPHCA, DCs could conduct similar activities with the \$300 million provided for them each year to carry out similar community involvement activities.

45. The Chairman advised that he had attended some of the activities under VPHCA and appreciated their quality and creativity from which DCs might learn to enhance their community involvement activities.

V. Any other business

46. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:33 am.