

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1593/10-11  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

**Panel on Security**

**Minutes of special meeting**  
**held on Wednesday, 26 January 2011, at 8:30 am**  
**in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon James TO Kun-sun (Chairman)  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Dr Hon Margaret NG  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
- Member attending** : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
- Members absent** : Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon WONG Yuk-man

**Public Officers** : Item I  
**attending**

The Hong Kong Police Force

Mr TSANG Wai-hung  
Commissioner of Police

Mr LO Wai-chung  
Director of Crime and Security

**Clerk in** : Mr Raymond LAM  
**attendance** Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

**Staff in** : Miss Josephine SO  
**attendance** Senior Council Secretary (2) 1

Miss Jenny LEE  
Administrative Assistant (SD)

---

Action

**I. Crime situation in 2010**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)831/10-11(01) and (02))

Commissioner of Police ("CP") briefed Members on the overall law and order situation of Hong Kong in 2010, as detailed in the paper provided by the Police.

Drug-related offences

2. Ms Audrey EU referred Members to the numbers of crime reports relating to serious narcotics offences in paragraph 11 of the paper and asked whether the figures reflected the problem of youth drug abuse. Expressing concern about the effectiveness of the anti-drug measures adopted by the Administration in combating the drug abuse problem among students, she asked about the trend of youth drug abuse in 2010.

3. In reply, CP advised that -

- (a) the figures in paragraph 11 of the paper did not cover "minor drug offences" such as the consumption of dangerous drug or possession of a small quantity of dangerous drug;

Action

Police

- (b) a majority of drug offences committed by youngsters involved the abuse of psychotropic drugs, such as Ketamine. The Police would provide the statistics on young persons arrested for minor drug offences in the past two years;
- (c) according to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse, the total number of reported drug abusers in Hong Kong aged under 21 in the first half of 2010 had decreased by some 20% as compared to the same period in 2009, representing a reversal of the rising trend since 2004. This might be a result of the much escalated anti-drug efforts in recent years in education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and enforcement, evidence-based research, and external cooperation, a five-pronged approach coupled with collaborative endeavours across different sectors of the community. In this regard, the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District was an innovative element which the Administration had been pursuing, on top of its escalated efforts on various fronts; and
- (d) the Police actively pursued the School Liaison Programme to strengthen the communication with schools and to support schools in combating the youth drug abuse problem on campus. Under the programme, School Liaison Officers assisted schools in identifying early juvenile delinquency, preventing and tackling students' involvement in crime and illegal activities. Apart from liaising closely with the school community, including teachers, parents, students and school social workers, School Liaison Officers advised the school management on effective ways to handle undesirable behaviour of students in schools and organized seminars and talks in schools to enhance the knowledge of students and teachers on the harmful effects of drugs.

4. Mr Andrew LEUNG expressed concern about the increasing trend of cross-boundary drug abuse involving young people. He considered that the Police should take vigorous enforcement actions against drug-related crimes and tackle the supply of drugs at source. He further suggested that the Police should mount intelligence-led operations and cooperate with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to intercept drugs from being smuggled into Hong Kong.

Action

5. In response, CP made the following points -
- (a) the Police had adopted comprehensive strategies to combat drug trafficking activities. To tackle transnational drug traffickers and to combat dangerous drug offences at source, the Police cooperated with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies and mounted intelligence-led operations to intercept drugs from being trafficked into Hong Kong;
  - (b) the Police also worked closely with the Customs and Excise Department in the exchange of intelligence and conducting joint operations at various control points to intercept drugs;
  - (c) alongside with enhanced efforts made to crack down on the manufacturing and cultivation of illicit narcotic crops and to smash drug distribution networks at all levels to cut off the supply of drugs, the Police had also stepped up its anti-drug publicity at various boundary control points, in particular during festive periods and school holidays;
  - (d) as young people taking drug predominantly took psychotropic substances, combating psychotropic substances was the premise of the Administration's renewed efforts in the anti-drug cause in recent years; and
  - (e) the Administration had put in place an effective legislative and regulatory regime to provide stringent control over the import, export, manufacture, sale and supply of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. The related legislation and control regimes were constantly reviewed to ensure that they were up-to-date and effective in tackling the changing drug abuse and trafficking trends.

Cases of domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse

6. Dr Margaret NG enquired about the Police's classification of crime cases involving family violence, and whether the reported figures in paragraphs 21 to 23 of the paper, respectively related to domestic violence (2 157 cases), child abuse (1 508 cases) and elder abuse (359 cases) were mutually exclusive. She said that the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 had enhanced the protection for

Action

victims of domestic violence, by amending the previous Domestic Violence Ordinance, which was amended and renamed as the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance (Cap.189) in January 2010, to extend the scope of protection provided under the Ordinance to cover former spouses and former heterosexual cohabitants and their children, as well as other immediate and extended family members. The interpretation of the term "family members" under the Ordinance covered all familial relationships.

7. CP responded that the Police adopted a different approach in classifying cases of family violence, and the figures in paragraph 21 of the paper reflected the number of criminal cases involving the use of violence or threat of violence against a spouse in a marital, cohabiting or dating relationship. They did not include abuse cases against children or elders. The victim-based classification served to facilitate the Police's investigation work.

8. Ms Audrey EU noted with grave concern that a total of 1 508 cases of child abuse were recorded in 2010. She considered the figures alarming and enquired about the measures adopted by the Police to prevent such crime.

9. Dr PAN Pey-chyou noted that a total of 359 cases of elder abuse were recorded in 2010, representing an increase of 44 cases or 14% when compared with the preceding year. He asked about the identity of those persons who committed such offences. Sharing similar concern, Dr LAM Tai-fai asked about the measures taken by the Police to tackle the problem of elder abuse.

10. In response, CP said that the majority of elder abuse cases involved physical abuse, which stood at 204 cases or 56.8% of the total number of elder abuse cases in 2010. The remaining cases related to embezzlement of property and psychological abuse, which stood at 99 and 56 cases or 27.6% and 15.6% of the total number of elder abuse cases respectively. Victims under this category included elders abused by their spouses or children as well as elders abused by staff working in private residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs"). For cases which occurred in RCHEs, the Police would conduct a thorough investigation, including interviewing the victim, other elders who might have witnessed the abuse and the alleged offender, to identify all clues that might lead to the successful detection of the case.

Action

11. Regarding the measures to tackle the problem of elder abuse, CP advised that the Administration had all along endeavoured to enhance the services and support for vulnerable elders and strengthen publicity and public education to promote a culture of caring for the elderly. Among others, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Elderly Commission had jointly launched the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project to provide funding support to organizations to carry out district-based programmes for promoting care for the elderly and preventing elder abuse by improving community awareness. While the "caring for the elderly" policy was delivered through cross-sectoral cooperation, the Police had been working closely with various elderly organizations. It also made use of the television programme "Police Magazine" to bring the message to members of the public that they should report elder abuse cases to the Police for investigation.

Cruelty to animal

12. Ms Audrey EU expressed concern about cruelty to animal and asked whether the Police had any statistics on prosecution involving acts of animal cruelty.

Police

13. CP said that the Police worked closely with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Hong Kong Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with regard to the handling of cases involving animal cruelty. The Police would provide Members with the requested information, including the number of such cases reported to the Police and the number of people prosecuted in the past two years.

Criminal damage to roadside publicity board and banners displayed by Legislative Council Members

14. Ms Audrey EU asked about the number of cases concerning criminal damage to publicity boards and banners of Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members in 2010, and measures adopted by the Police to combat such crimes.

15. CP responded that in 2010, the Police received a total of 151 complaint cases which involved criminal damage to 638 publicity boards and banners of LegCo Members belonging to different political parties/groups. CP said that the Police attached much importance to cases involving criminal damage to publicity boards and banners of LegCo Members, and adopted a proactive approach in its investigation. On receiving a report of such nature, the Police would conduct thorough

Action

investigation, including taking statements from relevant parties, locating witnesses, gathering evidence at the scene of crime, analyzing the *modus operandi* and profile of the culprit. Where necessary, ambush operations would be arranged in addition to regular patrol in order to identify and arrest the suspect.

Police's handling of public meetings and public processions

16. Ms Audrey EU enquired about the number of people who participated in public meetings and public processions and were arrested, prosecuted and convicted in 2010 for breaching the laws of Hong Kong.

17. CP advised that in 2010, a total of 5 656 public order events were held in Hong Kong. The Police had taken arrest actions on 25 occasions, with 53 persons arrested and six of them prosecuted. So far, four cases had been heard at court of which two were convicted. The remaining two cases were pending trial.

18. Dr Margaret NG queried whether the Police had always handled public meetings and public processions in a fair and impartial manner. Referring to the confrontation which occurred during the recent clearance operation in Choi Yuen Tsuen, Dr NG said that it appeared that the way the Police handled the demonstration staged by villagers of Choi Yuen Tsuen was different from what had been done in the past.

19. Mr Andrew LEUNG asked whether the Police would communicate with and secure the support of the event organizers to ensure that the public meetings and public processions were peacefully and orderly conducted.

20. CP responded that it was a general practice of the Police to maintain close communication with the event organizers and discuss with them how order could be maintained in the public meeting or public procession. The event organizers were responsible for arranging wardens to maintain order during the public meeting or public procession. Apart from providing advice in advance and agreeing on certain arrangements in relation to the event, a Police Community Relations Officer might also be present during the event to act as a channel of communication between the organizer and the Field Commander. In assessing the crowd management measures and manpower required for maintaining public safety and public order during the event, the Police would make reference to the information provided by the organizer, past experience in handling similar events as well as other operational considerations.

Action

21. CP emphasized that the Police respected the rights of the public to peaceful assemblies and processions and to express their views. However, it should be noted that large-scale public meetings and processions might affect other people or road users, and might have impacts on public safety and order. In this connection, it had been, and would continue to be the Police's policy to endeavour to facilitate, as far as possible, all peaceful public order events. While facilitating the expression of views by participants of processions, it was also the Police's responsibility to maintain public order, and at the same time strike a balance by ensuring the rights of other people to use the public place or road as well as their safety. Participants of public meetings or processions, in exercising their freedom of expression, should, under the premise of observing the law and without affecting public order, proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner.

22. Regarding the incidents of confrontation in Choi Yuen Tsuen, CP said that since the first phase of the land resumption and clearance operation in mid-October 2010, there had been regular demonstrations by Choi Yuen Tsuen villagers. The Police noted that in a recent demonstration, some villagers and petitioners claimed that they were assaulted or injured by Government officers when the latter carried out clearance operation. CP hoped that the parties concerned would report and provide information to the Police for investigation.

23. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that in recent years, petitions and demonstrations staged outside the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("the Liaison Office") often resulted in serious conflicts and confrontations between the Police and the demonstrators. Mr CHEUNG held the view that the increase in the number of reported conflicts was largely attributed to the narrowed through zone outside the Liaison Office. He asked whether the Police would consider removing the planter at the through zone on Connaught Road West outside the Liaison Office, so as to provide sufficient space for demonstration and press reporting outside the Liaison Office to facilitate the expression of opinions by members of the public.

24. CP responded that according to records of the Police, the majority of the public order events conducted outside the Liaison Office proceeded in an orderly and peaceful manner. Very often, disputes were mainly triggered by the unruly behaviour of demonstrators. The width of the through zone on Connaught Road West outside the Liaison Office only affected the flow of the crowd during a procession.



Action

25. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan shared Dr Margaret NG's concern and queried whether the Police was consistent in its enforcement of the law. Citing a few public order events which had resulted in the arrest of demonstrators, he said that the way how the Police handled and followed up the cases had aroused suspicion that the Police was selective in taking enforcement and prosecution actions. He questioned whether the Police had formed a biased view against certain groups of demonstrators.

26. In response, CP said that there was no question of the Police being selective in taking enforcement actions. He reiterated that participants of public processions, in expressing their views to the public, should observe the law and public order. He emphasized that the Police would not tolerate violence during public order events. On occasions where the law was, or was likely to be, violated during public meetings or processions by acts of individuals (especially when there were acts which might cause danger to others or acts which led to a breach of the public order), the Police would, based on the assessment at scene and professional judgment, take appropriate actions at scene. These actions included issuing verbal warnings or orders at scene, collection of evidence for subsequent investigation, peaceful dispersal of the crowd or other law enforcement actions. If there were conflicts and confrontations, the Police would investigate into the incidents concerned to ascertain whether there were reasonable grounds to arrest any persons for having breached the laws. The Police would consult the Department of Justice regarding whether there was sufficient evidence for instituting prosecution.

Homicide committed by ex-mentally ill persons

27. Dr PAN Pey-chyou noted with grave concern that in nine of the 35 cases of homicide recorded in 2010, the offenders concerned were either ex-mentally ill persons or mothers with postnatal depression. He enquired whether the Police had adopted any measures to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies.

28. CP responded that homicide committed by ex-mentally ill persons who appeared to be in a state of mental disorder at the time of committing the offence had aroused public concern. To address the issue, the Police was exploring with the Food and Health Bureau the feasibility of allowing access by Police officers to Hospital Authority's information system which captured comprehensive information about ex-mentally ill persons assessed by social workers, psychologists and occupational therapists as likely to pose risk to other persons. With a better understanding of these people's background, the Police could be able to

Action

identify in advance the risks and actions to be taken when a case involving an ex-mentally ill person occurred.

Indecent assault

29. Dr PAN Pey-chyou noted that 1 448 cases of indecent assault were recorded in 2010, representing an increase of 130 cases or 9.9% when compared with the preceding year. He enquired whether the Police had conducted any study to find out the reasons for the sharp increase in the number of cases involving indecent assault.

30. In response, CP made the following points -

- (a) of all the cases of indecent assault recorded in 2010, 1 010 cases or 69.7% of the total took place at public places, such as streets, public spots or public transport. The remaining 438 cases occurred at private places, such as residential buildings, schools and commercial buildings;
- (b) as regards the reasons for the increase in indecent assault cases, a possible reason was that the victims were more willing to report the crime to the Police;
- (c) the Police would continue to fight against such crime and to enhance public awareness through organizing education and publicity campaigns, especially at train platforms of the Mass Transit Railway ("MTR") during peak hours, with the aim of encouraging the public and victims to report the crime to the Police and to cooperate with the Police in providing crime information. This would enable the Police to detect and combat such offence more effectively; and
- (d) on the prevention of sexual offences, the Police actively offered advice on personal safety to the public, including ways to avoid becoming victims of sexual offences.

31. Noting that there was an upward trend in the number of cases of indecent assault and sexual harassment in the compartments of MTR trains, and that female passengers were more likely to be victim to indecent assault in crowded train compartments during peak hours, the Deputy Chairman asked whether the Police considered the introduction of "female-only compartments" an effective measure to reduce such crimes and if so, whether it would urge the MTR Corporation

Action

Limited ("MTRCL") to introduce "female-only compartments" as soon as possible.

32. CP replied that introducing "female-only compartments" on MTR trains might be a practicable solution. However, it would be the prerogative of MTRCL to decide whether to adopt such a measure. The Police would continue to work closely with MTRCL to take all reasonable measures to prevent crime within the railway premises for the security of passengers.

Deception cases

33. Expressing concern over the proliferation of deception cases which involved varied tricks and large number of victims, such as "telephone scams" contrived by organized crime syndicates in the Mainland, Dr PAN Pey-chyou asked about the measures adopted by the Police to combat such crimes.

34. Sharing similar concern, Mr Andrew LEUNG said that the Police should increase the sharing of intelligence and step up cooperation with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to prevent cross-boundary deception.

35. In response, CP made the following points -

- (a) in 2010, an increase was recorded in common deception cases such as telephone deception and street deception. While there was a rise of 523 cases of telephone deception when compared with 2009, a significant growth was registered particularly in the fourth quarter of 2010, which was attributable to a new *modus operandi* known as "Guess who I am";
- (b) despite the rise in telephone deception, the loss involved recorded a decrease by \$3.77 million or 12.8%, with the amount involved in the majority of "Guess who I am" cases being less than \$30,000. Moreover, over 70% of swindlers failed in their crime attempts;
- (c) the Police was committed to the prevention and detection of deception. It continued working closely with its counterparts in the Mainland and overseas in targetting syndicated and organized crime activities at cross-boundary

Action

and international levels. The Police had also established close communication channels and mechanisms with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies for the exchange of intelligence on cross-boundary deception. Where circumstances warranted, the Police would conduct joint operations with Mainland public security authorities against cross-boundary deception syndicates. In a previous operation, the Police had successfully cracked down a Shenzhen-based fraud syndicate and arrested a number of persons suspected of engaging in deception activities; and

- (d) to increase public awareness, much publicity had been launched through the media over the past few years. The Police also disclosed the *modus operandi* adopted by fraudsters and disseminated anti-deception messages to the public through various media, such as launching television programmes and issuing publicity leaflets and posters.

36. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the Police had any cautionary advice to members of the public to prevent them from falling prey to deception wiles.

37. CP said that criminal gangs or fraudsters often made use of a person's fear or greediness in contriving tricks or deceptions. Hence, the public was always reminded to stay calm and be on alert.

School violence

38. Dr LAM Tai-fai expressed concern about the problem of school violence and asked about the number of such reports received in 2010.

39. CP responded that while school violence cases involved serious assault, indecent assault, criminal damage and robbery cases occurred inside schools, some of the cases might take the form of physical and non-physical bullying. Regarding the number of reports received in 2010, CP said that he did not have the information on hand and undertook to provide the information after the meeting. CP stressed that the problem of school violence had not deteriorated, and the number of reports received in 2010 was similar to that reported in 2009. The Police was committed to supporting schools in managing and preventing school violence. Such cases, once occurred, would be handled by School Liaison Officers.

Action

Crime detection rate

40. Dr LAM Tai-fai noted that the overall crime detection rate recorded for 2010 was 42.8%, a drop by 2.8% when compared with the preceding year. He expressed concern about the difficulties faced by the Police in crime detection and the measures taken by the Police to improve the detection rate.

41. CP explained that detection rates varied among different categories of crimes. Generally speaking, those crimes without witnesses possessing knowledge of the cases, such as shop theft and pickpocketing, were comparatively more difficult to detect. It should be noted that the average detection rate depended to a large extent on the nature and complexity of the cases, as well as the number of "difficult-to-solve" crimes recorded for a year. CP said that the Police would continue to fight against all types of crimes and to enhance public awareness through publicity campaigns.

Police conduct and integrity

42. Dr Philip WONG expressed concern about cases of Police officers committing criminal offences. He asked whether the paper could include the figures and overall trend of the crimes committed by Police officers.

43. CP responded that the Police had from time to time provided Members with statistics on Police officers committing criminal offences. While the statistics were normally provided through other channels, such as replies to Members' questions raised on the annual budgets, he did not consider it appropriate to state the figures in the annual statistics on crime situation.

Counter-terrorism protection

44. Responding to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry about the Police's readiness in preventing terrorism acts, CP advised that -

- (a) given the complexity situation of current worldwide terrorist activities, the Police had enhanced its overall capability in being alert to and preventing terrorism acts;
- (b) to execute counter-terrorism operations in an effective manner, the Police had set up a dedicated and professionally trained unit, notably the Counter Terrorism Response Unit,

Action

for the protection of critical infrastructures and the effective implementation of the Force's Counter Terrorism Strategy; and

- (c) in the 2011 Operational Priorities of the Commissioner of Police, one important policy was to combat terrorist activities. Efforts would be further made to monitor terrorist trends and maintain a high-level of counter-terrorism readiness through regular training and multi-agency exercises.

Challenges against the authority of the Police

45. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, Mr CHAN Hak-kan and Mr WONG Kwok-kin commended the Police for its performance in 2010 making Hong Kong one of the safest cities with a low crime rate in the world. Mr WONG expressed concern over some recently reported cases in which members of the public had manifested a deliberate intention to disregard warnings given by the Police or to defy the law. Mr WONG said that in most of the cases, the Police officers had exercised great restraint in handling the disorder. He was much concerned whether the challenges against the authority of the Police would tarnish the image of and cause difficulties to the Police in law enforcement.

46. In response, CP advised that although there were some 400 cases of alleged assault on Police officers in 2010, the cases to which Mr WONG Kwok-kin referred involving disorderly behaviour of some members of the public were isolated incidents unlikely to bring forth any negative effect to the image or authority of the Police. CP said that it was not uncommon for members of the public making attempts to challenge the Police, such as by provoking the Police officers with violence or harsh words, when the latter carried out their duties. To avoid confrontation with members of the public, officers were always reminded to act with determination and resolve, while being mindful of their image.

*(Members agreed to extend the meeting by 25 minutes)*

Sentiment and morale of Police officers

47. The Chairman said that he had learned from media reports that the Force was having difficulties in retaining experienced officers and recruiting new blood. Expressing concern about the state of morale in the Force, he asked whether the Police had compiled any statistics on the

Action

Police

numbers of arrest action taken by off-duty Police officers and the number of officers to whom personal firearms were issued carrying pistols or revolvers while off-duty. The Chairman said that these figures could serve as indicators reflecting Police officers' commitment to work. CP undertook to provide a written response.

48. Responding to the Chairman's concern about the work pressure of officers in the Criminal Investigation Division ("CID"), CP advised that the Force management attached great importance to staff morale. Given the high wastage of CID officers in recent years, studies had been conducted to examine, evaluate and follow up on issues concerning their sense of belonging, job satisfaction and work pressure. Measures would be implemented in the coming year to alleviate the work pressure on CID officers.

49. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that to his knowledge, there had been a marked decrease in the number of serious cases brought to the notice of the Police, when compared with that of 10 years ago. Cases of relatively trivial nature, such as family disputes, where no criminal element was involved had increased progressively on the contrary. Expressing concern about the workload of officers working at the frontline, Mr CHAN asked whether the Police had encountered any difficulties in carrying out their duties, when a major proportion of cases reported to the Police had become trivial and insignificant in nature.

50. In reply, CP advised that the growing public expectation for more and better services from the Police had significantly increased the workload and added pressure onto frontline officers. Although the nature of many cases, such as family disputes or harassment caused by debt collection agencies, was trivial, members of the Force were fully aware that they should not take the matters lightly. The Police always attached great importance to public expectations and had worked hard to earn the recognition of the public for its work.

Mainland visitors arrested for committing crimes

51. Mr Paul TSE noted that in 2010, a total of 1 221 Mainland visitors were arrested for criminal offences in Hong Kong, representing a drop of 42 persons or 3.3% when compared with the number in the preceding year. Enquiring about nature of offences committed by these visitors, he asked whether the Police would support the expansion of the Individual Visit Scheme ("IVS"), if the number of crimes involving Mainland visitors continued to decrease.

Action

52. In response, CP advised that -

- (a) there were 22.47 million arrivals from the Mainland in 2010, representing an increase of 4.78 million or 27% over the previous year, and 14.24 million of them travelled under IVS, representing an increase of 3.65 million arrivals or 34.5%. During 2010, a total of 1 221 Mainland visitors were arrested for committing criminal offences in Hong Kong, representing a drop of 42 persons or 3.3% when compared with the number in the preceding year. Of these, the number of persons under IVS arrested for committing criminal offences was 504, a rise of 41 persons or 8.9% when compared with 2009. The number of Mainland visitors who committed crimes per 100 000 arrivals was 5.4 persons in 2010;
- (b) among those 1 221 Mainland visitors arrested for committing crimes in 2010, the most prevalent crimes were miscellaneous and shop thefts, forgery and coinage; and
- (c) given the continued decrease in terms of crimes involving Mainland visitors, the Police maintained an open view towards the proposal of expanding IVS.

Other issue

53. Responding to the Chairman's enquiry as to whether more resources could be allocated for frontline officers to undergo detailed body check-up on a regular basis, CP replied that regular body check-up was currently arranged for officers in specialized operational units, since their job duties had given rise to the need for a high degree of physical fitness. For other officers, the Force management encouraged their participation in sport and other physical activities to keep themselves healthy. The Police would give consideration to the suggestion of regular body check-up for all Police officers.

54. The meeting ended at 10:54 am.