

For information
on 29 August 2011

**Legislative Council Panel on Security
Security Arrangements and Handling of Public Meetings and
Public Processions at the Central Government Offices and during
Visits of Political Dignitaries to Hong Kong**

Introduction

This paper provides information on the arrangements for security and for holding public order events at the new Central Government Offices (CGO) and during visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong.

Security arrangements and handling of public order events at the new Central Government Offices

2. The Administration Wing has engaged a security company to provide security service at the new CGO. The arrangements on access control at the new CGO are the same as those adopted at the existing CGO. Security passes are issued to staff working in the new CGO to facilitate their access to/exit from the premises. For visitors, they should wear visitor cards on the day of visit. To enable the timely issuance of visitor cards, bureaux/main offices are required to pre-register the details of their visitors with the Administration Wing.

3. The arrangements for members of the public to conduct public order events at the new CGO would be as follows –

- (a) members of the public can submit petition letters to the Government outside the East Wing forecourt;
- (b) members of the public can conduct public order events in the East Wing forecourt on Sundays and public holidays upon application and approval from the Administration Wing; and
- (c) individual members of the public or representatives of organisations may enter the designated area at the main entrance of the Chief Executive's Office for handing petition letters to the Chief Executive and other members of the Executive Council on the days when the Executive Council holds its regular meetings.

The above arrangements are generally the same as those currently in place at the existing CGO.

4. The facilities in the new CGO for use by the media are expected to be completed in September. We will then notify the media of the arrangements for conducting media activities there. We will also provide assistance in case the media needs to conduct activities at the new CGO before then.

Security Arrangements during Visits of Political Dignitaries to Hong Kong

5. As for visits by political dignitaries from other places, the Police will conduct professional risk assessment based on the latest international situation and past experience in handling similar operations, before making appropriate security arrangements. In view that the time of the visits, the visitors and the places they visit in town are different, the result of risk assessment must differ from case to case having regard to each case's own merits. When implementing the arrangements for political dignitaries on visits to Hong Kong, the Government has to strike a balance between different factors, including freedom of speech and demonstration as well as security requirements.

6. We sincerely hope that members of the public will understand that these security arrangements may in some respects cause inconvenience to them. As a city open to the world, Hong Kong needs to offer sufficient protection and make ample arrangements when receiving political dignitaries from other places in the world.

Police Handling of Public Meetings and Public Processions

7. The freedom and right of procession and peaceful assembly are enshrined in Article 27 of the Basic Law and Section 8 of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383). It is the Police's operational policy to strike a balance by facilitating all lawful and peaceful public meetings and processions on the one hand and on the other hand reducing the impact of public meetings and processions on other people or road users to ensure public safety and public order. In expressing their views, participants of public meetings or processions should, under the premise of observing the Hong Kong law and without affecting public order, proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner.

8. Generally speaking, upon receipt of a notification given by the organiser of a public meeting or procession in accordance with the Public

Order Ordinance (Cap. 245), the Police will maintain active and close communication with the organiser to offer advice and assistance. Police community relations officers may also be present during an event as appropriate to act as a channel of communication between the organiser and the Field Commander. The Police have a duty to take lawful measures to regulate public meetings and processions as appropriate to ensure public order and public safety.

9. The Police will follow the established operational policy stated above in handling public meetings and public processions at the new CGO and during the visits of political dignitaries to Hong Kong by facilitating all lawful and peaceful public meetings and processions on the one hand and taking account of the safety of the participants of the public order events concerned, the staff working inside CGO and other people on-site as well as ensuring public order on the other hand. Participants of a public meeting or procession should abide by the law of Hong Kong and the regulations of the Administration Wing on the use of the new CGO area in holding events without affecting public safety and public order.

**Administration Wing
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