

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)2449/11-12
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by the Administration)

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Panel on Transport

**Minutes of special meeting held on
Tuesday, 29 May 2012, at 9:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Tanya CHAN

Members attending : Dr Hon Margaret NG
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP

Members absent : Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

**Public Officers
attending : Agenda item I**

Mrs Fanny LAW
Head of the Chief Executive-elect's Office

Ms Alice LAU
Secretary-General of the Chief Executive-elect's
Office

Ms Maisie CHENG
Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Mr Enoch LAM
Deputy Secretary (Works)
Development Bureau

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (1)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Macy NG
Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Ms Emily LIU
Legislative Assistant (1)2

Action

- I Organisation structure in relation to the transport portfolio proposed by the Chief Executive-elect**
(LC Paper No. - Administration's paper entitled
CB(1)2008/11-12(01) "Delivery of land transport and works policy portfolio under the current Administration's organisation structure")

LC Paper No.	-	Administration's paper entitled "Re-organisation of the Government Secretariat : Changes in Establishment"
CB(2)2058/11-12(03)		
LC Paper No.	-	Letter dated 22 May 2012 from Hon WONG Sing-chi to Panel Chairman)
CB(1)1950/11-12(01)		

Head of the Chief Executive-elect's Office (H/CEEO) briefed members on the current proposal to combine the existing Transport Branch (TB) of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) (except for the policy responsibilities for aviation, maritime and logistics services which would be transferred to the new Commerce and Industries Bureau (CIB)) with the existing Works Branch (WB) of the Development Bureau (DEVB) (except for the policy responsibility for heritage conservation which would be transferred to the new Culture Bureau (CB)) to form a new Transport and Works Bureau (TWB).

Re-organization proposals and proposed TWB

2. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked about the possible impact if the re-organization proposals could not be implemented on 1 July 2012 as planned, and if that was the case, whether the Administration would consider conducting public consultation on the proposed changes during the summer recess of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and submitting the re-organization proposals again to LegCo for approval early next legislative term. The Chairman suggested that it was preferable for the re-organization proposals to be submitted to LegCo after the new term Government had commenced work for some time and had secured public support for the proposals. He considered that, instead of re-organizing the Government structure, the policy objectives of CE-elect could also be fulfilled by strengthening the coordination amongst the Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureaux in the policy formulation and resource allocation for the priority policy areas. He also considered that the Administration should review the Political Appointment System (PAS) first and identify shortfalls of the existing Government structure before seeking further expansion of PAS.

3. H/CEEO explained that if the re-organization proposals could not be implemented on 1 July 2012, it would lead to confusion as redistribution of duties and responsibilities among some of the Principal Officials of various bureaux affected by the re-organization would then be necessary. Further, if the re-organization proposals were not approved by LegCo in the current term, the new term Government would have to go through the relevant funding and legislative procedures all over again in the next legislative term,

which meant the full team would not come together until several months after commencement of the new term of Government. H/CEEEO stressed that, to materialize the new policy initiatives pledged by CE-elect in his Manifesto, timely implementation of an appropriate Government structure was necessary. She pointed out that in coming up with the proposed new Government structure, CE-elect had taken into full account the views and comments received from various sectors of the community during his election campaign.

4. H/CEEEO further said that although the number of politically appointed officials would be increased by six under the re-organization proposals, a majority (51 out of 57) of the additional posts to be created would be filled by civil servants. She pointed out that no additional resources and manpower would be incurred by the current proposal for the new TWB to take over all land transport matters and to take charge of the policy portfolios under the existing WB of DEVB (except the Commissioner for Heritage's Office which was proposed to be transferred to CB). In response to the call for review of PAS, H/CEEEO said that CE-elect had already undertaken to conduct an interim review of the PAS after gaining operational experience.

5. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that under the existing structure, the policy portfolios of housing and transport were under the same bureau. He considered that this could facilitate better coordination of housing development and provision of the necessary public transport support facilities. He expressed concern that this purpose, however, would not be served after the proposed re-organization. He further said that it seemed that the design of the new TWB's structure, with the two branches of TB and WB, only aimed to expedite the implementation of the transport-related items among the ten major infrastructure projects.

6. H/CEEEO explained that there was indeed close interface between transportation and public infrastructure development works as shown by the fact that six out of the ten major infrastructure projects were transport-related. She said that it was proposed to combine the existing TB of THB (except for the policy responsibilities as specified above) with the existing WB of DEVB (except the Commissioner for Heritage's Office) to form a new TWB so that the new bureau would more effectively plan, manage and implement the works programmes and transport infrastructure to further enhance the economic development of Hong Kong and its connectivity and integration with the Mainland. H/CEEEO further said that it was necessary to reorganize the existing THB into the new TWB also because the policy portfolios of housing and transport were both very heavy. She invited members to note that while one of the priorities of CE-elect was to address housing issues, there were also many important issues under the transport portfolio to be dealt

with, such as railway development, strategies on toll roads and tunnels, traffic management and fare adjustments of public transport operators. It would be undesirable for one single bureau to take charge of these two heavy policy portfolios. CE-elect proposed to combine the Planning and Lands Branch of the existing DEVB and the Housing Branch/Housing Department of the existing THB to form the new Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau. H/CEEEO explained that by putting housing and land production in the same bureau, there would be better co-ordination in the timing of land supply to meet the demand for both public and private housing.

7. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked about the rationale of the proposal of transferring the policy responsibilities for aviation and maritime services from TB of THB to the new CIB. He questioned why TB would assume policy responsibilities for land transport only but not air and marine transport.

8. H/CEEEO said that CE-elect saw the need to expedite the development of maritime and aviation services as little progress had been made in the past few years. To promote Hong Kong as a major international maritime centre, there was a need to enhance the provision of high-end maritime services, e.g. ship owning/management, financing, maritime arbitration, etc. H/CEEEO further said that due to the close interface between aviation, shipping and logistics with other sectors of the economy, such as tourism, import and export, it was proposed to transfer the policy responsibilities for aviation, maritime and logistics services from THB to the new CIB under which a Maritime, Aviation, Logistics and Tourism Branch would be set up to provide holistic support to promote the development of the maritime, aviation, logistics and travel industries in Hong Kong so as to enhance their competitiveness. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, however, considered that although the proposal might be welcomed by the business sector, it should also be discussed in detail by the public and implemented only on the basis of solid public support. He shared Mr KAM's concern about whether it was appropriate for the Civil Aviation Department and the Marine Department to be transferred to the new CIB.

Other issues

9. With the consent of the Chairman, Professor Patrick LAU and Mr KAM Nai-wai, who were the Chairman and member of the Development Panel respectively, expressed the following concerns regarding the re-organization proposals affecting DEVB –

- (a) the Administration should explain whether the proposed transfer of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office from DEVB

to the new CB would undermine the effectiveness of the heritage conservation work. At present, DEVB oversaw the planning, lands and works portfolios while being tasked with enhancing the Government's heritage conservation work. By putting these related responsibilities under DEVB, a closer interface at the policy level between development and heritage conservation was achieved and it ensured early attention to heritage conservation when implementing development projects;

- (b) the Administration should explain whether existing work such as the development of the Greening Master Plans would be affected with the transfer of the policy responsibilities for greening and tree management from the existing WB of DEVB to the new TWB; and
- (c) the Administration should provide the justifications and details of the proposed transfer of the existing WB of DEVB to the new TWB.

10. H/CEEEO said that the transfer of WB of DEVB to the new TWB would be mere institutional changes and would not affect the existing work in the portfolios of greening and tree management. As regards heritage conservation, H/CEEEO pointed out that the new term Government considered that tangible and intangible cultural heritage should be put under the same bureau so that a holistic approach could be taken by the Government for enhancing heritage conservation, which was a common arrangement overseas. H/CEEEO further said that with the Government announcement of the "Heritage Conservation Policy" in the 2007-2008 Policy Address and the general framework of various heritage conservation initiatives, a clear policy framework was already in place to guide the relevant departments in implementation, so the transfer would have no adverse impact on heritage conservation. Due to the shortage of time, H/CEEEO agreed to provide the information referred to in (c) above in writing afterwards.

Admin

11. Members noted that the Administration intended to submit the re-organization proposals to the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee on 6 June and 15 June 2012 respectively for approval. Summing up, the Chairman said he noted that some members had expressed strong reservations about the re-organization proposals. He requested the Administration to take into account members' views and comments.

II Any other business

12. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:50 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 August 2012