

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)948/14-15

(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Minutes of the twenty-fifth meeting  
held on Monday, 12 January 2015, at 4:30 pm  
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

**Members absent** : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

**Public Officers : Item I  
attending**

Mr Stephen SUI, JP  
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Jane LEE  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Poverty)  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mrs Tonia LEUNG  
Assistant Commissioner (Employment Services)  
Labour Department

Mr Charles HUI, JP  
Assistant Commissioner (Labour Relations)  
Labour Department

Mr FUNG Man-chung  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and Child  
Welfare)  
Social Welfare Department

Mr Peter NG  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Corrections)  
Social Welfare Department

Ms Sue WONG  
Senior Manager (Course Development)  
Employees Retraining Board

**Item II**

Miss Diane WONG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Food) 2  
Food and Health Bureau

Mr LAM Wing-hong  
Assistant Director (Operations) 2  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mrs Susanne WONG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic Affairs)  
Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Eric HUI Kwok-sun  
Assistant Director (2)  
Home Affairs Department

Miss Sincere LEUNG  
Acting Assistant Director (3)  
Efficiency Unit under Chief Secretary for Administration's  
Office

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Colin CHUI  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Kay CHU  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

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**I. Women in poverty**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)317/14-15(01) to (02) and  
CB(2)596/14-15(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at  
**Annex**).

**II. Ways to enhance the employment opportunity of people in  
poverty by promoting support for community economy**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)554/14-15(01) to (02)]

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at  
**Annex**).

3. The Subcommittee passed the following motion moved by the  
Deputy Chairman –

Action

"鑒於發展社區經濟及墟市有助貧窮人士脫貧，尤其是居於偏遠地區的弱勢社羣；本小組委員會促請政府在扶貧委員會下成立「地區扶貧專責小組」，針對各地區的貧窮狀況，提出適切而創新的扶貧計劃。"

(Translation)

"That, given that the development of community economy and bazaars can help the poor, in particular the socially disadvantaged residing in remote areas, get rid of poverty; this Subcommittee urges the Government to set up under the Commission on Poverty a task force on poverty alleviation at the district level, so as to draw up appropriate and innovative poverty alleviation plans for addressing the poverty situation of various districts."

**III. Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting**

[LC Paper No. CB(2)554/14-15(03)]

4. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should discuss the subject of "poverty situation of persons with disabilities" at the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 24 February 2015 at 4:30 pm.

**IV. Any other business**

5. The Chairman said that there would be election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee at the next meeting in February 2015.

6. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:38 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3 March 2015

**Proceedings of the twenty-fifth meeting of the  
Subcommittee on Poverty  
on Monday, 12 January 2015, at 4:30 pm  
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Women in poverty</i>			
000426 - 001322	Chairman Admin	<p>Briefing by the Administration on the poverty statistics relevant to women and the Government's support for women to become self-reliant.</p> <p>The Administration updated members on the following -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) according to the 2013 poverty statistics, after taking into account government recurrent cash intervention, there were 520 700 female persons and 451 500 male persons living below the poverty line. The female and male poverty rate was 15% and 14% respectively; and</li> <li>(b) for the period of August - October 2014, the total number of employed persons surged by 6.7% as compared to the period before implementation of statutory minimum wage (i.e. February – April 2011). Female workers accounted for around two-thirds of the increase. This indicated that the implementation of the statutory minimum wage was effective in encouraging more women to employment.</li> </ul>	
001323 - 001810	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Admin	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu called on the Administration to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) address the problem of the retirement protection for women; and</li> <li>(b) explore the feasibility of funding kindergartens to provide after-school care services when it considered the free kindergarten education proposal.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration advised that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) retirement protection was a highly complex subject. Deliberation on the related issues would be conducted by the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") and the way forward would be announced in the 2015 Policy Address; and</li> </ul>	

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		(b) issues relating to free kindergarten education would be examined under the purview of the Education Bureau ("EDB"). That said, the Labour and Welfare Bureau would continue its efforts in enhancing the child care and after-school care services.	
001811 - 002220	Chairman Mr LEUNG Che-cheung Admin	<p>Mr LEUNG Che-cheung asked whether the Administration would consider –</p> <p>(a) the suggestion of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong to review the supply of and funding for whole-day kindergartens, and examine the shortage of child care services with an aim to increase the supply in this regard; and</p> <p>(b) setting up bazaars in different districts by making reference to the operation of the Tin Sau Bazaar to promote employment.</p> <p>The Administration –</p> <p>(a) reiterated the enhancement measures for aided standalone child care centres ("CCCs") and the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project ("NSCCP") as mentioned in paragraph 17 of the Administration's paper, and stressed that it would seek to further enhance the child care services; and</p> <p>(b) advised that it would take into account the unique circumstances of individual districts in considering the need for establishing bazaars in other districts and noted that the subject matter would be discussed in the next agenda item of the same meeting.</p>	
002221 - 002643	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	<p>The Deputy Chairman pointed out that the provision of child care services, which was a major factor for releasing women labour force, was seriously deficient. He urged the Administration to substantially increase the number of places for child care services, particularly that of whole-day kindergartens and after-school care services.</p> <p>Regarding child care services, the Administration reiterated his reply to Mr LEUNG Che-cheung at (a) above. On after-school care services, the Administration advised that EDB would examine relevant issues while the Social Welfare Department had taken the enhancement measures</p>	

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		as detailed in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Administration's paper.	
002644 - 003518	Chairman Dr KWOK Ka-ki Admin	<p>Dr KWOK Ka-ki asked whether the Administration would –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) review the need to extend the period of paid maternity leave; and</li> <li>(b) enhance the home-based child care service by providing professional training and increasing the amount of incentive payments for carers, and provide a timetable for increasing the number of places in CCCs to cater for the community demand in this regard.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) explained the current legislation regarding maternity leave, and said that in considering the suggestion of extending the period of paid maternity leave, one had to take into account whether there was a general consensus in the community; and</li> <li>(b) advised that on top of the provision of those CCC places, there were over 24 000 CCC places in kindergarten-cum child care centres for children under the age of 3. It also clarified the objectives of NSCCP and pointed out that child care services in the territory was not fully utilized. That said, the Administration endeavoured to enhance child care services, and would take into account views of members and stakeholders in reviewing the provision of child care services.</li> </ul>	
003519 - 004117	Chairman Mr KWOK Wai-keung Admin	<p>Mr KWOK Wai-keung expressed concern about retirement protection for women and called on the Administration to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) consider requesting working spouses to make contributions to mandatory provident fund for their wives; and</li> <li>(b) take concrete measures to facilitate more employers to adopt "employee-oriented" good management measures and implement family-friendly employment practices ("FFEP").</li> </ul> <p>The Administration advised that –</p>	

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		<p>(a) CoP would follow up issues relating to retirement protection; and</p> <p>(b) employers should be allowed flexibility and discretion to decide types of FFEP they adopted, having regard to their individual circumstances. It would continue to encourage employers to implement FFEP through educational and promotional activities as detailed in paragraph 23 of the Administration's paper.</p>	
004118 - 004527	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Admin	<p>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan was of the view that the enhancement of child care services and after-school care services was ineffective. He wondered if the Administration had drawn up any measures to promote women employment under the population policy.</p> <p>The Administration advised that in addition to NSCCP, there were about 28 500 places for child care services in total. Further enhancement measures for child care services would be announced in the 2015 Policy Address.</p>	
004528 - 005058	Chairman Mr WONG Yuk-man Admin	<p>Mr WONG Yuk-man held the view that the existing education policy and social welfare system, such as the lump sum grant subvention system, could not help the underprivileged, thereby leaving the problems relating to women in poverty, working poverty and inter-generational poverty unsolved.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the implementation of the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme and continuous enhancement of services in different aspects, such as education, employment, training and retraining, etc., would help alleviate poverty of women and release women labour force.</p>	
005059 - 005548	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Admin	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung commented that the establishment of public funds and the launch of pilot schemes could not reduce poverty. He called on the Administration to consider setting aside \$10 million from its proposed "Future Fund" for enhancing child care services and residential care services with a view to increasing job opportunities for women.</p> <p>The Administration advised that it would allocate appropriate funding for poverty alleviation if warranted. For example, the LIFA Scheme would incur total allowance amount of around \$3 billion per year. It was estimated that over</p>	



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		200 000 low-income families (involving 700 000 persons, including over 170 000 eligible children) could benefit from the LIFA Scheme.	
005549 - 010059	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman was of the view that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Administration should examine and tackle the crux of the problems that led to a lower labour force participation rate and lower median monthly employment earnings of women as compared with those of men;</li> <li>(b) the LIFA Scheme, which provided child allowance in addition to the basic allowance, should also address the poverty problems of needy families with elderly persons and persons with disabilities; and</li> <li>(c) the improvement of female poverty situation in 2013 was partly attributed to the implementation of the Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA") Scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration advised that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) older generation women who generally had a lower chance of receiving education when they were young and a high proportion of female home-makers contributed to the poverty situation of women. It would enhance training and retraining services to help women enter the labour market; and</li> <li>(b) the objective of the LIFA Scheme was to provide financial assistance for working poor families not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, and special attention would be paid to the children and youths of these families. Child allowance, therefore, was provided under the LIFA Scheme. Elderly persons and persons with disabilities would be assisted by other measures such as OALA and Disability Allowance.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman urged the Administration to put more efforts in enhancing child care services, after-school care services, as well as training and retraining services with an aim to lift more women out of poverty.</p>	
010100 - 010307	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Admin Mr Frankie YICK	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked whether the Administration would consider ceasing the importation of foreign domestic helpers, so that more employment opportunities would be available for women and the median monthly	

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		<p>employment earnings of women could be increased.</p> <p>The Administration advised that issues relating to the importation of foreign domestic helpers must be considered carefully in view of the impact on households hiring foreign domestic helpers and society.</p> <p>Mr Frankie YICK was of the view that replacing foreign domestic helpers by local women labour force would lead to a surge of salary level of domestic helpers. By then, some needy families might not be able to afford domestic helpers and more women, as a result, had to take on the role of family carers.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II – Ways to enhance the employment opportunity of people in poverty by promoting support for community economy</i>			
010308 - 011939	Chairman Admin	<p>Briefing by the Administration on its work on bazaars and social enterprises ("SEs"), and on the progress of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund, with a view to supporting the development of community economy and enhancing the employment opportunities of socially disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>The Administration added that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) regarding the work of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy under the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene, the Administration targeted to submit a paper around the Lunar New Year. Thereafter, the Subcommittee planned to arrange a meeting with deputations to receive public views. It estimated that the work of the aforesaid Subcommittee would be completed in mid-2015;</li> <li>(b) the Government took various measures to promote the development of SEs, which included providing seed grants for establishment of SEs, promoting cross-sector collaboration, promoting young social entrepreneurship, enhancing public awareness of SEs, etc.; and</li> <li>(c) according to the results of a research study on the current landscape and development of Hong Kong's SEs ("the Research Study") conducted by the Chinese University of</li> </ul>	

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		<p>Hong Kong and released in November 2014, the number of SEs had increased from 220 in 2009 to more than 450 in 2014. Among the respondents, 80% of them were familiar with SEs (up from 60% of the respondents in a similar survey in 2009) and about 70% of them said that they were willing to procure services or products provided by SEs in the next 12 months.</p>	
011940 - 012452	<p>Chairman Mr WONG Yuk-man Admin</p>	<p>Mr WONG Yuk-man urged the Administration to formulate policies and concrete plans to support the development of community economy.</p> <p>The Administration advised that it would continue to discuss with members of the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy and looked forward to making progress in the coming few months.</p>	
012453 - 013003	<p>Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Admin</p>	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu asked whether the Administration would –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) take the lead to set up bazaars in Tung Chung; and</li> <li>(b) relax the regulation of sale of home-made food.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman expressed concern that it was not easy to identify a well-established non-governmental organization ("NGO") to be a project proponent to initiate the setting up of bazaars.</p> <p>The Administration advised that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) officials of the Food and Health Bureau had earlier conducted a site visit to Tung Chung. It would keep an open mind towards the idea. If a project proponent could identify a suitable site, his/her proposal had the support of the District Council and he/she could satisfy the requirements on food safety, environmental hygiene and unobstructed passageways etc., the relevant government departments would undertake the relevant follow-up work within their respective purviews. It would also relay members' views in this regard to the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy for consideration; and</li> <li>(b) under the existing law, a temporary food factory licence should be obtained for heating up and sale of pre-cooked food at a</li> </ul>	

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		<p>temporary stall set up in a bazaar. Applicants had to meet requirements and conditions for obtaining the aforesaid licence. Under a temporary food factory licence, all pre-cooked food sold on the premises should be obtained from a licensed food factory or other lawful sources. Under statute, the use of any dwelling place as a food room was prohibited. In parallel, the project proponent needed to seek permission of other government departments (where required), and in so doing, meet the requirements and conditions imposed by those departments as well.</p>	
013004 - 013230	<p>Chairman Mr TAM Yiu-chung Admin</p>	<p>Mr TAM Yiu-chung called on the Administration to consider inviting interested parties to operate a bazaar at the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal during public holidays and weekends, whenever venues were available.</p> <p>The Administration undertook to relay the suggestion to the Tourism Commission for consideration.</p>	
013231 - 013831	<p>Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Admin</p>	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was of the view that it was not practicable to rely on SEs to set up and operate a bazaar because most SEs were run by welfare non-government organizations. Sustainable patronage was important to make a bazaar successful.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the Research Study indicated that there was an increasing number of SEs established by enterprises with no welfare background in the past few years. The Government shared with the importance of promoting diversity of SEs and would continue such efforts through encouraging cross-sector partnership in the development of SEs and nurturing young social entrepreneurship.</p> <p>In response to Mr LEUNG's concern about the enforcement strategy against hawking activities, the Administration advised on the enforcement actions of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") applicable to hawkers, having regard to the economic downturn and high unemployment rate in 2000. Currently, an officer of a Hawker Control Team ("HCT") would issue a verbal warning to a licensed hawker or unlicensed hawker (selling non-food commodities) if and when he/she caused obstruction in a public place or was a subject of complaint, provided that food safety and</p>	

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		<p>environmental hygiene would not be compromised. If the verbal warning went unheeded, an HCT would take the normal course of enforcement and seizure actions. HCTs would continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed hawkers selling prohibited/restricted food or cooked food.</p> <p>The Chairman cited the development of SEs in Korea for the Administration's consideration.</p>	
013832 - 014258	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Admin	<p>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan expressed concern that there was no policy on facilitating the development of bazaars and community economy. He urged the Administration to consider relaxing the regulation of sale of home-made food by making reference to overseas legislation in this regard, such as the "California Homemade Food Act", so as to support sale of home-made products and the development of community economy.</p> <p>The Administration said that the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy would continue to study hawker policy in some other countries. It would relay Mr LEE's suggestion to the aforesaid Subcommittee for consideration.</p>	
014259 - 014555	Chairman Deputy Chairman Admin	<p>In response to the Deputy Chairman's suggestion on setting up a task force on poverty alleviation at the district level under CoP, the Administration undertook to relay it to the Chief Secretary for Administration's office ("CSO") for consideration.</p>	
014556 - 015019	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Admin	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung urged the Administration to simplify the application procedures for setting up bazaars.</p> <p>The Administration reiterated its stance towards bazaars made in response to Mr TANG Ka-piu above and advised that issues relating to bazaars would be discussed by the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy.</p>	
015020 - 015436	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han was gravely concerned that the existing policies and enforcement strategies under the purviews of FEHD and the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") greatly hindered the development of community economy. In this regard, she suggested that CSO should take the lead and line up representatives of FEHD and HAB to form a Committee to rationalize the government's efforts in supporting the development of community economy.</p>	

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015437 - 015953	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman extended the meeting time to end at 6:45 pm. He was of the view that issues relating to hawking and those relating to bazaars should be dealt with separately, given the nature of operation of the latter. Citing the successful bazaars operating in Sham Shui Po for a few decades, he called on the Administration to consider inviting NGOs to set up bazaars in public parks during public holidays and weekends.</p> <p>The Administration advised that it would relay the suggestion on bazaars in public parks to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"). Apart from hawker policy, the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy would continue to discuss the development of bazaars. The Administration would share the work progress with the Subcommittee on Poverty as and when appropriate.</p>	
015954 - 020052	Chairman Deputy Chairman	The motion moved by the Deputy Chairman was passed by the Subcommittee on Poverty.	
020053 - 020816	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman called on the Administration to –</p> <p>(a) explore the feasibility of setting up bazaars in districts with more socially disadvantaged groups and public parks in collaboration with NGOs; and</p> <p>(b) consider the recommendations made in the report on the duty visit to study the experience of poverty alleviation in Taiwan and Japan conducted by the delegation of the Subcommittee on Poverty in August 2013.</p> <p>The Administration undertook to relay the suggestion on setting up bazaars in public parks to LCSD for consideration.</p>	
<i>Agenda item III – Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting</i>			
020817 - 020930	Chairman	Members decided on the subjects to be discussed at the meeting in February 2015.	
<i>Agenda item IV – Any other business</i>			
020931 - 020947	Chairman	The Chairman said that there would be election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee on Poverty at the meeting in February 2015.	