

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1293/14-15

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

Subcommittee on Poverty

**Minutes of the twenty-seventh meeting
held on Tuesday, 24 February 2015, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
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 Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man

**Public Officers : Item II
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

Ms Reddy NG, JP
Principal Economist (5)
Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit
Financial Secretary's Office

Ms Marion CHAN
Assistant Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Social)
Census and Statistics Department

Mr FONG Kai-leung
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Rehabilitation &
Medical Social Services)
Social Welfare Department

Mr Daniel LEUNG
Senior Labour Officer (Selective Placement)
Labour Department

**Attendance by : Item II
invitation**

The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Centre on
Research and Advocacy

Ms Anchor HUNG
Manager

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Mr CHOI Tin-yam
Deputy Spokesperson of Welfare Affair

Hong Kong Association of the Deaf

Ms LAU Lai-fong
President

Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr KUO Chun-chuen
Chief Officer (Rehabilitation)

Liberal Party Youth Committee

Mr Ronald HO
Representative

HK Ample Love Society

Ms Pearl TSANG
Chairperson

The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped

Mr LEE Chi-yung
Chairman

殘疾人士及長期病患者就業關注組

Mr Andy CHIU Ho-lam
Chairman

聽障人士就業促進會

Ms Eva LEUNG Yun-mei
Chairperson

Mr TSANG Kai

The Forthright Caucus

Mr LO Ho-yuen
Representative

VTV Television of people with disability

Mr Endy CHAN
Social Worker

Hong Kong Federation of the Blind

Mr SHING Li-lim
Executive Director

The Hong Kong Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre Alumni Association

Mr LEUNG Man-tai
Co-opted Member

Labour Party

Mr YIP Wing
Representative

Democratic Party

Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hong Kong Blind Union

Mr Alex CHAN
Member of Equal Opportunities in Social Participation
Committee

New People's Party

Mr CHENG Chit-pun
Community Development Officer

The Forthright Caucus Current Affairs Group

Miss LAM Ling

Mr CHAN Tsz-kin

Mr TANG Siu-chung

Ms LEE Mei-yin

Dr Donna WONG

1st Step Association

Mr YIP Kin-keung
Social Worker

卓新家長網絡

Ms AU Yim-fong
Chairperson

Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong)

Mr CHAN Tsun-kit
Policy Committee Member

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

Staff in attendance : Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Kay CHU
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Miss LEE Wai-yan
Clerical Assistant (2) 6

Action

I. Election of Chairman (and Deputy Chairman)

Election of Chairman

Action

Mr Frederick FUNG, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee"). Dr Fernando CHEUNG was nominated by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and the nomination was seconded by Mr Alan LEONG and Dr KWOK Ka-ki. Dr Fernando CHEUNG accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr Frederick FUNG declared Dr Fernando CHEUNG elected as Chairman of the Subcommittee. Dr CHEUNG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Subcommittee. Mr Frederick FUNG was nominated by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and the nomination was seconded by Mr Ronny TONG. Mr Frederick FUNG accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Mr Frederick FUNG elected as Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II. Poverty situation of persons with disabilities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)869/14-15(01) to (05), CB(2)891/14-15(01) to (05) and CB(2)917/14-15(01) to (13)]

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

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

6. The Chairman said that the Community Care Fund Task Force under the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") would discuss a one-off measure on providing assistance for needy families with children before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme. He proposed to discuss the aforesaid subject at the next meeting of the Subcommittee scheduled for 24 March 2015.

(Post-meeting note: The next meeting of the Subcommittee was rescheduled to be held on 23 March 2015.)

7. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and Miss CHAN Yuen-han suggested that one more agenda item should be discussed at the next meeting in addition to the subject proposed by the Chairman.

Action

8. The Chairman said that he would discuss with the Secretariat on the subjects for discussion at the next meeting.

IV. Any other business

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:37 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 April 2015

**Proceedings of the twenty-seventh meeting of the
Subcommittee on Poverty
on Tuesday, 24 February 2015, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Election of Chairman (and Deputy Chairman)</i>			
000210 - 000413	Mr Frederick FUNG Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Mr Alan LEONG Dr KWOK Ka-ki Dr Fernando CHEUNG	Election of Chairman	
000414 - 000506	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Mr Ronny TONG Mr Frederick FUNG	Election of Deputy Chairman	
<i>Agenda item II – Poverty situation of persons with disabilities</i>			
000507 - 001141	Chairman	Opening remarks	
001142 - 001620	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Centre on Research and Advocacy	Presentation of views	
001621 - 001834	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	Presentation of views	
001835 - 001940	Hong Kong Association of the Deaf	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)869/14-15(04)]	
001941 - 002312	Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)891/14-15(01)]	
002313 - 002530	Liberal Party Youth Committee	Presentation of views	
002531 - 002828	HK Ample Love Society	Presentation of views	
002829 - 003213	The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(02)]	
003214 - 003523	殘疾人士及長期病患者 就業關注組	Presentation of views [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)891/14-15(02) to (03) and CB(2)917/14-15(03) to (04)]	
003524 - 003706	聽障人士就業促進會	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)891/14-15(04)]	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
003707 - 003952	Mr TSANG Kai	Presentation of views	
003953 - 004316	The Forthright Caucus	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(05) and (06)]	
004317 - 004711	VTV Television of people with disability	Presentation of views	
004712 - 005053	Hong Kong Federation of the Blind	Presentation of views	
005054 - 005433	The Hong Kong Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre Alumni Association	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(07)]	
005434 - 005827	Labour Party	Presentation of views	
005828 - 010156	Democratic Party	Presentation of views	
010157 - 010514	Hong Kong Blind Union	Presentation of views	
010515 - 010825	New People's Party	Presentation of views	
010826 - 011130	The Forthright Caucus Current Affairs Group	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(08)]	
011131 - 011608	Mr CHAN Tsz-kin	Presentation of views	
011609 - 011924	Mr TANG Siu-chung	Presentation of views	
011925 - 012328	Ms LEE Mei-yin	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(09)]	
012329 - 012834	Dr Donna WONG	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(10)]	
012835 - 013229	1 st Step Association	Presentation of views	
013230 - 013438	卓新家長網絡	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(11)]	
013439 - 013909	Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong)	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)917/14-15(12)]	
013910 - 022756	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman expressed regret at the non-attendance of the Administration's representatives on healthcare and education as well as the Commissioner for Rehabilitation at this meeting.</p> <p>In response to the major views and concerns of deputations, the Administration gave a succinct brief on its paper and advised that –</p> <p><i>Employment support</i></p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(a) the effectiveness of the suggestion of providing tax concession to encourage more employers to hire persons with disabilities was in doubt as almost 90% of registered corporations did not need to pay any tax and staff costs were counted as deductible expenses in calculating taxpayer's assessable profits;</p> <p>(b) according to international experience, most of the overseas countries which had introduced an employment quota system considered the system unsuccessful in helping persons with disabilities secure employment and integrate into the community;</p> <p>(c) on the premise that persons with disabilities should be assisted to find appropriate jobs on the basis of their abilities, the Administration would continue to provide more incentives and support to employers and strengthen employment support services to promote the employment of persons with disabilities;</p> <p>(d) the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") would examine its coordination with the Labour Department ("LD") in providing employment support services for persons with disabilities;</p> <p>(e) SWD would examine the feasibility of extending the period of the post-placement service for persons with disabilities, taking into account the financial and manpower implications as well as the efficacy in doing so;</p> <p>(f) since 2001, the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise" Project had supported the set up of 91 social enterprises ("SEs"). Among them, 71 were still in business and only some 20 had closed down, largely owing to expiry of leases;</p> <p>(g) SWD had launched the "Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organizations of Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses" since 2001 to support Self-help Organizations. These organizations could also make use of the funding support to create employment opportunities for their members;</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(h) the objectives of sheltered workshop service were to provide persons with disabilities who were not able to enter into open employment with appropriate vocational training, and to enhance their working capacity so that they could move on to open employment wherever possible;</p> <p>(i) LD received 9 361 job vacancies for job seekers with disabilities in 2014. About 60% of them were professional, managerial and clerical jobs, which were the preference of most of the registered job seekers with disabilities. LD would continue to strengthen employment support services for persons with disabilities, particularly those with higher educational qualifications;</p> <p>(j) LD had already followed up 殘疾人士及長期病患者就業關注組's concerns in respect of services provided by the Selective Placement Division. LD would continue to provide quality employment services to job seekers with disabilities;</p> <p><i>Financial assistance</i></p> <p>(k) the "pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low income families" ("the pilot scheme on carer allowance") was launched in June 2014. During the two-year pilot period, the Administration would closely monitor the development of the scheme, evaluate its effectiveness and its long term implications for policies on carers. The evaluation would include whether the corresponding initiatives were applicable to persons with severe disabilities;</p> <p>(l) families constituted the core units of a community, hence members of the same family should render assistance and support to each other. Based on this principle, applicants for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA"), including persons with disabilities who lived with their families, were required to submit applications on a household basis;</p> <p>(m) it was more effective to address special needs of persons with disabilities through targetted measures, such as the regularized assistance programmes on "special subsidy</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment" and "special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment";</p> <p>(n) private charitable funds were complementary to public funds in the provision of financial assistance to non-CSSA persons with disabilities;</p> <p><i>Community care services</i></p> <p>(o) regarding the man who became paralyzed after a stroke mentioned by the Forthright Caucus Current Affairs Group, SWD had recently provided him with the Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities, and exercised discretion to approve his application for CSSA on individual basis to relieve stress of his carer and the financial burden of his family. The Administration would endeavor to enhance community care services to help persons with disabilities living in the community;</p> <p><i>Surveys</i></p> <p>(p) there were several limitations of the statistics on persons with disabilities which rendered the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Disability 2013 ("the Report") unable to include data on persons with intellectual disabilities in its analysis. Persons with disabilities who lived in residential care homes and persons with chronic illnesses were also not included according to the definition of disability adopted in the analytical framework. The Administration, however, stressed that it would continue to formulate suitable policies and measures having regard to the special needs of different needy groups, including those not included in the Report;</p> <p>(q) the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD") had taken a number of measures for conducting the survey on persons with disabilities and chronic diseases in 2013 ("the Survey") to boost up the response rate and enhance the quality of the data collected. However, a certain degree of under-estimation in respect of the number of persons with intellectual disabilities could</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>not be avoided. In this connection, C&SD made an estimation on the total number of persons with intellectual disabilities in Hong Kong based on relevant administrative records, and set out their demographic and socio-economic profiles in the Special Topics Report No. 62 to facilitate policy formulation by the Government;</p> <p>(r) given that the setting of the poverty line took account only of income and the questionnaire of the Survey was rather lengthy which might adversely affect the response rate, the questionnaire did not cover the expenditure patterns of households; and</p> <p><i>Referral of deputations' views</i></p> <p>(s) deputations' views would be relayed to the Special Needs Groups Task Force ("SNGTF") and the Community Care Fund ("CCF") under the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") as well as the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee ("RAC") for consideration, as appropriate.</p> <p>Noting the limitations at (p) to (r) above, the Chairman asked the Administration to consider conducting topical surveys to examine the poverty situation of persons with intellectual disabilities and the expenditure patterns of households with members with disabilities.</p>	
022757 - 023614	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Admin	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu asked if the Administration would –</p> <p>(a) reform Disability Allowance ("DA") or take new measures to help the needy who were ineligible for DA and CSSA;</p> <p>(b) take the lead to adopt a mandatory employment quota in the Government to promote employment of persons with disabilities;</p> <p>(c) formulate a rehabilitation services programme plan in the current-term Government; and</p> <p>(d) examine the feasibility of providing a living allowance for carers of persons with disabilities under CCF.</p> <p>The Administration advised that –</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(a) issues relating to the review of DA would be discussed at the meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services in March 2015. The Administration also restated the points set out in (l) and (m) above;</p> <p>(b) according to the Secretary for the Civil Service, the Government compiled statistics on the number of persons with disabilities employed in the Civil Service as at 31 March each year based on the information available to the management of bureaux and departments ("B/Ds"). Currently, the overall percentage was around 2%. Such figure was neither a quota nor a limit for employment of persons with disabilities. The Administration would continue with its efforts in implementing the relevant policy and measures to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities to job opportunities in the Government; and</p> <p>(c) it was intended to start reviewing the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan in the current-term Government.</p> <p>For (d), the Administration reiterated its points made at (k) above.</p>	
023615 - 024200	Chairman Deputy Chairman	The Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to set a poverty alleviation line. For persons with disabilities without working abilities, the Administration should be responsible to provide sufficient resources to lift them above the poverty alleviation line. For those with working abilities, the Administration should make reference to overseas experience in formulating policies to guarantee job opportunities in public and private sectors for them, and foster the development of SEs.	
024201 - 024830	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han urged the Administration to –</p> <p>(a) draw up a timetable for addressing poverty problems of persons with disabilities;</p> <p>(b) take measures to increase the proportion of employees with disabilities being employed by the public and private sectors; and</p> <p>(c) formulate policies to foster the development of community economy with an aim to create more job opportunities for the</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		underprivileged.	
024831 - 025311	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was of the view that the Administration did not show determination to address poverty problems of persons with disabilities as no concrete measures were taken in this regard. The Chairman shared Mr LEUNG's view and added that the pilot scheme on carer allowance would only benefit a total of 2 000 eligible carers of elderly persons.</p> <p>Mr LEUNG urged the Administration to allocate sufficient resources and implement an employment quota system as well as review the definition of disabilities to improve the poverty situation of persons with disabilities.</p>	
025312 - 025805	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che requested –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) SWD to review its employment support services (e.g. the sheltered workshop and the "Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities"); (b) the Administration to do more to help persons with disabilities with high academic qualifications; and (c) the Administration to brief members on the number of employees with disabilities who were working in B/Ds with a breakdown in terms of their disability types, and explain the case mentioned by the Hong Kong Blind Union in which a blind person had to wait for 14 months for a posting after being recruited by the Government. 	
025806 - 030051	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Admin	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu suggested that the Administration should consider collecting and analyzing data on expenditure patterns of households with members with disabilities when it conducted the Household Expenditure Survey ("HES").</p> <p>The Administration advised that HES, which was conducted once every five years, was designed to collect up-to-date information on expenditure patterns of the three broad groups of households covered in the Consumer Price Indices. It was expected that around 6 000 selected households would be successfully enumerated, and the information collected would cover all relevant expenses including those arising from disabilities if applicable. The Administration undertook to</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		discuss Mr TANG's suggestion with C&SD.	
030052 - 030339	Chairman Admin	<p>The Administration thanked and welcomed members' views on the subject. It would endeavor to further promote the employment of persons with disabilities. Moreover, the Labour and Welfare Bureau together with SNGTF and RAC would continue to put efforts in strengthening support for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Sharing the views of some members, the Chairman said that more specific topics regarding poverty problems of persons with disabilities should be discussed at future meetings.</p>	
<i>Agenda item III – Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting</i>			
030340 - 030848	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Miss CHAN Yuen-han Admin	Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
 20 April 2015