立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1245/12-13 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

Minutes of meeting held on Friday, 5 April 2013, at 10:45 am in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present	:	Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman) Hon James TO Kun-sun (Deputy Chairman) Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming Hon YIU Si-wing Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP Hon Dennis KWOK Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, JP
Members absent	:	Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC Hon WONG Yuk-man Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP Hon KWOK Wai-keung Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public Officers attending

: <u>Item IV</u>		
Mr LAI Tung-kwok, SBS, IDSM, JP Secretary for Security		
Mrs Erika HUI LAM Yin-ming, JP Commissioner for Narcotics		
Miss Mandy WONG Man Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics) 2		
Ms Josephine TSE Shuk-yee Senior Statistician Security Bureau		
Item V		
Mr John LEE Ka-chiu, PDSM, PMSM, JP Under Secretary for Security		
Mrs Millie NG KIANG Mei-nei Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E		
Mr Patrick Douglas Gerard Hodson Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support) (Acting)		
Mr Thomas WONG Kin-yee Superintendent (Licensing) Hong Kong Police Force		

Item VI

Mr John LEE Ka-chiu, PDSM, PMSM, JP Under Secretary for Security

Miss Bella MUI Bun-ngar Principal Assistant Secretary for Security B

Mr LO Siu-hang, FSMSM Assistant Director (Headquarters) Fire Services Department

		Mr LO Chun-man Senior Divisional Officer (Planning Group) Fire Services Department
Clerk in attendance	:	Miss Betty MA Chief Council Secretary (2) 1
Staff in attendance	:	Mr Stephen LAM Assistant Legal Adviser 11 Mr Raymond LAM Senior Council Secretary (2) 7
		Ms Kiwi NG Legislative Assistant (2) 1

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting (LC Paper No. CB(2)873/12-13)

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2013 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since the last meeting (LC Paper No. CB(2)840/12-13(01))

2. <u>Members</u> noted that a letter dated 11 March 2013 from Dr Fernando CHEUNG relating to refugees and the handling of torture claims had been issued since the last meeting. <u>The Chairman</u> said that Dr CHEUNG had been informed that the subject of handling of torture claims was already in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)875/12-13(01) and (02))

3. <u>Members</u> agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 7 May 2013 at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Operation and Review of the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme; and
- (b) Replacement of seven helicopters and the associated mission equipment of the Government Flying Service.

4. Regarding the letter dated 11 March 2013 from Dr Fernando CHEUNG referred to in paragraph 2 above, <u>the Deputy Chairman</u> expressed concern about a recent judgment of the Court of Final Appeal on a relevant case and said that the issue of handling of refugee claims should be discussed by the Panel. <u>The Chairman</u> said that he would liaise with the Administration on whether the issue and the handling of torture claims were ready for discussion.

5. <u>The Chairman</u> informed members that visits for members to better understand the operations of the Fire Services Department ("FSD") and the Police were being arranged.

IV. Drug situation in Hong Kong in 2012

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)875/12-13(03) and (04))

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Secretary for Security</u> ("S for S") briefed members on the drug situation in Hong Kong in 2012.

7. <u>Members</u> noted the background brief entitled "Anti-drug efforts in Hong Kong" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

Measures to combat drug supply

8. While noting that there had been improvements in the drug abuse situation in the past few years, <u>Mr CHAN Kam-lam</u> asked about the operations launched by the Police and the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") to combat drug supply at source.

9. <u>S for S</u> responded that intelligence-led operations were launched by the Police and C&ED to combat the drug problem at source. In 2012, a total of 1 588 kilograms and 21 529 tablets of dangerous drugs valued at \$975.4 million had been seized. Among these, 412 kilograms of ketamine and 649 kilograms of cocaine had been seized by C&ED in two major operations. C&ED had recently detected a drug trafficking case in which cocaine was soaked in the linings of jackets and quilts. He said that the Police and C&ED had reinforced their liaison and intelligence exchange with their counterparts in the Mainland and other countries. Joint operations were undertaken as and when appropriate, with 87 persons arrested and about 1 239 kilograms of drugs and about 25 tons of precursor chemicals which could be used in the illicit manufacturing of dangerous drugs seized in 28 joint operations in 2012. With intelligence provided by law enforcement agencies in South America, C&ED had made a record seizure of drugs in recent years. Since 2009, applications had been made to the court for enhanced sentences in nine cases involving the exploitation of young people for committing drug offences. The Police had also strengthened cyber patrols to combat the supply of drugs.

Reprovisioning of Christian Zheng Sheng College

10. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> asked why the reprovisioning of Christian Zheng Sheng College ("CZSC") had taken a very long time. He said that the Administration should provide strong support for improvements to CZSC on a long-term basis.

Commissioner for Narcotics ("C for N") responded that two 11. members of the Panel on Education and representatives of relevant policy bureaux and government departments had visited the CZSC in April 2011 and agreed that improvement measures should be carried out to the facilities at Ha Keng as an interim measure. The Narcotics Division ("ND") had since then been assisting CZSC in going through the necessary procedures required by the relevant government departments. In this process, CZSC also had the responsibility to decide on the footprint of the land planned for the in-situ upgrading, as well as to finalize the design of the new structures. CZSC had not yet finished the essential work on their part, and once it was done, CZSC would seek funding support from the Beat Drugs Fund ("BDF"). C for N added that ND always stood ready to help CZSC and also wished to see the improvement works finished as soon as possible. As to the long-term reprovisioning of CZSC to a school, it would have to involve discussion with the relevant policy bureau.

12. <u>Mr Dennis KWOK</u> said that the Principal of CZSC had expressed concern about the implementation of improvement measures CZSC being very slow because of a lack of cooperation among different government departments and the lack of interests of contractors in works projects at such a remote location. He added that as the court might not have full knowledge about the service provided by CZSC, the Administration should provide the court with relevant information to facilitate the referral of youth drug abusers to CZSC for rehabilitation.

13. <u>C for N</u> responded that ND had all along closely liaised with CZSC and coordinated with different government departments to facilitate the early completion of the project. ND would continue to assist CZSC in its in-situ upgrading works and looked forward to CZSC finalizing its scope of works as early as possible. The Social Welfare Department had also organized sharing sessions for probation officers to understand the types and characteristics of various drug treatment and rehabilitation services.

Rehabilitation service

14. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> asked about the average waiting time for a drug abuser to receive counselling and rehabilitation service. <u>C for N</u> responded that over 80% of probationers seeking residential drug treatment and rehabilitation service were allocated a place within two weeks.

15. <u>Mr Albert HO</u> asked whether the increase in drug age was due to some drug abusers taking drugs again after rehabilitation. He sought information on the Administration's follow-up work on rehabilitated drug abusers and their employment rate after rehabilitation.

16. <u>C for N</u> responded that there were many factors leading to the relapse of drug taking. ND recognized the importance of follow-up service after successfully quitting drugs. Indeed, the follow-up service for rehabilitants was one of the key initiatives for the coming three years (2012-2014) set out in the Sixth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong.

Beat Drugs Fund

17. <u>Mr YIU Si-wing</u> asked about the intended use of BDF, which amounted to \$3.35 billion, and the estimated time period by which it would be fully used up.

18. <u>C for N</u> responded that BDF was a seed fund. After the injection of \$3 billion into BDF in 2010, more resources had been allocated under BDF for -

 upgrading the facilities of drug treatment and rehabilitation centres, such as CZSC's in-situ upgrading project. The amount of funding allocated for such projects was about \$50 million in the past two years;

- (b) supporting the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component ("HSP(DT)") : about \$16 million had been allocated for this purpose in 2012-2013; and
- (c) supporting publicity and public education projects targeting the public, including projects promoting parental awareness of the drug problem; supporting projects for enhancing the treatment and rehabilitation services, as well as research studies. In 2012-2013, about \$32 million had been allocated on this front.

Drug abuse situation

19. <u>Mr YIU Si-wing</u> and <u>Dr LAM Tai-fai</u> considered that as the decrease in the number of drug abusers was so drastic, the Administration should examine whether the statistics reflected the actual drug abuse situation.

20. <u>S for S</u> responded that there were two sources of data on drug abuse, including those reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse in accordance with the law and the findings of the Survey of Drug Use Among Students conducted at three-year intervals. Both sets of statistics had confirmed the declining trend of drug abuse but highlighted the challenge of hidden drug abuse which called for attention. The Administration noted that with the enhancement of the "186 186" hotline service, more drug abusers and their family members had used the hotline. The Administration would continue to promote the hotline to encourage drug abusers and their family members to seek help at an early stage.

Hidden drug abuse

21. <u>The Chairman</u> asked whether the Administration had adopted any measures to address the problem of hidden drug abuse, besides the hotline which was operated on a 24-hour basis.

22. <u>S for S</u> responded that the Police had strengthened cyber patrols to combat activities related to the supply of drugs. The Survey of Drug Use Among Students was conducted at three-year intervals to identify the latest situation. <u>Mr YIU Si-wing</u> said that the Administration should consider collecting statistics on hidden drug abuse in future.

Cross-boundary drug abuse

23. <u>Mr Albert HO</u> and <u>Dr LAM Tai-fai</u> sought information on the measures adopted by the Administration to combat cross-boundary drug abuse.

24. <u>S for S</u> responded that the Administration had all along been concerned about cross-boundary drug abuse. Besides publicity against such drug abuse, there were established mechanisms for the Police, C&ED and Mainland law enforcement agencies to combat the problem through joint operations and exchange of intelligence. He informed members that there was recently a trend of decreased cross-boundary drug abuse.

25. <u>The Chairman</u> recalled that when he was a member of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, the problem of cross-boundary drug abuse was very serious and the Administration had put much effort in addressing the problem. He shared the Administration's view that there was recently a trend of decreased cross-boundary drug abuse.

Abuse of psychotropic substances

26. <u>Mr Albert HO</u> asked about the latest situation in the abuse of psychotropic substances. <u>C for N</u> responded that heroin remained the most popular type of drug abused among the reported drug abusers of all ages. Psychotropic substance abuse was however more prevalent among drug abusers aged under 21. The most commonly abused drugs included ketamine, "ice" (methamphetamine), cocaine, cannabis and cough medicine. <u>The Chairman</u> asked the Administration to provide details on the prevalence of different type of drugs abused, if any.

School drug testing

27. <u>Dr LAM Tai-fai</u> expressed support for the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District and asked whether there were any plans for continued implementation of the Scheme.

28. <u>S for S</u> responded that upon the completion of the two-year Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District, the Government launched in 2011 the HSP(DT) to all secondary schools in Hong Kong. The objectives of HSP(DT) were to help students develop healthy habits and a positive outlook on life, thereby enhancing their resilience to adversity and resolve to stay away from drugs. More resources had been allocated to HSP(DT). <u>C for N</u> added that all secondary schools in Hong Kong had been encouraged to implement HSP(DT).

29. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> said that the problem of hidden drug abuse among the youth should be addressed by strengthening the service of school social workers and assisting the youth to lead a healthy life. He considered that instead of allocating funds for carrying out drug testing on students, the Administration should use the funds for strengthening the service of school social workers. <u>S for S</u> said that students with drug problems could always seek help from school social workers. Drug testing in schools and school social workers were not mutually exclusive, but were rather complementary to each other.

V. Police's handling of public meetings and processions (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)875/12-13(05) and (06))

30. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Under Secretary for Security</u> ("US for S") briefed members on measures adopted by the Police in handling public meetings and public processions as well as body worn video camera ("BWVC") recently equipped by the Police.

31. <u>Members</u> noted the background brief entitled "Police's handling of public meetings and public processions" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

32. <u>Members</u> noted a submission from Civil Human Rights Front, which was tabled at the meeting. <u>The Chairman</u> asked the Secretariat to remind Civil Human Rights Front to provide their submission at an earlier time in future to allow sufficient time for members and the Administration to study the submission.

(*Post-meeting note*: The submission tabled at the meeting was circulated to members vide LC paper No. CB(2)909/12-13 on 5 April 2013.)

33. <u>Mr YIU Si-wing</u> sought information on the percentage of public meetings and processions held peacefully in the previous year.

34. <u>US for S</u> responded that most public meetings and processions had been held peacefully in the previous year, although there had been a few cases in which some participants exhibited radical behaviour after the end

of the main events. He pointed out that the number of persons arrested in relation to public meetings and processions was small with 57 persons arrested in 2010 and 56 persons arrested in 2012. Excluding the number of arrests in three cases involving blockage of major roads, the number of persons arrested in 2011 was 47 persons. Excluding the arrests on 1 January 2013 for blockage of major roads, arrests for the first few months of 2013 were also small in number.

Handling of unlawful public meetings and processions

35. <u>Dr LAM Tai-fai</u> said that the organizers of Occupy Central had announced their plan to occupy Central District in an unlawful manner. He asked whether a letter of no objection would be issued to the organizers and whether participants would be removed from the event.

36. In connection with the campaign to occupy Central, <u>Mr Albert HO</u> asked whether pepper spray, water cannon and tear gas would be used to disperse the demonstrators. <u>Mr HO</u> and <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> expressed concern whether there would be sufficient police manpower and detention facilities to accommodate large number of arrestees.

37. US for S responded that while he was not in a position to comment on a hypothetical case, the expression of views by any person should be made in a lawful and peaceful manner. Public meetings and processions were handled by the Police in accordance with the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245) ("POO"). The operational principle of the Police was to strike a balance between facilitating all lawful and peaceful public meetings and processions, and reducing the impact of such meetings and processions on other members of the public and to ensure public order and public safety. If someone notified the Police for holding a public meeting or procession, the Police would make an assessment on the case before deciding whether to issue the letter of no objection in accordance with POO. Public order events held with or without prior notice given to the Police would be handled in accordance with established mechanisms and having regard to the specific circumstances of the case concerned. When there was a breach of the law, the Police would, first of all, advise the persons concerned to comply with the law. Warnings would be given where necessary. Where the situation did not improve and there was a need for the Police to take resolute actions, clear instructions and warnings would be given and adequate time would be allowed for the persons concerned to comply with the instructions. Regarding the use of force, it would not be used unless it was really necessary and the force used would be of minimum level to achieve its purpose.

38. <u>Mr Frankie YICK</u> asked about the number of public meetings and processions held without prior notification among some 7 000 public meetings and processions held in the previous year.

39. <u>US for S</u> responded that only a small number of public meetings and processions had been held without prior notification in the previous year. He said that appropriate follow-up actions were taken in such cases, such as the issuance of a letter to organizers on the requirements in law.

40. <u>Mr CHAN Kam-lam</u> said that although the freedom of procession and assembly were protected by Article 27 of the Basic Law, all public meetings and processions should be conducted in a lawful and peaceful manner. He pointed out that public meetings and processions were generally peaceful at the beginning. It was usually at the later stage of a public meeting or procession that some participants exhibited radical behaviour, such as blocking the roads, overturning water barriers, blowing whistle at the ear of a police officer and using bad language against police officers, especially female police officers. He said that all these acts were unacceptable and the overturning of water barriers, which were very heavy, could cause serious injuries or even deaths to both demonstrators and police officers. He considered that the Police should strictly take enforcement actions against any acts in breach of the law.

Impact of public meetings and processions on other road users

41. <u>Mr NG Leung-sing</u> expressed concern that more than 7 000 public meetings and processions had been held in the previous year. He said that he had received complaints from many road users about serious traffic congestion arising from public meetings and public processions held during weekends. He asked whether public meetings and processions could be arranged to be held at different places and time to minimize impact on other road users.

42. <u>US for S</u> responded that under POO, the Commissioner of Police might impose conditions on a notified public meeting or procession to ensure public order and public safety as well as minimize impact on other road users. Where there were road closure or traffic diversion arrangements, the Administration would inform members of the public through different means, including issuing press releases and disseminating such information during press conferences. The Police would also upload the procession routes and the conditions imposed on a public order event to the Police webpage. The Transport Department's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre would come into operation when public meetings or processions of a large scale were held.

43. <u>Mr Frankie YICK</u> said that a number of taxi drivers had expressed grave concern about some demonstrators blocking the roads in Central District in recent public meetings and processions, causing traffic to a halt and posing threat to their property. He asked whether the Police had formulated measures to address the problem.

44. <u>US for S</u> responded that the Police would strike a balance by facilitating lawful and peaceful public order events on one hand and on the other hand reducing the impact of public order events on other members of the public and other road users, through the design of the procession route and the control of traffic at the road junctions. The holding of a public procession along busy roads would inevitably cause traffic congestion. If there were road blockage by demonstrators, the Police would advise the demonstrators to refrain from such an act. If necessary, traffic would be diverted and information on such diversion would be disseminated to members of the public, and the Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre would come into action. Whether the Police would arrest and remove the demonstrators from the scene would depend on the circumstances of the case concerned.

45. <u>Mr YIU Si-wing</u> asked about the classification of complaints from members of the public relating to public meetings and processions.

46. <u>US for S</u> responded that 16 complaints had been received in relation to the public procession held on 1 January 2013. The complaints were mainly related to noise nuisance and traffic congestion.

Confrontation between different social groups at public meetings or processions

47. <u>The Chairman</u> said that that there had been situations in which public order events organized by different social groups with different views on a subject matter were held at the same time as well as at same venue and later developed into confrontation and conflict between the groups. He asked how the Police would handle cases in which the safety of some social groups was under threat in such confrontation.

48. <u>US for S</u> responded that when there was confrontation between different social groups at a public meeting or procession, the Police would try to calm down the confronting groups and separate them from each other. Where necessary, the Police might arrange persons whose personal safety was under threat to leave the scene. These actions were considered to be reasonable and lawful by the court in a previous case.

Booths established along public procession routes

49. <u>The Chairman and Mr CHAN Kam-lam</u> asked about the number of booths found along the public procession route on 1 January 2013, and whether any enforcement actions had been taken by the Police in relation to such booths.

50. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support) (Acting) responded that on the day concerned, public meetings and processions were held by a number of organizations in Causeway Bay and Victoria Park. The time, location, and routes of the events were close to each other. In addition, there was some New Year holiday activities and the Hong Kong Brands and Products Exhibition held at that time. It was anticipated that there would be a large number of people in the area. Experience indicated that any hawking, funding raising activities or the setting up of booths along the procession route would cause serious obstruction to the procession, heighten the threat to public safety and public order and cause inconvenience to other road users. In consideration of public safety and public order, the Police thus imposed a number of conditions in the letters of no objection issued to the various organizations, which organized public meetings or processions on 1 January 2013, that they should ensure that any fund-raising and hawking activities, or any booths for promoting activities, would not be stationed on and along the procession route and would not cause any unreasonable obstruction to the proceeding of the procession. The Police adopted a consistent approach in handling the events organized by different organizations. Although over 25 booths were found stationed along the public procession route on the day concerned, a breach of conditions in the letter of no objection per se was not an offence. However, it was an offence under section 17A(1)(a) of POO if the person concerned, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply forthwith with the direction given by the Police for ensuring the compliance with or the due performance of the condition. He said that there was good communication between the Police and the organizers on the day concerned and the procession had proceeded smoothly.

Body worn video camera

51. <u>Mr Dennis KWOK</u> expressed concern about paragraphs 10 to 12 of the concluding observations issued by the United Nations Human Rights Committee ("UNHRC") after consideration of the third report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("the Concluding Observations"). He asked about the rank of police officers allowed to access and view the footage captured with BWVCs and the rank of police officers authorized to decide on the destruction of such captured footage. He said that guidelines should be formulated on the access to and destruction of the captured footage. He pointed out that if prosecution was instituted in a relevant case, the captured footage should be provided to the lawyer of the accused, even it was not to be submitted as a case exhibit.

52. <u>US for S</u> responded that captured footage relating to an incident where there was an investigation would be treated as case exhibit and be retained for investigation and court proceedings. Footage relating to an incident in which there was no investigation would be deleted after 31 days from the date it was produced, unless with the permission of a Senior Superintendent of Police under special circumstances, such as anticipated future investigation. He said that the Police was aware of the requirement on disclosure of unused materials by the prosecution to the accused and the captured footage in such an investigated case would be provided to the defense counsel whether as used or unused materials. He informed members that captured footage which was retained would be converted by an independent and professional section of the Police into three copies of CD-ROMs, among which one copy would serve as exhibit while two would be used as working copies for investigation purpose.

53. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper, <u>the Deputy</u> <u>Chairman</u> expressed concern that the Police might only retain captured footage in favour of the Police, and delete those to the disadvantage of the Police after 31 days from the date it was produced. Referring to the Concluding Observations, he said that UNHRC was concerned about the possibility of application of certain terms in POO imposing excessive restriction on human rights, the increasing number of arrest of and prosecution against demonstrators, and video recording by the Police during demonstrations. UNHRC considered that clear guidelines should be formulated for such video recording and the guidelines should be made accessible to the public.

54. <u>US for S</u> responded that captured footage relating to cases in which there was an investigation would be retained for both investigation and court proceedings, and handled in the same manner as exhibits in a normal criminal case. In line with the "Disclosure Rule", the captured footage in any police investigation would be provided to the defence regardless of whether it would be to the advantage or disadvantage of the defence and whether the police would use it or not as evidence. If the

incident did not result in an investigation, the captured footage would be deleted after 31 days after it was recorded. Investigation included not only criminal investigation but also the investigation of complaints against police officers. Under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) ("PD(P)O"), any member of the public could request the Police to provide information on his personal data kept by the Police. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> considered that such captured footage did not fall within the scope of PD(P)O.

[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes.]

VI. Replacement of three existing and procurement of one additional turntable ladders for the Fire Services Department (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)875/12-13(07) and (08))

55. <u>The Chairman</u> drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure concerning personal pecuniary interest to be disclosed.

56. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>US for S</u> briefed members on the Administration's proposal to replace three existing turntable ladders ("TLs") and procure one additional TL for FSD.

57. <u>Members</u> noted the background brief entitled "Replacement of turntable ladders of the Fire Services Department" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

58. <u>Mr Albert HO</u> said that he had no objection to the Administration's proposal. He asked about the highest floor that could be reached with the ladder of a 55-metre TL.

59. <u>Assistant Director (Headquarters)</u>, Fire Services Department ("AD(HQ)") responded that the ladder of a 55-metre TL could reach around level 18 of a building. Actually, fire in high-rise buildings was mainly tackled by utilizing the fire service installations and equipment inside the building. He said that the most advanced TL available in the market could reach a maximum height of 60 metres.

60. <u>Mr CHAN Kam-lam</u> asked why consideration was not given to the procurement of 60-metre TLs instead of the 55-metre TL. He asked about the major countries which supplied TLs and FSD's criteria for selection of new TLs.

61. <u>AD(HQ)</u> responded that TLs were mainly manufactured in the United States and Germany. He pointed out that 60-metre TLs were new products and the maturity of the technology involved was yet to be assessed. To his knowledge, the vehicle body of a 60-metre TL would be wider, much heavier and longer and might thus encounter practical difficulties in terms of manoeuvring, in particular in accessing some of the narrow streets in Hong Kong.

62. <u>The Chairman</u> concluded that members in general supported the Administration's submission of its proposal to the Finance Committee.

63. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

Council Business Division 2 Legislative Council Secretariat 30 May 2013