

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Subcommittee on
Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Po Leung Kuk**

Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the Administration's proposal to amend the Schedule to the Po Leung Kuk Ordinance (Cap. 1040) ("PLK Ordinance") to enable PLK to expand its scope of services to medical and health services (including dental services) ("medical and health services") for the Hong Kong community.

Background

2. According to the information provided by the Administration, PLK has been providing a variety of welfare, educational, recreational and cultural services since its establishment in 1878. In recent years, PLK also provides medical and health services for the users of its social service units ("SSUs"), including Chinese medical services for its elderly users, dental services for users with mental deficiency, as well as general out-patient services, health assessment services, physiotherapy services and speech therapy services for targeted service recipients of PLK's SSUs through its Integrated Health Centre ("IHC") in Kowloon.

3. According to the Administration, in view of the positive comments received and the increasing needs of the community for health care services due to the ageing population, PLK proposes to make the medical and health services also available to the general public. As a start, PLK plans to expand its services in IHC in Kowloon and Chinese medical and dental services in SSUs, and also to establish more IHCs, in order to serve a wider sector of the public. PLK will explore the feasibility of further expanding its scope of services upon gaining more experience in the medical and health field, with due regard to the availability of

resources and expertise.

4. According to the Administration, PLK's proposal to extend the medical and health services to the general public has the in-principle policy support of the Food and Health Bureau. It is in line with the Government's policy in welcoming the private and non-governmental sector to develop and increase the supply of medical and related services to meet the increasing demand and needs of the community. In providing any specific medical or health services, PLK is required to comply with all applicable statutory requirements, as well as the relevant land lease conditions.

Resources Implications

5. It is the plan of PLK to provide medical and health services at low costs to the general public and for free to the underprivileged. PLK has undertaken not to seek additional Government funding for this self-financing new initiative, and that none of its existing services will be affected. The medical and health services will be financed by the relevant service charges, the fund raised from the "PLK Medical Assistance Fund Raising Programme" and PLK's general reserve. The services will not be cross-subsidized by any Government subvention provided for PLK's education and social services. If necessary, PLK may seek financial support from suitable trust funds.

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6. The Board of Directors of PLK has made the resolution to amend the Schedule to the PLK Ordinance to enable PLK to establish, maintain and manage medical and health care institutions in Hong Kong and to provide medical and health services for the Hong Kong community. The resolution was made pursuant to section 9 of the PLK Ordinance and with the prior approval of PLK's Advisory Board¹. The resolution will come into effect on 1 June 2014.

¹ According to section 18(1) of the Schedule to the PLK Ordinance, the duty of the Advisory Board is to advise the directors on any matter affecting PLK or its administration. Section 18(2) stipulates that the Advisory Board shall consist of not more than 15 persons of whom the following shall be ex-officio members: (a) the Secretary for Home Affairs, who shall be chairman; (b) the Secretary for Labour and Welfare; (c) the Director of Social Welfare; (d) one person nominated by the Members of the Executive Council, other than Official Members; (e) one person nominated by the Members of the Legislative Council; and (f) the immediate past chairman of the board of PLK.

Consultation with the Legislative Council

7. An information paper on the proposed legislative change (LC Paper No. CB(2)605/13-14(01)) was circulated to members of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the HA Panel"), the Panel on Health Services and the Panel on Welfare Services on 6 January 2014. A detailed plan of PLK for expanding its scope of services to medical and health services is provided in the Annex to the information paper. At the HA Panel meeting on 10 January 2014, members noted that there was no request from members of the three Panels for discussion of the proposal at a meeting, and raised no query on the paper.

Relevant papers

8. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 March 2014

**Relevant papers on
Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Po Leung Kuk**

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Home Affairs	10.1.2014	Agenda (Item I)

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