

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1549/14-15

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting held on Friday, 10 April 2015, at 8:30 am in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** :
- Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (Chairman)
 - Hon YIU Si-wing (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
 - Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
 - Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
 - Hon Claudia MO
 - Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
 - Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
 - Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
 - Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
 - Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
 - Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
 - Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
 - Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
 - Hon IP Kin-yuen
 - Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP
 - Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
 - Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
 - Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
- Members attending** :
- Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
 - Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
 - Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
 - Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

**Members
absent** : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

**Public Officers
attending** : Item IV

The Administration

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jonathan McKINLEY, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Miss Petty LAI Chun-yee
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport) 1

Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

Mr Carlson TONG Ka-shing, SBS, JP
Chairman

Dr Trisha LEAHY, BBS
Chief Executive

Item V

The Administration

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Patrick LI Pak-chuen, JP
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1)

Mrs Angel CHOI MA On-ki, JP
District Officer (Wong Tai Sin)
Home Affairs Department

Mrs Alice YU NG Ka-chun
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr LI Ho-kin
Senior Project Co-ordination Manager
Architectural Services Department

Ms Sylvia TANG Man-wah
Chief Leisure Manager (Kowloon)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr LI Tak-hong, MH, JP
Chairman of Wong Tai Sin District Council

Mr Benjamin MOK Kwan-yu, JP
District Officer (Sham Shui Po)
Home Affairs Department

Mr Jimmy KWOK Chun-wah, BBS, MH, JP
Chairman of Sham Shui Po District Council

Ms Jenny YIP Kam-ching, JP
District Officer (Tsuen Wan)
Home Affairs Department

Mr CHAN Iu-seng, SBS, JP
Chairman of Tsuen Wan District Council

Ms Cora HO Lai-sheung, JP
District Officer (Sha Tin)
Home Affairs Department

Mr WONG Wai-man
Deputy Project Manager (New Territories East) 1
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr HO Hau-cheung, BBS, MH
Chairman of Sha Tin District Council

Mr Thomas PANG Cheung-wai, BBS, JP
Vice Chairman of Sha Tin District Council

Clerk in attendance : Ms Alice LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Miss Josephine SO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1165/14-15)

The minutes of the special meeting held on 24 January 2015 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1160/14-15(01), CB(2)1161/14-15(01), CB(2)1194/14-15(01) and CB(2)1202/14-15(01))

2. Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting -

- (a) Referral from Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members' meeting with Yau Tsim Mong District Council ("DC") members on 29 January 2015 on issues relating to the implementation of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572);
- (b) Referral from LegCo Members' meeting with Yau Tsim Mong DC members on 29 January 2015 on issues relating to the management of the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct;
- (c) Referral from LegCo Members' meeting with Sha Tin DC members on 29 January 2015 on issues relating to building management; and
- (d) Administration's information paper on the funding proposal for developing a new open space at Hing Wah Street West, Sham Shui Po.

3. Regarding the Administration's paper referred to in paragraph 2(d) above, the Chairman said that Panel members had been invited to inform the Clerk should they consider it necessary to discuss the funding proposal at the Panel meeting in May 2015 prior to the Administration's submission of the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC"). Two members, namely Mr Tony TSE and Dr Helena WONG, had already indicated that they

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wished to discuss the proposal at the Panel meeting. As such, arrangements would be made for the Panel to discuss the proposed project at its next regular meeting.

4. Referring to the referral memorandum as referred to in paragraph 2(b), Dr Kenneth CHAN said that he had, on the day before this meeting, written to the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") enquiring about relevant issues including the Government's policy on street performance, and a copy of the letter had been provided to the Panel. Dr CHAN further said that subject to the Administration's written response to his letter, he might request for discussion of the subject matter at a future meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The letter dated 9 April 2015 from Dr Kenneth CHAN, which was addressed to SHA and copied to the Panel, on issues relating to street performance was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1249/14-15 on 14 April 2015.)

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1167/14-15(01) and (02))

Regular meeting in May 2015

5. The Chairman said that the next regular meeting of the Panel was originally scheduled for Friday, 8 May 2015, at 8:30 am. As it was anticipated that the Council meeting of 6 May 2015 might need to continue on 8 May 2015, she suggested to re-schedule the meeting to Monday, 11 May 2015, from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm to discuss the following three items proposed by the Administration -

- (a) Proposed open space project at Hing Wah Street West, Sham Shui Po;
- (b) Signature Projects (Kwun Tong District Council, Yau Tsim Mong District Council, Tuen Mun District Council and Yuen Long District Council); and
- (c) Progress update on the work of safeguarding and promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Members agreed to the above arrangements.

(Post-meeting note: On the instruction of the Chairman, the regular meeting on 11 May 2015 would be advanced to start at 2:00 pm to allow sufficient time for discussion of all items on the agenda. The

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notice of the meeting was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1239/14-15 on 14 April 2015.)

Special meeting in May 2015

6. Pursuant to the Panel's decision made at the meeting on 24 March 2015, members also agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, 5 May 2015, at 2:30 pm to receive views from deputations on the public consultation document entitled "Review on the Chinese Temples Ordinance" issued by the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") and the Chinese Temples Committee on 13 March 2015. A general notice inviting views from the public would be posted on the LegCo website. In line with the usual practice, the 18 DCs would also be invited to submit views on the subject.

IV. Educational and career development support for elite athletes

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1167/14-15(03) and (04))

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA and Chairman, Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited ("Chairman/HKSI") briefed Members on the educational and career development support currently provided to elite athletes, in particular those offered under HKSI's elite training programme.

Athlete education initiatives

Flexible secondary education programme and tertiary education

8. Mr IP Kin-yuen and Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed strong support for HKSI's setting up of the Elite Athlete-Friendly School Network ("the Network") to establish partnership with 27 secondary schools to allow flexibility in the curriculum to specifically accommodate student-athletes' study, training and competition schedules. They considered the initiative conducive to the nurturing of local young athletes and hoped that the Network could be extended to cover more secondary schools.

9. Chairman/HKSI responded that the Network, which was set up in June 2014 to provide better educational support for younger elite athletes, was still at its inception stage. So far, 27 secondary schools had joined the Network. It was hoped that with proven results in future, more secondary schools would participate in the Network.

10. Mr IP Kwok-him and Miss CHAN Yuen-han welcomed the efforts put in by HKSI and local tertiary institutions in enhancing the support for elite athletes by arranging flexible study and examination timetables, allowing

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extensions of years of study and providing targeted tutoring and mentoring.

11. Dr LAM Tai-fai said that the issue of providing educational and career development support for elite athletes had been a long-standing concern of Members and the public. He, Mr Tony TSE and Mr MA Fung-kwok were strongly of the view that the measures outlined in the Administration's paper were insufficient and ineffective to address the problems faced by student-athletes. They considered that the Administration should formulate concrete policy and action plan, instead of merely encouraging secondary schools/tertiary institutions to provide flexible programmes for the athletes. Citing Singapore Sports School as an example, Dr LAM said that the Administration should consider establishing in Hong Kong a specialized school/institute that provided integrated academic and sports programmes to talented student-athletes conducive to and tailored around their training. Meanwhile, as an immediate measure, the Government should provide additional financial support to schools which had joined the Network and elite athletes, e.g. by waiving the tuition fees of the athletes.

12. SHA responded that in pursuing the sports policy objective of supporting elite sport, the Government could not compel the schools to provide flexible programmes for the athletes. It was, however, expected that the exemplary performance of the 27 participating schools in the Network launched by HKSI would be recognized gradually, hence fostering a culture that valued sports in other schools.

13. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that he had received complaints from some student-athletes that although their results in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination could meet the basic requirements of university admission, they were not offered a university place because the student athletes admission schemes of most universities only considered athletes specializing in popular sports or those sports already established in universities. He enquired whether the Administration could provide stronger support to athletes in the pursuit of university education.

14. In response, SHA advised that under the Joint University Programmes Admissions System, the Sub-System for School Principal's Nominations and the Self Recommendation Scheme gave due recognition to students who had achieved outstanding results in "non-academic" areas such as sport. The eight University Grants Committee-funded tertiary institutions also accepted athletes nominated for admission by HKSI and the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC"). SHA stressed that athletes had relative strengths over many other young people in terms of commitment, devotion and perseverance, which facilitated their pursuit of further education or a "second career" after retirement from competitions.

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15. Mr WU Chi-wai opined that creating and sustaining a good atmosphere of sports in schools and the adequate provision of sports venues and facilities in various districts for use by members of the public for free were pivotal to the promotion of sports in the community and the development of elite sports. He hoped that the Administration would devote further efforts to raising community awareness of the importance of sports.

16. Mr TANG Ka-piu suggested that the Administration should consider setting up another sports institute in new towns with a dense population of young people such as Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai. Other than increasing the overall training capacity for elite athletes, Mr TANG believed that the setting up of a new sports institute in districts mentioned above could help achieve a cluster effect.

17. SHA responded that at the present stage, the Administration had no plan to set up another sports institute. He stressed that in its role as the Government's elite sport training systems delivery agent, HKSI was committed to providing an environment in which sports talent could be identified, nurtured, and developed to pursue excellence in the international sporting arena. The \$1.8 billion redevelopment of HKSI had just completed and would provide state-of-the-art training facilities and comprehensive support services for athletes. The Administration was supportive of HKSI's strategic development plan which would be implemented in a progressive manner.

18. The Chairman considered that the crux of the matter lay in the lack of public participation in and support for sports. The fact that students were under tremendous pressure brought about by internal and external examinations deterred them from participating in sports activities/competitions with a reasonable degree of enthusiasm, commitment and vigour, thereby affecting the standards of play and nurturing of athletes in Hong Kong. The Chairman and Mr Christopher CHUNG suggested that HAB should take the lead to coordinate with the Education Bureau ("EDB") to raise students' interest in non-academic subjects and to also request the tertiary institutions to review their admission criteria to avoid over-emphasis on students' academic achievement and encourage the institutions to admit students who excelled in non-academic subjects, such as Art, Music and Physical Education.

19. SHA responded that HAB had undertaken a number of measures (many in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including EDB) with a view to promoting sport in schools and strengthening support for student-athletes. He stressed that the three broad policy objectives for sports development, which encompassed (a) promoting sport in the community, (b)

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supporting elite sports and (c) making Hong Kong a centre for major international sports events, were interrelated.

20. Chairman/HKSI said that he very much shared the views and concerns of Members about sports development in Hong Kong and current educational and career development support for elite athletes. Pointing out the need to change the mindset of parents and the whole society, he stressed that effecting changes and improving the situation required the concerted efforts of different stakeholders including students, parents, schools, the Government as well as other sectors of the society. In the process, HKSI would continue to play an active role and adopt a scientific training model for the "whole person" development of elite athletes. He invited Members to visit the redeveloped HKSI to better understand its work.

Professional accreditation programme

21. Dr Kenneth CHAN and Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed similar concern about the educational and career development support to retired elite athletes. They sought details of the Professional Accreditation Programme ("PAP") to be launched by HKSI for its full-time athletes.

22. In response, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) 1 and Chief Executive/HKSI advised that under PAP, the knowledge and experience which athletes had gained through elite sports training in areas covering sports anatomy, exercise physiology, sports nutrition, sports-specific theory and practice would be formally evaluated and accredited. PAP would interface with the Qualifications Framework ("QF") in the long run and be benchmarked at QF Level 3 or above. To this end, HKSI was considering partnering with local institutions to provide an on-site PAP at diploma level to elite athletes aged 15 and above, whereby their sports training would be the core of the programme and recognized for credit points.

Assistance for retiring and retired athletes

23. Referring to paragraph 14(c) of the background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat, the Deputy Chairman noted that there were around 3 000 counts of athletes using the services since the implementation of the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme ("HKACEP") offered by SF&OC from September 2008 to the end of March 2014. He sought detailed information on (a) the total amount of grants paid to serving/retiring/retired athletes under HKACEP since its implementation in 2008; (b) in what ways and to what extent did HKACEP help athletes to pursue a "second career" upon retirement from full-time training and competition; (c) for those whom HKACEP had helped secure job opportunities, the types of jobs and positions

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involved; and (d) of the some 3 000 counts of athletes using the HKACEP services, the number and percentage of those who so far had not yet found a job and whether SF&OC would continue to provide further services for them. SHA said that he did not have the information on hand and undertook to provide the requested information after the meeting.

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24. Ms Cyd HO was concerned about the support for athletes in their pursuit of further education, employment and the development of a "second career" upon retirement. In her view, the Administration should develop a comprehensive career development plan for retired athletes, including engaging them as "ambassadors" to help promote major sports events held in Hong Kong, assisting elite athletes who wished to become coaches after retirement in pursuing coach training programmes, and helping retired athletes to take up suitable job placements in sports related field. Sharing a similar view, Mr MA Fung-kwok and Mr Christopher CHUNG further suggested that retired athletes should be considered favourably in the recruitment/appointment of civil servants.

25. SHA and Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2) ("DSHA(2)") responded that HKSI had implemented the Athletes Integrated Educational and Vocational Development Programme to provide assistance to athletes in educational and career development which included academic guidance, consultation and tutorial services, career planning and vocational training. DSHA(2) said that retired elite athletes excelled in various fields. For example, three members of staff in the Recreation and Sport Divisions of HAB and five members of the Sports Commission were retired athletes who had successfully embarked on a "second career". The Programme also made work experience placement arrangements for elite athletes wishing to become coaches after retirement and provided subsidies for those enrolled in recognized coach training programmes. In addition, SF&OC had invited business organizations to offer job opportunities to retired athletes and a number of enterprises/corporations had joined the job matching scheme. Regarding appointment to civil service posts, SHA said that the Government followed established selection criteria to ensure that the persons appointed were the most suitable persons for the vacancies.

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26. Ms Cyd HO requested the Administration to provide information on the employment situation of the 70 Hong Kong athletes who had completed the Bachelor of Education in Sports Training Programme jointly offered by the Beijing Sport University and HKSI.

27. Responding to Members' concerns about the career prospect of retired athletes, Chairman/HKSI and Chief Executive/HKSI advised that HKSI recognized the importance of athletes' whole-person development, and

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accordingly provided educational and career planning services to athletes through various programmes that catered to the different needs of athletes at various stages of their sporting career. The programmes would allow athletes to pursue a full-time career in sports whilst preparing for a transition to a "second career" after they retired from full-time training and competitions.

Hong Kong Athletes Fund

28. In reply to Mr IP Kwok-him's enquiry on how the Hong Kong Athletes Fund ("HKAF") was used to help athletes with their educational and future career development, Chief Executive/HKSI advised that HKAF provided grants to individual athletes for educational and other academic training to enable them to continue their studies and to develop alternative careers upon retirement from full-time sports training and competition. The grants could be used to fund tuition fees for certificate, diploma and degree courses offered by Hong Kong educational institutions. Retired athletes who were undertaking long-term full-time study programmes might also apply to HKAF for a subsistence allowance. So far, HKSI had granted a total of about \$16.9 million from HKAF to 169 athletes.

Support to disabled athletes

29. In respect of supporting athletes with disabilities, Dr Kenneth CHAN considered that more effective measures should be mapped out in view of the less advantaged position of disabled athletes and the many difficulties they faced in committing to sports training and competitions. Noting HKSI adopted an integrated approach in training and providing support to both disabled and non-disabled athletes, he requested for an elaboration on the approach.

30. In response, SHA advised that since 2008, HKSI had implemented the Athletes Integrated Educational and Vocational Development Programme to provide assistance to athletes in educational and career development which included academic guidance, consultation and tutorial services, career planning and vocational training. In respect of support specifically for disabled athletes, the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled also offered career development programmes for athletes with physical disabilities. HAB would engage a consultant in 2015 to study the development of sport for the disabled and how to provide better support for athletes with disabilities.

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V. Signature Projects (Wong Tai Sin District Council, Sham Shui Po District Council, Tsuen Wan District Council and Sha Tin District Council)

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1167/14-15(05) and (06))

31. As the item involved funding proposals, the Chairman reminded Members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests before they spoke.

32. At the invitation of the Chairman, Chairman of Wong Tai Sin District Council, Chairman of Sham Shui Po DC ("Chairman/SSPDC"), Chairman of Tsuen Wan DC, Chairman of Sha Tin DC and Vice Chairman of Sha Tin DC took turns to brief Members on the following five proposed projects under the Signature Project Scheme ("SPS") -

- (a) Enhancement of Leisure Facilities of Morse Park ("the Morse Park Project") in Wong Tai Sin ("WTS") District;
- (b) Mei Foo Neighbourhood Activity Centre ("the Mei Foo Project") in Sham Shui Po ("SSP") District;
- (c) Redevelopment of the Sai Lau Kok Garden ("the Sai Lau Kok Project") in Tsuen Wan ("TW") District; and
- (d) Revitalization of Shing Mun River Promenade near Sha Tin Town Centre and Decking of Tai Wai Nullah in Sha Tin ("the Decking Project") in Sha Tin ("ST") District.

Mei Foo Neighbourhood Activity Centre

33. Ms Claudia MO said that she had received complaints from residents in the relevant districts about insufficient consultation by SSPDC before deciding on the SPS project to be proposed and alleged conflict of interest in the selection of Yan Oi Tong ("YOT") as its partner organization for the Mei Foo Project. Seeking clarification on these allegations, she also expressed concern about the sustainability of the proposed activity centre.

34. Chairman/SSPDC and District Officer (Sham Shui Po) ("DO/SSP") responded with the following points -

- (a) in determining the project(s) to be taken forward under SPS, SSPDC set up the Committee on the Sham Shui Po Signature Project ("CSSPSP") in early 2013. CSSPSP and the SSP District

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Office ("SSPDO") subsequently conducted extensive and in-depth district consultation from March to September 2013 to understand the views and wishes of SSPDC members, district organizations and local residents on the SPS projects of SSP District. Specifically, two district workshops were held in May and August 2013. During the consultation period, many local residents and organizations expressed support for the promotion of art and culture in SSP District. By the end of the consultation period, a total of 70 proposals and/or comments were received. After careful consideration of their feasibility and merits, potential benefits to the community and suitability to the district, CSSPSP recommended and SSPDC unanimously supported in December 2013 the implementation of the Mei Foo Project together with the "Shek Kip Mei Community Services Centre" project;

- (b) Mr WONG Tat-tung, Vice Chairman/SSPDC, was the ex-Chairman and currently, an Advisory Board Member of YOT. In view of his association with YOT, Mr WONG (as in the cases of three other SSPDC members due to other reasons) was advised to refrain from participating in the discussion of, or making a decision on, the selection of the partner organization for the SPS project under discussion. As such, there should be no concern of any conflict of interest on the part of SSPDC members in respect of the selection of partner organization for the Mei Foo Project; and
- (c) on behalf of SSPDC, SSPDO invited non-profit-making organizations to submit proposals on the operation of the proposed centre and provision of activities and services of different natures to meet the district's needs on a self-financing basis. After a robust and fair selection process, SSPDC selected YOT as its partner organization for the Mei Foo Project. As the selected partner organization, YOT would operate the proposed activity centre and provide the activities and services on a self-financing basis. In the event that the activity centre recorded deficits in its operations, YOT had agreed to absorb such deficits by either its own financial reserve or the donations it received.

35. Mr Frederick FUNG said that as a member of SSPDC, he could confirm that SSPDC had conducted public engagement and consultation on the project proposals. Referring to the proposal summary prepared by YOT (Annex 2 to Enclosure 2 of LC Paper No. CB(2)1167/14-15(05)), he

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expressed grave concern over the opening hours of the proposed activity centre, YOT's fee charging policy for provision of activities and services at the centre and the estimated number of people expected to benefit from the Mei Foo Project each year. In his view, YOT should endeavour to maximize the benefit to be brought about by the centre to the community. His view was echoed by Mr Tony TSE.

36. In response, DO/SSP advised that what YOT had submitted was only a preliminary proposal and YOT would further consult SSPDC before finalizing the implementation details. This apart, YOT had undertaken to review after the activity centre had come into operation various issues including its opening hours and fee-charging arrangements, in order to consider whether adjustment should be made. To ensure effective monitoring of the quality of the activities and services delivered, specific requirements on the activities and services as well as management control would be set out in a service agreement to be signed between YOT and SSPDO. DO/SSP emphasized that SSPDC would ensure that YOT would set its fees/charges at affordable levels to maximize the utilization of the services and facilities to be provided at the centre.

37. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed support for the five SPS projects proposed respectively by WTSDC, SSPDC, TWDC and STDC, in particular, the Mei Foo Project as it was intended to be operated on a long-term and sustainable basis providing activities and services of diverse natures to meet the district's needs. SSPDC's proposed selection of YOT as its partner organization to run the activity centre was also a good idea, given the latter's commitment towards this SPS project and substantial experience in providing welfare/community services to the public.

Redevelopment of the Sai Lau Kok Garden

38. Mr Tony TSE and Mr CHAN Han-pan both expressed support for the proposed SPS projects under discussion. However, they pointed out that the existing pedestrian footbridge network system and the at-grade pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of Tsuen Wan MTR Station were poor in terms of facilitating pedestrian movements and circulation, given that they were built at different times in the past. Besides, the level difference between the elevated walkways and at-grade walkways also caused inconvenience to pedestrians. They both expressed strong support for the Sai Lau Kok Project. Mr TSE hoped that the Government could capitalize on TWDC's introduction of the Sai Lau Kok Project to improve the footbridge network in TW.

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Revitalization of Shing Mun River Promenade near Sha Tin Town Centre and Decking of Tai Wai Nullah in Sha Tin

39. In response to Mr Tony TSE's enquiry about the reason why the Futsal pitch atop of the deck over the Tai Wai Nullah could not be larger in size than the one proposed, District Officer (Sha Tin) ("DO/ST") and Deputy Project Manager (New Territories East) 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department ("DPM/CEDD(NTE)1") explained that -

- (a) the proposed scope of works for the Decking Project would include the construction of a deck of approximately 2 000 square metres over the Tai Wai Nullah;
- (b) the Tai Wai Nullah was the channelized upstream of Shing Mun River with a width of about 39 metres. In proposing the size of the Futsal pitch atop of the deck, consideration had to be given to the width and length of the Tai Wai Nullah such that the drainage performance would not be adversely affected; and
- (c) the proposed Futsal pitch atop of the deck would be the first purpose-built pitch with a size in compliance with the latest standard of the Federation Internationale de Football Association for international Futsal matches in ST District.

40. While expressing support for the proposal, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung was concerned whether the Decking Project would affect the drainage capacity and performance of the Tai Wai Nullah. He also asked whether the proposed construction atop of the deck of a Futsal pitch could help address the shortfall of sports facilities in ST District.

41. In response, DO/ST advised that the Chief Executive had announced in his 2015 Policy Address that the Administration would adopt the concept of revitalizing water bodies in large-scale drainage improvement works and planning drainage networks for new development areas. The Drainage Services Department ("DSD") would conduct a consultancy study to explore the practicable options of applying this concept. This was aimed at promoting greening, biodiversity, beautification and water friendliness in addition to achieving efficient drainage, with a view to building sustainable drainage facilities and providing a better living environment. The Decking Project was now taken forward with the assistance of CEDD as well as DSD. The proposed deck would not only help create more open space for Tai Wai town centre, but also provide a Futsal pitch. The local community and STDC had been urging for more open space and community facilities in the area. DPM/CEDD(NTE)1 supplemented that while CEDD and DSD had been

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looking into the revitalization and creation of space issues, the need to address the drainage capacity and performance was equally important. The level of the proposed deck would be slightly higher than that of the footpaths on the two sides of the Tai Wai Nullah to meet the drainage needs. The proposed works would not give rise to environmental or drainage concerns.

(Members agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.)

42. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan said that Shing Mun River was the symbol of ST District. Its promenade was a popular venue for locals to pursue various kinds of leisure and recreational activities. She considered the proposed enhancement works along the promenade of Shing Mun River conducive to enhancing its attractiveness and worthy of support.

Enhancement of Leisure Facilities of Morse Park

43. In response to Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry, Chief Leisure Manager (Kowloon)/Leisure and Cultural Services Department said that the amphitheatre at Morse Park would be open to the public free of charge between 7:00 am and 10:00 am, and booking should be made two months in advance for use of the amphitheatre and its performance stage for staging performance or hosting community events/activities during the rest of the day.

44. While expressing support for the SPS projects proposed by the four DCs, Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired about the feasibility of expanding further the amphitheatre at Morse Park. He pointed out that there was a general shortage of medium-sized performance venues in Hong Kong. Although the current performance stage would be enlarged from 40 to around 100 square metres, he still hoped that WTSDC could make arrangements under the Morse Park Project to maximize the space to provide the maximum number of seats in the amphitheatre, so as to better utilize this popular venue for organizing different events.

45. District Officer (Wong Tai Sin) responded that the current proposal had already made the best use of the space available for enhancing the amphitheatre and performance stage to cater for the needs of both performers and audience.

Implementation of SPS projects

46. Mr NG Leung-sing, Mr MA Fung-kwok and Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed general support for the Administration's allocation of \$100 million for each district to initiate project(s) under SPS, as the 18 DCs were allowed flexibility in the planning of signature project(s) having regard to their unique

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and special circumstances. In Mr NG's view, DCs should ensure that the projects proposed could meet local needs and expectations. In order that the general public could benefit as early as possible, he hoped that DCs would expedite the implementation of their SPS projects. Mr MA Fung-kwok and Mr CHAN Han-pan opined that the Government could make the best use of community wisdom in going for SPS. In their view, the Administration should consider increasing the resources to DCs to facilitate their implementation of larger scale and sustainable SPS projects. Where circumstances so warranted, the Administration should take ownership of and complete SPS projects that had lasting impact on the community.

47. SHA responded that the Administration was willing to consider projects which were supported by DCs and could cater for the overall needs of individual districts as well as being sustainable with lasting impact.

48. Mr WU Chi-wai noted that for all the five SPS projects under discussion, the DCs concerned earmarked under each project a provision for employment of non-civil service contract ("NCSC") staff. He recalled that before individual funding proposals on SPS projects were submitted to PWSC and/or the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval, \$200 million had been set aside for use by the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") Headquarters and 18 District Offices to, among others, finance the employment of NCSC staff. He enquired about the reason why additional funding was needed.

49. In response, Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1) explained that -

- (a) the \$200 million central provision was reserved for use by HAD Headquarters and 18 District Offices for financing preliminary studies and consultancies and employment of NCSC staff for carrying out the requisite preparatory and supporting work before funding approval for the projects was obtained; and
- (b) the additional allocations by individual DCs as set out in their project proposals were for the purpose of employing NCSC staff to oversee the implementation of the SPS projects after funding approval was obtained.

50. Following up on the Administration's response, Mr WU Chi-wai requested the Administration to provide a detailed breakdown on the distribution of the \$200 million among the 27 SPS projects proposed by the 18 DCs.

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Summing up

51. The Chairman urged the Administration to take note of Members' views and concerns expressed on the subject and consider them seriously when it reviewed the adequacy as well as effectiveness of the one-off allocation of \$100 million for each of the 18 DCs to initiate SPS projects and the way forward for SPS.

52. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that Members supported the five SPS projects proposed respectively by WTSDC, SSPDC, TWDC and STDC and raised no objection to the Administration submitting the proposals to PWSC and FC.

53. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:42 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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