

**For Information
6 February 2015**

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

**2015 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau**

Introduction

The policy portfolio of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) covers youth development, sport, culture and arts, district administration and other aspects. The 2015 Policy Address proposes a series of policy initiatives on these aspects. This paper aims to present our visions, new initiatives and major ongoing initiatives.

Our Vision

2. For youth development, we will continue to work closely with the Commission on Youth (CoY), the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE), community organisations and various Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) in fostering youth development work. We promote a culture of multi-faceted excellence and the concept of multiple pathways. We encourage young people to develop a positive approach to life and a sense of social awareness, to take an interest in the development of Hong Kong and our country and to cultivate an international vision. We also encourage them to attach equal importance to individual rights and social obligations.

3. The Government is committed to promoting sports development. Our vision is to raise the profile of sport by providing more high-quality sports facilities, fostering a strong sporting culture in the community, ensuring high levels of support for our top athletes and helping to attract more major international sports events to Hong Kong.

4. On culture and the arts, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis. We support the freedom of artistic expression and creation and foster the vibrant development of our cultures. We have been actively creating an environment conducive to the diversified development of culture and the arts; providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts; devoting resources to nurturing talent and encouraging innovation; and supporting

the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures.

5. We will take forward the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities” in strengthening district administration. We have been providing support for District Councils (DCs) to facilitate them in playing an enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of some district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

New Initiatives

6. Having regard to the above-mentioned vision, new initiatives will be launched on relevant aspects.

Youth Development Policy

7. In view of the rapid pace of globalisation, a broad horizon that goes beyond Hong Kong is crucial for young people to thrive. Hence we encourage young people to capture the development opportunities in the Mainland and other places outside Hong Kong. HAB will further increase the funding support to both the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland in order to deepen young people’s understanding of the country. We will also continue to work with other countries with a view to expanding the International Youth Exchange Programme so as to provide more chances for young people to broaden their horizon around the globe.

8. With a view to promoting positive values among young people and enhancing their self-esteem, the Government will step up the work in the promotion of youth volunteerism. We will partner with three local volunteer bodies (i.e. Agency for Volunteer Service, Hong Kong Volunteers Association and The Peace and Development Foundation) and the United Nations Volunteers in launching a new HK-United Nations (UN) Youth Volunteers Programme in 2015 to support 10 local university students annually to work in various UN agencies in the South East Asian region for about 6 months. We are also working on a new Guangdong-HK Youth Volunteers Programme, in which the local tertiary students will join the Mainland university students to take part in a 10-day voluntary service programme in various Guangdong villages and towns, starting from this summer. In light of the community’s overwhelming response and the participants’ positive feedback on the Services Corps launched in 2011, we will regularise the

programme to provide opportunities to young people in Hong Kong to serve in under-privileged areas in the Mainland for longer period of time, which also aims to develop young people's tenacity and maximise their potential.

Youth Development Fund

9. In view of the ever-changing and diversified need of young people, we recommend setting up a \$300 million Youth Development Fund (YDF) to support innovative youth development activities which are not covered by existing schemes, including subsidy in the form of matching funds for NGOs to assist young people in starting their own business. Details such as eligibility criteria, approval procedures and allocation priority of the fund will be devised after consulting CoY.

Development of Arts Space

10. The Government actively exploring the provision of space for local artists and budding arts groups to support their engagement in artistic creation. Funded by HAB, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) has launched the first arts space scheme. Starting from the fourth quarter of 2014, arts studio workspace in a building in Wong Chuk Hang were leased to local visual and media artists at a concessionary rate. Moreover, the HAB is supporting the collaboration between the Tai Po District Council and the HKADC to convert a vacant school building in Tai Po into an arts development centre in order to provide space for performing artists and arts groups for arts creation, rehearsals, arts promotion activities. In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of reserving a certain portion of floor area in the future development of a site in Aberdeen to provide space for the HKADC to support arts development.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

11. The Government has promulgated Hong Kong's first intangible cultural heritage (ICH) inventory list last year. We will enhance the safeguarding measures of ICH, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. Based on the selection criteria and assessment methods endorsed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, we will select by batches from Hong Kong's ICH inventory those items which have high cultural value and require urgent preservation for drawing up Hong Kong's representative list of ICH, and will conduct public consultation. The representative list will provide reference for

the Government in setting priorities in planning the safeguarding measures for ICH.

District Administration

12. The Government has implemented a pilot scheme in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long from April 2014 to August 2015 to provide the District Management Committees (DMCs) of these two districts with power to decide on and co-ordinate work to address certain management and environmental hygiene problems of some public areas. The DCs concerned have advised on the work priorities of their respective districts. The pilot scheme will provide useful experience to progressively take forward the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities”. The Government has provided a one-off allocation of \$5 million, including manpower, to each of the two districts to implement the pilot scheme. We reported to Members of the Legislative Council Home Affairs Panel on the progress of the pilot scheme in December last year.

13. So far, the pilot scheme has achieved visible effects, and is generally welcomed by the community. We will conduct an overall review upon completion of the pilot scheme in August 2015. Depending on the outcome of the review, we will actively consider providing additional manpower and resources to implement the scheme in all 18 districts starting from the next DC term (2016-2019). The issues to be pursued by individual districts will be determined after discussion between their DMCs and DCs later this year.

14. The Government will provide an additional annual funding of \$20.8 million for community involvement (CI) activities for five financial years (i.e. from 2015-16 to 2019-20) to further strengthen support for DCs in promoting arts and cultural activities in the districts.

15. Having regard to the increasing workload at the districts, we will strengthen the manpower of District Offices as appropriate to enhance the district co-ordination work of District Officers.

16. The Government has completed the review of the honorarium arrangement for DC members of the next term. We propose to increase the honorarium of DC members by 15% in real terms starting from the new term in January 2016, and providing each DC member with a new provision of \$10,000 per term to cover expenses for duty visits.

Support Services for New Arrivals from the Mainland

17. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) will extend the expectation management programme from Shenzhen and Guangdong Province to Fujian Province to organise activities for prospective settlers from the Mainland to help them better understand the circumstances in Hong Kong before deciding to reside here.

Support Services for Ethnic Minorities

18. Through the six existing support services centres and two sub-centres for ethnic minorities (EMs), we will continue to implement various measures to help them integrate into the community, including dedicated programmes for EM youths such as sports and cultural activities.

On-going Initiatives

Youth Development Policy

Promoting Multi-faceted Excellence and Multiple Pathways

19. Young people need diversified development opportunities to make the right decisions in their paths to climbing up the social ladder. We have launched the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities in this academic year to support NGOs to collaborate with secondary schools in organising life planning activities for students, teachers and parents. The NGOs receiving funding will start the services in early-2015. In line with the idea of multi-faceted excellence, we have also launched the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship in this academic year, through which universities are provided with full funding support to admit secondary students with non-academic achievements for undergraduate studies. The selection process is in good progress and the first batch of Scholarship winners will be admitted to universities in the 2015/16 academic year.

Promotion of Civic Education

20. We will continue to work with the CPCE to promote civic education outside schools with the focus on the core civic value of “respect and inclusiveness”. This seeks to promote the importance of mutual respect and accommodating people with diverse cultural background, different views and perspectives with a view to enhancing

social harmony. Meanwhile, we will also continue to promote the upholding of the rule of law.

Youth Square

21. Youth Square (YS) is an important component within the youth development framework in Hong Kong, and is one of our crucial platforms in promoting youth development. Its target users are youths and youth organisations. Since YS came into full operation in March 2010, its usage rates have been increasing, and that of the major facilities is currently over 80%. The number of events held has also been increasing steadily. To support young entrepreneurs and social enterprises, we will continue the rental discount for them in operating youth-related business at the retail units at YS.

Youth Hostel

22. The four projects under the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) announced by the Chief Executive in the 2014 Policy Address are in progress. The two projects in Sheung Wan and Tai Po have completed the technical feasibility studies and various procedures such as town planning application are being undertaken. We plan to seek funding approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the more advance projects in 2015-16. As for the two projects in Mongkok and Jordan, the early stage preparation is underway. In addition, we are actively liaising with interested NGOs with a view to assisting them to roll out more YHS projects.

Sports Development

Multi-purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak

23. The Multi-purpose Sports Complex (MPSC) at Kai Tak will provide state-of-the-art multi-purpose sports venues that will not only cater for major international sports events but will also help to alleviate the shortage of public sports facilities. We commenced the Environmental and Traffic Impact Assessments for this project last March, and these are scheduled for completion by the end of this year. We engaged a planning consultant in January to study issues related to the retractable roof of the main stadium; as well as the need for and viability of developing a hotel on the site for visiting athletes, event officials and support staff. We are preparing to engage an operations consultant to provide expert advice on the functional and performance requirements of the MPSC. The consultant will consult the sports sector and other

stakeholders to help ensure that we can effectively meet the needs of various users. As regards the pre-construction works that were supported by the Panel in early 2014, we are waiting for the Public Works Sub-committee and Finance Committee to consider our funding proposal. We aim to begin construction of the MPSC in 2017 for completion in 2020/21.

Development of Community Sports

24. The 5th Hong Kong Games, scheduled for 25 April to 31 May 2015, will include eight sports, namely: athletics, badminton, basketball, futsal, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball. We will launch a range of publicity and public participation activities before and during the games period, with the aim of allowing Hong Kong citizens to participate in sport in different ways, as well as strengthening the public's sense of belonging to the district they live in and encouraging communication and friendship among the districts. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to organise major territory-wide public sports events, including the Sport for All Day. In 2015-16, LCSD plans to organise 38 700 recreational and sport activities for an estimated 2.54 million participants.

25. To encourage young people to develop interest in sport and help them participate in sport from an early age, it is important to promote a sporting culture in schools. Since 2001, the LCSD has implemented the "School Sports Programme (SSP)", which provides sports activities for all primary, secondary and special school students in Hong Kong, with the objective of fostering school students' interest in sport and encouraging them to take part in sports activities. At present, 90% of schools have joined the SSP. This programme has been extended to kindergartens since 2010-11 to help the younger generation to develop a habit of taking part in physical activities regularly. We will send a delegation to participate in the National Youth Games to be held in Fuzhou this year.

26. In the 2012-13 school year, the HAB, the LCSD, the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) jointly launched a three-year "School Sports Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme" with a view to strengthening the promotion of sport in schools. The pilot scheme provides more opportunities for students to participate in sport, as well as offers a career and development platform for retired athletes. We have reviewed the effectiveness of the scheme and received positive feedback from the schools, students and retired athletes concerned. We will consider expanding the scheme so that more

students and retired athletes can benefit from it.

27. As well as focusing on sport in schools, in the coming year we will also pay greater attention to the development of sport for disabled people. We will engage a consultant to study on how we can meet the needs of disabled athletes in a more holistic manner, and facilitate greater participation in sport by people with disabilities.

28. Hong Kong has extensive waters that are suitable for sporting activities. LCSD and other organisations have established facilities for water sports that allow people to take part in sport and also to enjoy Hong Kong's coastal areas, particularly at the eastern and southern parts of the territory. In order to promote enjoyment of the urban water front environment, and to encourage more leisure use of the Victoria Harbour as the quality of the water in the harbour improves, the Government will consider the scope for establishing more harbour-front water sports facilities.

29. If we are to promote a stronger culture of sports participation in the community, we will need to ensure that there are adequate public sports facilities and that we manage these effectively to meet demand. In order to improve our understanding of the current situation with regard to venue provision and management vis-à-vis the needs of various types of user, we will set up a task force under the Sports Commission to study this issue and to make recommendations.

Support for Elite Athletes

30. The new facilities provided by the \$1.8 billion redevelopment of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) were largely completed in 2014. In April 2014, the HKSI and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on providing support to elite athletes in tertiary education, with a view to facilitating dual career pathways in sport and education. HKIEd will establish a dedicated mechanism for admitting HKSI athletes and coaches to bachelor degree courses. In June 2014, the HKSI launched the "HKSI Elite Athlete-friendly School Network", in cooperation with over 20 secondary schools, with a view to providing more support for student-athletes.

31. Starting from 2015, upon their retirement from training and competition eligible full-time athletes will be granted a one-off award under the new Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme launched by the HKSI, which will help them to pursue new careers either in sport

or in other fields.

Hosting of Major Sports Events

32. To help us achieve the policy objective of developing Hong Kong into a prime destination for hosting major international sports events, the Sports Commission continues to strengthening the “M” Mark System with a view to helping local sports organisations host international sports events that arouse the community’s interest in sport and promote the development of sports-related industries. To mark the 10th anniversary of the “M” Mark System, the Major Sports Events Committee will organise the inaugural “M” Mark Sports Event Awards to recognise the contributions of “national sports associations” and event sponsors in bringing major international sports events to Hong Kong. We will continue to work with local sports organisations to bring more major sports events to Hong Kong.

Culture and the Arts

West Kowloon Cultural District

33. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) is embarking on the design and construction of various facilities in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). In particular, foundation works for Xiqu Centre was completed and construction of main superstructure works was awarded in December 2014 with target completion in 2017. In addition, the foundation works of M+ commenced in August 2014 with target completion in 2015; while the M+ superstructure is expected to be completed in 2018. Design work for Arts Pavilion, the Park (including Black Box and Outdoor Stage) and Lyric Theatre had also commenced.

34. To dovetail with the completion of the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, our cultural software will continue to be strengthened. WKCDA will continue to enrich people’s cultural life, nurture local talents, build up audiences and engage the public and stakeholders through organising a variety of arts and cultural programmes; broaden Hong Kong’s exchanges with other places in performing arts and visual culture; foster collaboration with arts groups, education institutions and local communities; and maintain communication with the public and other relevant stakeholders.

On-going Support for Small and Medium Arts Groups

35. We will continue to implement Arts Capacity Development

Funding Scheme and, with the help of the HKADC, LCS D as well as other relevant arts organisations, continue to enhance our support for the development of small and medium arts groups and to nurture budding artists.

36. Under the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme, we support large scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/projects to enhance capacity development of promising arts groups and arts practitioners, and encourage the community and private sector to sponsor the arts. Since the launch of this Scheme in 2011, we have supported 31 Project Grant applications and 17 Springboard Grant applications at a total funding ceiling of \$111 million.

37. We also increased the recurrent funding for the HKADC since 2014-15, enabling it to enhance funding for small and medium arts groups. The total budget for HKADC's "One-year/Two-Year/Three-year Grant", "Project Grant" and "Multi-project Grant" schemes in 2014-15 has increased by about \$21 million or 37% when compared with the funding provision in 2013-14, so as to support artists and arts groups to initiate different arts activities.

38. The HKADC will also continue to implement proactive projects this year. Various arts activities and projects organized by the HKADC support local artists and arts groups and provide them with opportunities to pursue their creative works and showcase their talents. These projects include organizing local or overseas arts exhibitions to showcase the art works of local artists, arranging for local arts practitioners and arts groups to participate in overseas arts festivals or large-scale arts activities, etc. Besides, the HKADC implements "Arts Venue Subsidy Scheme" to support small and medium arts groups to use non-LCS D venues for public performances/exhibitions and other arts activities, providing arts groups more opportunities for artistic creation and showcasing their talents. The HKADC also promotes the work of local young artists and arts groups through active use of different media including TV channels.

39. LCS D will continue to support small and medium performing arts groups and artists by engaging them in the programmes and activities of the LCS D, including year-round cultural presentations, arts festivals and other performing arts programmes, audience building and arts education activities, as well as the Venue Partnership Scheme. LCS D will also present their performances in both LCS D and non-LCS D venues, and sponsor their productions through the provision of free venues, ticketing services, publicity support and programme fees.

Support for major performing arts groups

40. We increased the total amount of annual subvention for nine major performing arts groups (MPAGs) in 2012-13 and in 2014-15 to support their development. Furthermore, through the contestable funding pilot scheme for the MPAGs, we approved a total of 14 projects in the past three years (involving a total funding of \$43.6 million) to provide the MPAGs with additional resources to support initiatives that would enhance manpower training, foster innovative productions and promote cultural exchanges. We will continue with this scheme this year.

Grooming of Talents

41. We will continue to groom talents for the art sector, including providing funding support for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to offer four-year undergraduate degree programmes and other professional training in the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Music, Theatre and Entertainment Arts, Film and Television and Chinese Opera.

42. An additional funding of \$150 million has been earmarked from 2013-14 onwards to strengthen the training for art administrators of various levels of experience in five years, providing them with opportunities for internship, further studies and diversified professional training. It is estimated that a total of more than 600 new training opportunities would be provided. With the additional resources, LCSD and ADC have been working in collaboration with many participating local art groups and organizations to expand and enhance their training and internship programmes. We have increased the number of internship places and widened the scope of the internship training to cover more areas related to arts administration and other relevant areas. Among them, we have strengthened the funding support for the Venue Partners of LCSD to double the number of places of their local internship schemes and for the Hong Kong Arts Festival to provide internship places. The number of places provided under ADC Local Internship Scheme has also been increased. Besides, ADC has enhanced their Overseas Internship Schemes, providing more opportunities for attachments to/internship at overseas museums/cultural organisations and large arts festivals and exhibitions. To encourage employers to allow their arts administration staff to participate in the overseas training and internship programmes sponsored by the HKADC, financial allowance for staff substitute is made available by HKADC for such employers to relieve their manpower problem by engaging temporary staff to cover the work

of selected candidates during the internship period. New overseas scholarship programmes have been introduced and in-service training for arts administrators have also been strengthened. With the additional resources, over 120 places for internship, further studies and diversified professional training has been provided in 2013-14 through the above training and internship programmes. The concerned programmes will continue to be implemented in 2014-15.

Cultural Exchange

43. We will continue to foster cultural exchanges with the Mainland under the respective cultural cooperation frameworks established with various provinces and cities in the Mainland. In addition, through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cultural co-operation mechanism, we have been implementing and following up on a range of initiatives that cover different aspects. ‘The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cultural Exchange and Co-operation Development Plan 2014-2018’ (“the Plan”) was signed during the 15th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cultural Cooperation Meeting held in Guangzhou in June 2014. The Plan covers collaborative initiatives in areas of nurturing artists through exchange programmes, establishing artistic branding through collaboration in creative new works and developing online cultural information resource network, etc. The 16th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cultural Cooperation Meeting will be held in Hong Kong in 2015. We will continue to enhance cultural cooperation of the three places under the direction and strategy developed under the Plan, to explore more opportunities for development of our arts sectors.

44. We will continue to promotion cultural exchange between Hong Kong and Taiwan through supporting the work of the Hong Kong – Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Committee (HKTCCC). This year we will organize the fourth “Hong Kong Week” to showcase the artistic creations of local artists and art groups, and to promote the cooperation and exchanges of art practitioners of the two places through a series of performance programmes and exhibition on culture and the arts, as well as related extension activities such as artists’ talks, sharing sessions and workshops. Besides, the fifth ‘Hong Kong/Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Forum’ will be held in Hong Kong this year, and a youth cultural and creativity camp will be held in conjunction. The event seeks to promote the cooperation of the cultural and arts sectors as well as creative industries of the two places, and to encourage the exchanges of young talents in the culture and creative industries.

45. To step up our cultural exchange with other places in the Asian Region, we will organise the 9th Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum this year. We have signed memoranda on cultural exchange with a number of countries, and will continue to undertake cultural cooperation and exchange activities as well as take part in international cultural activities.

Cultural Facilities

46. We endeavor to provide more cultural facilities in support of the development of culture and the arts in Hong Kong. To meet the high demand of the East Kowloon communities and the arts sector, the Government is planning to build the East Kowloon Cultural Centre with a 1 200 seat-auditorium and a 550-seat theatre in Ngau Tau Kok to enhance the provision of the cultural facilities in the East Kowloon region.

47. Plans are in hand to undertake major renovation of the Hong Kong Museum of Art with a view to enhancing and expanding its facilities. A new gallery will be built for displaying the works of local artists. The Museum will enhance its collaboration with local artists, guest curators and art partners to provide dynamic and creative platforms for Hong Kong art. After renovation, it will also display more art works from its collections, curate major international art exhibitions on world cultures, ranging from classical ones to contemporary ones, nurture donation culture, and enhance art education.

Cantonese Opera

48. We will continue to support the sustainable development of Cantonese opera, as an important local traditional art genre. Apart from the Cantonese Opera Development Fund's funding programmes to nurture more new talents, to support artistic creation, to facilitate the transmission of the artistry of Cantonese opera master artists and to broaden the audience base, we are also developing venues of different scales to meet the growing needs of Cantonese opera. The 600-seat Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, a dedicated venue for Cantonese opera, has been in operation since November 2014, while the WKCD's Xiqu Centre, is expected to be completed in 2017.

District Administration - Signature Project Scheme

49. The Chief Executive announced in his 2013 Policy Address that a one-off allocation of \$100 million would be earmarked for each district to initiate one to two projects under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) which would address local needs, and have a visible and lasting

impact on the community. All the SPS projects are proposed, discussed and agreed by the DCs before they are put to implementation. An SPS project may be works or non-works in nature, or a mixture of both; and will cost more than \$30 million.

50. All of the 18 DCs have reached consensus on the preliminary proposals of a total of 27 SPS projects following extensive consultation with local residents and organizations. Preparatory works for all these projects are underway. Of them, funding approval has been obtained for the Kwai Tsing district's 'Enhancement of community healthcare services project' in the last Legislative Council session and the related services will be launched by phase starting January 2015. In addition, the HA Panel provided support to another two SPS projects, namely Wong Tai Sin district's 'Expansion and Improvement of Wong Tai Sin Square project' and Sham Shui Po district's 'Shek Kip Mei Community Services Centre project' at the meetings in July and December 2014 respectively. Funding approval will be sought from the Finance Committee for these two projects.

51. Looking ahead, we plan to consult the HA Panel on other projects as soon as possible before making submissions to the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee.

Civic Affairs

52. HAB attaches great importance to the prevention and alleviation of gambling-related problems and thus have adopted a multi-pronged strategy, including regulation, law enforcement, public education, and provision of counselling and treatment services. In response to the 2014 World Cup, the HAB, the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee (PWFAC), the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), District Fight Crime Committees and more than 70 social services and education organisations have held 100 territory-wide and district-level activities under the largest-ever anti-gambling campaign, attracting over 290,000 participants. During the World Cup period, the HKPF had stepped up efforts to combat illegal gambling activities, and as a result successfully cracked down two cases of cross-boundary illegal football betting, involving illegal bets of over HK\$800 million. In 2015, we will, together with the PWFAC, continue to count on the four counselling and treatment centres to provide counselling and treatment services. We will also ride on the district network and join hands with the above-mentioned stakeholders to carry out various anti-gambling activities, publicising the negative impact of gambling.

Advice Sought

53. Members are invited to note the initiatives of HAB as set out above.

Home Affairs Bureau
January 2015