

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1768/14-15

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

**Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 5 May 2015, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon YIU Si-wing
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

Member attending : Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Members absent : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public Officers attending : Item IV

Mrs Erika HUI LAM Yin-ming, JP
Commissioner for Narcotics

Miss Mandy WONG Man
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security
(Narcotics) Special Duties

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 Dennis CHING Chung-cham
Assistant Secretary for Security

Mr Edwin LAM Man-wing
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support)

Ms Monica AU YEUNG Mun-yee
Superintendent (Licensing)
Hong Kong Police Force

Item VI

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

Mr Billy WOO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security D

Mr David CHIU Wai-kai, IDSM
Assistant Director (Personal Documentation)
Immigration Department

Mr LOK Wai-man
Assistant Director (Information Systems)
Immigration Department

Miss Caroline FAN Mei-hing
Chief Systems Manager (Technology Services)
Immigration Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in attendance : Mr KAU Kin-wah
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 3

Mr Raymond LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Ms Mina CHAN
Council Secretary (2) 1

Miss Lulu YEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

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I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1347/14-15)

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 were confirmed.

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II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

2. Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1349/14-15(01) and (02))

Meeting in June 2015

3. Members agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 2 June 2015 at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Scope of application of section 161 of the Crimes Ordinance concerning access to computer with criminal or dishonest intent;
- (b) Training on psychological quality of police officers; and
- (c) Construction of quarters for the disciplined services in Kwun Tong.

Use of military sites and implementation of Garrison Law in Hong Kong

4. Referring to item 3 of the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion, Dr Kenneth CHAN said that the use of military sites and implementation of Garrison Law in Hong Kong should be discussed at a meeting of the Panel. Mr CHAN Kam-lam considered that the subject was outside the purview of the Panel, as the Central People's Government was responsible for the defence of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR"). The Chairman said that he would liaise with the Administration and determine the way forward in following up the item.

Letter dated 5 May 2015 from Mr Dennis KWOK

5. The Chairman said that he had received a letter dated 5 May 2015 from Mr Dennis KWOK suggesting that the Panel should hold a special meeting to discuss the Police's investigation of cases relating to the "Occupy Movement" ("the Movement"), in particular the arrangements for identification parade in police stations. The Chairman pointed out that the issues raised in Mr KWOK's letter and item 9 of the Panel's list of

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outstanding items for discussion could be discussed under agenda item V of this meeting. He added that the Administration would be requested to provide a written response to the issues raised in Mr KWOK's letter.

(Post-meeting note: The letter from Mr Dennis KWOK was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1407/14-15(02) on 6 May 2015.)

IV. Drug Situation in Hong Kong in 2014
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1349/14-15(03) and (04))

6. Commissioner for Narcotics ("C for N") briefed members on the drug situation in 2014, the Administration's latest anti-drug efforts and way forward in response to the latest drug situation.

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

Statistics relating to drug abusers

8. Noting that the number of reported drug abusers had decreased from 10 241 in 2013 to 8 926 in 2014, Mr KWOK Wai-keung expressed concern about whether the decrease was due to a decrease in the number of drug abusers, the successful rehabilitation of a large number of drug abusers or an increase in the number of hidden drug abusers. He considered that if it was due to the latter, there might be a need to launch the RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme ("RDT"). He said that as drug abuse could cause serious and irreversible harm to the health of a person, there was a need for early identification and intervention.

9. C for N responded that the Administration had been doing a lot in the early identification of drug abusers and intervention through 11 Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers and district youth outreaching social work teams. The mainstay of the Administration's drug prevention efforts included measures to facilitate early identification of drug abusers. These included promotion of help-seeking through the 24-hour helpline and support initiatives at the district level to promote awareness among members of the community, with a view to enabling family members to play a more active role in early identification and intervention.

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10. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen took the view that it could not be concluded from the statistics provided in the Administration's paper that the problem of hidden drug abuse had become more serious. He said that a decrease in the number of new drug abusers could also be reflected in an increase in the drug history of newly reported drug abusers.

11. C for N responded that the drug history of newly reported drug abusers was only one of the indicators of hidden drug abuse. Apart from the statistics provided by the Central Registry of Drug Abuse ("CRDA"), the Administration had been monitoring different sources of information to obtain a comprehensive picture of the drug situation in Hong Kong. She said that the continued increase in the drug history of newly reported drug abusers was a cause for concern, as prolonged psychotropic drug abuse could result in serious and sometimes irreversible harm to the health of drug abusers. According to the findings of a previous research study, the actual number of drug abusers was around 2.7 to 3.3 times the number of reported drug abusers under CRDA.

12. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung considered that although the number of reported abusers of traditional drugs such as heroin was lower than the number of psychotropic substance abusers, the Administration should continue to combat the abuse of traditional drugs.

13. Mr Christopher CHUNG said that statistics on drug abusers reported to CRDA might not reflect the actual situation regarding the number of drug abusers in Hong Kong. He considered that even if there was a decline in the number of reported drug abusers, anti-drug efforts should still be continued.

14. Referring to paragraph (p) of the Annex to the Administration's paper, Mr KWOK Wai-keung asked whether the offences concerned had been committed by drug abusers before or after addiction. C for N responded that such information was not captured by CRDA.

15. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that a decline in the number of reported drug abusers in Hong Kong might be the result of increased number of Hong Kong residents crossing the boundary to abuse drugs on the Mainland. C for N responded that according to statistics provided by CRDA, about 880 or 8% of reported drug abusers had crossed the boundary to abuse drugs on the Mainland in 2011. This percentage had dropped to about 5% in 2014. She said that feedback from some sources suggested that the appreciation in value of Reminbi in recent years and the administrative detention of drug abusers on the Mainland could have contributed to a decrease in cross-boundary drug abusing behaviour.

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16. Dr LAM Tai-fai sought information on the percentage of rehabilitated drug abusers who had relapsed. C for N responded that while the information was not readily available, it was noted that among the abusers reported to CRDA, over 70% were repeated cases. She said that more resources had been injected into the system in recent years for the provision of treatment and rehabilitation services, including aftercare services to those who had completed the relevant programmes.

Drugs seized in 2014

17. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concern that according to the Controlling Officer's Report of the Commissioner of Customs and Excise for 2014-2015, the amount of cannabis, methamphetamine and Ketamine seized in 2014 had substantially increased over that in 2013. As the number of reported drug abusers had decreased in 2014, he asked whether a large amount of drugs was trafficked via Hong Kong to other places. He also asked whether Administration had analysed whether the amount of drugs consumed in Hong Kong had increased.

18. C for N responded that there was no indication of an increase in the quantity of drugs abused in Hong Kong. She noted that the amount of drugs seized in a year would usually be larger when large-scale drug trafficking cases were detected in that year. She said that Hong Kong was a free port and some of the drugs seized were being transported en route to other places. The law enforcement agencies ("LEAs") of Hong Kong maintained close collaboration with LEAs of other jurisdictions through exchanging intelligence and joint operations, and had also in 2014 established cooperation with freight forwarders to combat the problem.

Enactment of legislation against new drugs

19. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed concern about reports regarding abuse of a new drug known as "smiley paper" among young people in Hong Kong. He said that actions should be taken early to combat the problem.

20. C for N responded that "smiley paper" was a street name of NBOMe compounds in blotter form. The Administration had briefed the Panel at its last meeting on 10 April 2015 on the Administration's proposal to update the definition of synthetic cannabinoids in the First Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance ("DDO") (Cap. 134) and to

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bring NBOMe compounds under the control of DDO. It was expected that the relevant subsidiary legislation would be tabled in LegCo for negative vetting in July 2015. She stressed that the Administration would continue to monitor the trend of new drugs and seek to bring these under control in a timely manner.

Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component ("HSP(DT)")

21. Mr Christopher CHUNG sought information on the progress of implementation of HSP(DT).

22. Dr LAM Tai-fai said that the decrease in the number of drug abusers in 2014 reflected the effectiveness of the Administration's anti-drug work, especially in schools. He considered that HSP(DT) should be continued and expanded.

23. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung queried the effectiveness of HSP(DT). He considered that the Administration should allocate more resources for launching publicity drives on the harmful effects of drugs.

24. C for N pointed out that HSP(DT) was a preventive education and publicity programme aimed at fostering a drug-free culture in schools. It was not intended for identifying individual drug abusers. Instead, personal growth programmes were launched for students to promote their self-esteem, to strengthen their resolve to stay away from drugs and, for those with drug problems, to seek help early. 73 schools had participated in HSP(DT) in the current school year and it was expected that the number would rise to about 90 in the next school year. As HSP(DT) would have been implemented for four school years, the Administration would conduct an evaluation research in the 2015-2016 school year.

RDT

25. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen sought information on the way forward regarding RDT. He also asked whether the Administration had any plans to carry out rapid oral fluid test on suspected drug abusers. C for N responded that the Administration was following up the recommendations of the Action Committee Against Narcotics and examining various issues, before a more detailed framework could be formulated for the second-stage public consultation. Accordingly, there was not yet a fixed timetable on the second-stage consultation. The development of a rapid oral fluid test kit was still in progress.

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V. Police's handling of public meetings and public processions
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1349/14-15(05) and (06))

26. Members noted a letter dated 4 May 2015 from Dr Kenneth CHAN to the Administration opposing the Police's plan to procure specialised crowd management vehicles with water spray device.

(Post-meeting note: The letter from Dr Kenneth CHAN was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1407/14-15(01) on 6 May 2015.)

27. Members noted the updated background brief entitled "Police's handling of public meetings and public processions" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Identification parades

28. Ms Claudia MO said that there were reports about suspects of alleged assaults on reporters during the Movement being allowed to wear shower caps and masks during an identification parade in a police station. She queried whether this was the practice in identification parades. She asked if there was information on the percentage of cases in which shower caps and masks were worn by suspects in identification parades.

29. Dr Helena WONG expressed concern about whether it was the usual practice to allow suspects to wear shower caps and masks during an identification parade in a police station.

30. US for S responded that the purpose of an identification parade was to gather evidence and this had to be fairly and impartially conducted. There were stringent requirements on evidence presented before the court in legal proceedings. Where an evidence collection process was found by the court to be unfair and the rights of suspects were deemed infringed upon, the evidence concerned might be ruled inadmissible. He said that the officer-in-charge of an identification parade was an officer at the rank of at least Chief Inspector of Police who was not involved in the investigation of the case concerned. He said he did not have the information on the percentage of identification parades in which shower caps and masks were worn by suspects.

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Police's handling of public assemblies relating to the Movement and "anti-parallel trader" protests

31. Mr KWOK Wai-keung said the Movement, which had lasted for 79 days, had seriously affected the daily life of citizens, especially patients who had to seek medical treatment. He expressed concern that two police officers had suffered heart attack when handling incidents relating to the Movement, of whom one had died. He expressed concern about the number of police officers injured or hospitalised when performing duties relating to the Movement. Noting that police officers above a certain rank were not eligible for overtime payment, he expressed concern about the total overtime work performed by such senior police officers in handling incidents relating to the Movement.

32. Mr Michael TIEN said that the Police's clearance operations relating to the Movement had been completed peacefully because the parties concerned, especially police officers, had exercised great restraint and the Police management had handled the matter appropriately.

33. Dr LAM Tai-fai considered that public assemblies relating to the Movement had a negative impact on the rule of law, public order and traffic in Hong Kong. He said that although Hong Kong residents enjoyed the rights to assembly, procession and demonstration under the Basic Law, such rights should be exercised in a peaceful manner. He expressed concern about the percentage of public meetings and public processions which had not been held peacefully. He pointed out that issuing a letter of no objection to a public gathering organised by persons who had a record of holding non-peaceful public assemblies would be unfair to other members of the public whose rights were infringed upon.

34. Mr CHAN Kam-lam expressed concern that some people in Hong Kong did not respect the rule of law and display various forms of unruly behaviour, including kicking the belongings of other persons, verbal abuses, bullying small children and loitering on roads to pick up coins which had been deliberately dropped. He considered that such behaviour had seriously infringed on the rights of other road users and disrupted public order. He expressed concern that prosecution had not yet been instituted against many persons arrested in incidents relating to the Movement.

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35. Mr Frankie YICK expressed concern that some demonstrators had beaten and scratched a taxi in the early hours of 28 April 2015 in Mongkok. He said that the taxi industry was very concerned about the incident and hoped that measures would be taken to protect their life and property.

36. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support) ("ACP(S)") responded that in the incident concerned, police officers had repeatedly reminded demonstrators to comply with the conditions in the letter of no objection, abide by the law, consider the safety of other road users and respect the rights of other persons. He stressed that the Police had taken prompt actions in the incident to restore order and arrested eight persons. Five police officers had been injured in the incident.

37. US for S stressed that while Hong Kong residents enjoyed the right of demonstration, such a right should not be exercised in a manner infringing upon the rights of other road users or detrimental to public order and public safety. For public meetings or public processions of which the Police were notified, the Police would impose conditions where appropriate in the letters of no objection and assess the police manpower required to handle the events. There were also contingency plans as well as measures in place enabling prompt deployment of additional police manpower to cater for necessary situations. He said that the concerns of Mr Frankie YICK would be conveyed to the Police.

38. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that the Police should, instead of deploying manpower to handle "anti-parallel trader" demonstrations, deploy more manpower to handle the nuisance caused by parallel trade activities.

39. US for S responded that the Administration was very concerned about the problems caused by parallel trade activities and interdepartmental meetings chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration had been convened to tackle the problems. He said the Administration would take rigorous actions to deal with these problems. He said that the holding of public processions and expression of views should be made in a lawful and peaceful manner. However, acts of bullying and venting of anger had been found in "anti-parallel trader" demonstrations and these acts had to be handled in accordance with the law.

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40. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concern that recent "anti-parallel trader" demonstrations had caused Hong Kong to be ranked the fourth most unfriendly city in the world in a recent survey conducted by a travel website. He queried why letters of no objection were issued to demonstrators who had a record of breaching the law. US for S responded that notification was not required under the law for public processions of 30 persons or less. He said that as regards those of 30 people or more, sometimes, it was not easy for the Police to identify the organisers behind.

41. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed disappointment about the behaviour of many police officers in handling incidents relating to the Movement, including the alleged assault of a subdued demonstrator by seven plain-clothed police officers. He expressed concern that the Independent Police Complaints Council ("IPCC") did not have the power to conduct independent investigations. The United Nations Committee Against Torture had stated in its concluding observations on the second periodic report of HKSAR under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment that Hong Kong should take steps to establish a fully independent mechanism mandated to receive and investigate complaints on police misconduct.

42. US for S responded that the issue of who should investigate police complaints had already been discussed by LegCo during the enactment of the IPCC Ordinance (Cap. 604) and, after discussion, it was considered that the current regime was the most suitable in the context of Hong Kong. He recalled having studied the police monitoring mechanisms in many countries when he was in charge of the Complaints Against Police Office and pointed out that different monitoring mechanisms had different merits and drawbacks.

43. Mr CHAN Kin-por sought information on the latest progress regarding the use of body worn video cameras ("BWVCs") by police officers. US for S advised that a judge in the United States of America ("USA") had stated that BWVCs should be made available, as video recordings provided an objective record of the incident, encouraged lawful and respectful interactions on the part of both parties concerned, made it easier to judge which complaints were true, and protected law enforcement officers from false allegations. He said it was based on these principles that BWVCs had been made available for the Police. ACP(S) added that about 50 BWVCs had been procured in the first phase field trial in 2013. About 300 BWVCs had been procured in the second

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phase field trial in 2014. BWVCs had been found effective in capturing what had happened at the scene.

44. The Chairman said that he was content with the Police's professionalism and restraint in handling the Movement. He considered that it was the relations between the Police and demonstrators which had deteriorated. However, support from other members of the public for the Police had increased. He said that members of the public should abide by the law and the Police should strictly enforce the law.

Training for police officers

45. Mr KWOK Wai-keung asked whether training on the handling of large scale public meetings and public processions would be strengthened for police officers. US for S responded that as there was a six-fold increase in the number of public meetings and public processions since the return of Hong Kong's sovereignty to China, the Police had strengthened training on the handling of large scale public meetings and public processions as well as psychological quality for police officers.

Issues relating to specialised crowd management vehicles with water spray devices

46. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that when considering the need for procurement of specialised crowd management vehicles, the Police should compare the degree of violence of public assemblies in Hong Kong with those of other places.

47. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung quoted the recent imposition of curfew in Baltimore of USA and said that participants of the Movement were not violent in comparison with those of many other places.

48. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed concern that although police officers were professional and had exercised restraint in handling incidents relating to the Movement, many frontline police officers had been insulted with abusive language by participants of public assemblies. She expressed concern that there had been scenes of confrontation between demonstrators with weapons and police officers with batons. She considered that there was a need for the Police to be equipped with crowd management vehicles with water spray device to create a safe distance in such situations.

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49. US for S advised that according to Principle 2 of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials ("the UN Principles") adopted in 1990, governments and law enforcement agencies should develop a range of means as broad as possible and equip law enforcement officials with various types of instruments that could be used for handling different situations. He said it was based on this principle that the Administration considered that the Police should be equipped with a wider range of instruments that could be deployed in situations where necessary.

50. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that Police-public relations had deteriorated. He queried whether the problem should be tackled with the procurement of specialised crowd management vehicles with water spraying devices. He said that there had been cases in other countries in which the water jet sprayed from such vehicles had caused blindness or death. He considered that the proposed vehicles were intended for suppressing freedom of expression and requested the Administration to withdraw its plan to procure such vehicles.

51. US for S said he did not agree with the views of Dr Kenneth CHAN. He said that experience indicated that injuries in large-scale public order events were sustained mostly when there was body contact. With the deployment of the proposed specialised crowd management vehicles, a safe distance could be created between demonstrators and police officers, thus reducing the chance of injuries to demonstrators and police officers. He stressed that the Police would formulate strict operating guidelines on the use of such vehicles and only trained police officers would be allowed to operate such vehicles under supervision.

52. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that although members of the public who had participated in the Movement took the view that Police-public relations had deteriorated, other members of the public who had been affected by the Movement were of the view that Police-public relations had improved. She expressed concern that some participants of the Movement had poured dirty liquid onto police officers and deliberately provoked frontline police officers. She queried whether there was any country in which demonstrators who staged violent charging could be dispersed by police officers without the assistance of any equipment.

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53. Mr Paul TSE considered that when demonstrators exhibited more violence, police officers would have to employ a higher level of force to handle the situation. It would be important to maintain a safe distance in such a situation to minimise injuries. Similarly, there would also be a need to maintain a safe distance in confrontation between different groups with opposing views. There was thus a need for procurement of the proposed vehicles. He said that the spirit of the UN Principles was to provide police officers with suitable equipment for handling different situations.

54. Mr Paul TSE expressed reservation about the view that the Police should not procure the proposed crowd management vehicles because of the possibility that they might cause injuries. He queried whether a police officer should be prohibited from carrying any gun or other device that might cause injuries, if the same principle was to be applied, and added that an umbrella could also be used to injure other persons. He considered that the crux of the issue was the formulation of strict guidelines on the use of the proposed vehicles and provision of relevant training to police officers.

55. Dr Elizabeth QUAT said that many law-abiding citizens had commended the Police for their work and Police-public relations was not poor especially at the district level. She pointed out that the need for specialised crowd management vehicles with water spray device arose from the concerns of many people that the Movement might end in bloodshed. Such vehicles, if available, would reduce injuries in confrontations. She expressed concern that demonstrators were increasingly violent and some had even exhibited unruly behaviour against tourists. She queried how police officers could handle such situations, if they were neither allowed to use oleoresin capsicum foam nor the proposed vehicles.

56. Dr Helena WONG expressed concern that the proposed vehicles would be capable of spraying liquid dye. She queried whether such a function was intended for identification of persons to be arrested subsequently and whether similar vehicles in use in other countries were also capable of spraying dye. She added that the police of USA had uploaded guidelines on the use of force by police officers onto its website and such guidelines were regularly reviewed. She considered that the Police should also follow such a practice.

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57. Mr CHAN Kin-por said that there was a need for procurement of specialised crowd management vehicles from the perspective of maintaining law and order in Hong Kong.

58. Mr YIU Si-wing considered that many objects and equipment could be used to injure other persons. The issue was the formulation of strict, reasonable and lawful guidelines. He said that although police officers were equipped with a gun, it was rarely used because there were strict guidelines on its use.

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59. The Chairman said that the crux of the issue was the use of the proposed vehicles rather than whether the proposed vehicles should be procured. He requested the Administration to provide guidelines on the use of specialised crowd management vehicles with water spray devices, after such vehicles were procured.

60. US for S advised that the Police had plans to send officers to advanced countries where specialised crowd management vehicles with water spray devices had been deployed in order to study their operational experience so that the Police could formulate guidelines on the use of such vehicles and draw up relevant training programmes based on such experience. The Police would also study court cases in these countries, if any, relating to the use of such devices. He added that in overseas countries, the water spray devices of such vehicles were capable of discharging different spurts of spray with different water pressure. A weaker water pressure was generally applied initially.

Police-public relations

61. Mr James TO sought information on the views of the Security Bureau regarding the latest state of Police-public relations. US for S responded that Police-public relations were on the whole positive. He said that citizens continued to have trust in the Police, from whom they sought help when in need and took part in police activities, as reflected from the following statistics -

- (a) in 2014, the Police received about 2.3 million "999 calls", of which about 900 000 calls required follow-up actions by the Police, representing an increase of 5% over that of the previous year;

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- (b) the numbers of persons who had responded to the Police's recruitment exercise in December 2014 through the Police's website and in person were 1 542 and 1 130 respectively, representing increases of 9% and 8% respectively over those of the previous year;
- (c) the number of crime reports made through the Internet had reached 17 306 in 2014, representing an increase of about 14% over that of the previous year. In particular, the number of reports on technology crimes went up by 13%; and
- (d) the rate of participation in the activities of the Junior Police Call had increased by 7% in 2014.

62. Mr James TO considered that the statistics quoted by the Administration could not reflect the current situation regarding Police-public relations.

63. Mr Michael TIEN considered that Police-student relations had worsened after the Movement and actions should be taken to address such a problem. US for S responded that the Police had all along sought to maintain good relations with all members of the public, including students. Under the Police Mentorship Programme, police officers visited universities from which they graduated to share their experience with students. He also said that the Police set "engaging the community" as their first organisational Strategic Direction in these years, reflecting the importance they placed on building community relations. He undertook to convey Mr TIEN's views to the Police.

[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman advised that the meeting would be extended to 5:45 pm.]

VI. The Next Generation Electronic Passport System
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1349/14-15(07))

64. The Chairman drew Members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure concerning the requirement of disclosing personal pecuniary interest.

65. US for S briefed Members on the Administration's proposal to implement the Next Generation Electronic Passport System.

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[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman suggested that the meeting be further extended to 6:00 pm. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung objected to the proposal. The Chairman said that the meeting would end at 5:45 pm.]

Printing of existing electronic HKSAR Passports ("e-Passports")

66. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed concern about reports that existing e-Passports were produced by C & C Security Printing Company Limited owned by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR. He queried whether the production contract concerned had been awarded through an open tendering exercise.

67. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed concern about whether the contract for production of e-Passports could be awarded to another printing company. Dr Kenneth CHAN asked whether the Immigration Department ("ImmD") could take over such production work.

68. US for S responded that the HKSAR Passport was a passport of the People's Republic of China ("PRC"). The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group agreed in 1996 that blank passport booklets of the HKSAR Passport would be produced by the Central People's Government ("CPG"). Subsequently, C & C Security Printing Company Limited had been appointed by CPG to carry out such production work. The company had substantial experience in production of documents requiring a high level of security, such as bank passbooks, cheque books, passports, other travel documents, as well as smart cards. He added that C & C Security Printing Company Limited had been awarded a certificate of ISO 14298:2013 - Management of Security Printing Processes at Governmental Level issued by INTERGRAF, the highest level of security in the printing industry. As far as the Administration understood, it was the only printing company in the greater China region which had been issued with such certificate for security printing.

69. US for S added that the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China ("Nationality Law") had been extended to Hong Kong under Annex III to the Basic Law. The HKSAR Government was authorised by CPG under Article 154 of the Basic Law to issue passports in accordance with law.

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70. Mr Paul TSE asked whether it was the practice of other countries to outsource passport production work by inviting public tenders, given the high degree of security required of passports. US for S responded that passports were produced by government departments in many countries. There were also countries where a joint printing company was formed by the government and private printers for the production of passports. He said that the production cost of existing e-Passports was low in comparison with those of other countries, as reflected in the application fee of \$370 for a HKSAR Passport, compared to \$840 for a United Kingdom passport, \$1,500 for an Australian passport, \$760 for a Canadian passport, \$460 for a Singapore passport and \$1,030 for a Japanese passport.

71. Mr Charles MOK expressed concern about whether the personal data pages of existing e-Passports were printed by ImmD. He also expressed concern about the possibility of leakage of personal data of passport holders to a third party. US for S responded that all personal data pages of existing e-Passports were printed at the Travel Document Personalisation Centre of ImmD, where the security level was high. He stressed that the personal data of e-Passports were only accessible by authorised personnel of ImmD.

Proposed new e-Passports

72. Mr Kenneth LEUNG sought information on the features of the proposed new e-Passports.

73. Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern about the security features of the proposed new e-Passports.

74. Assistant Director of Immigration (Information Systems) ("AD of Imm(IS)") explained that the proposed new e-Passports would incorporate enhanced security features such as see-through window, which could be easily distinguished by law enforcement agencies.

75. Mr Kenneth LEUNG expressed concern about whether a new generation e-Passport would be introduced by the Administration whenever new standards on biometric passports were announced by the International Civil Aviation Organization ("ICAO").

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76. US for S responded that ICAO was a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for, among other things, devising travel document standards for compliance by contracting members with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of control on passport fraud and maintaining the integrity and security of passports and other travel documents. The new standard published by ICAO in May 2004 had already been adopted by many advanced countries. He added that since introduction of the existing e-Passport, only one case involving a faked e-Passport of a low quality had so far been identified in Hong Kong.

Whether existing e-Passport holders would be required to replace their passports with new e-Passports

77. Mr CHAN Kam-lam expressed concern about whether existing e-Passport holders would be required to replace their passports with the proposed new e-Passports. Dr Elizabeth QUAT also asked whether there was a deadline for such replacement. US for S advised that such replacement would not be necessary. AD of Imm(IS) added that holders of existing e-Passports could renew their passports according to the expiry dates of their respective passports.

78. The Chairman concluded that members had no objection in principle to the Administration's submission of its proposal to the Finance Committee.

79. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:41 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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