

**Presentation to the  
Special Meeting of the Finance Committee of Legislative Council  
by Mr LAU Kong-wah, Secretary for Home Affairs,  
on 6 April 2016**

Chairman,

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is responsible for quite a diversified policy portfolio covering a total of eight Heads of Expenditure. Our priority areas with additional resources provided are as follows:

**Youth Development**

2. As regards youth development, we have been promoting 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. In the past few years, the Government has been allocating more resources to promote youth development and provide support to young people in different aspects, such as Mainland and overseas exchange, internship and volunteer programmes, life planning, the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship, entrepreneurial support etc. and our work has begun to bear fruit. We will continue to pursue the relevant work and to provide diversified development opportunities to young people with different backgrounds.

**Youth Development Fund**

3. In the Policy Address 2015, the Chief Executive proposed setting up a \$300 million Youth Development Fund (YDF) in the form of matching funds for collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to assist young people in starting their own businesses. The fund will also subsidise innovative youth development activities not covered by existing schemes. We

consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Home Affairs regarding the operational details of YDF in mid-July 2015. Members have supported the proposed arrangements of the YDF. We will roll out the scheme and accept applications after obtaining LegCo's funding approval.

## **Youth Hostel**

4. We have been actively steering the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) and actively assisting NGOs to liaise with relevant Government departments in solving technical difficulties encountered by individual projects. At present, five projects under YHS are moving ahead. For the pre-construction works of Po Leung Kuk's project and the construction works of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups' project, we have consulted the Panel on Home Affairs and are going to seek endorsement from the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC). I would like to appeal to all LegCo Members to support the funding proposals of various YHS projects in the meetings of the PWSC and the Finance Committee (FC), so that young people can benefit from the Scheme as soon as possible. Meanwhile, I am pleased to report that, apart from the 5 announced YHS projects, the HAB has been liaising closely with some other NGOs to deliberate on other YHS projects. We shall announce the details of those proposed projects as soon as they progress to a mature stage. I am confident that we will be able to exceed the original target of providing 3 000 youth hostel places.

## **Social Enterprises**

### **Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme**

5. The Government is committed to promoting the development of social enterprises (SEs). Since its inception in 2006 and up to January 2016, the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme (ESR Programme) of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) has approved a total grant of \$207 million for the establishment of 176 SEs. The funded SEs have

brought about employment opportunities to nearly 4 000 persons from the socially disadvantaged groups to enhance their self-reliance.

6. HAD will roll out a new phase of the ESR Programme from 2016-17 to 2019-20. To keep pace with the latest development of SE sector, the ESR Programme will implement enhancement measures including broadening of funding scope and extension of eligibility requirements. Besides benefiting a wider variety of SEs, this can also encourage more interested people to join the SE movement to empower the SE sector in Hong Kong and respond to social challenges with more social innovative models and sustainable methods.

### **District-led Actions Scheme**

7. The new term of District Councils (DCs) has commenced operation since 1 January 2016. The Government always places great emphasis on maintaining regular exchange and close cooperation with 18 DCs, with a view to solving district issues and capitalising on district opportunities. A pilot scheme was introduced in Sham Shui Po (SSP) and Yuen Long (YL) in April 2014. We conducted a review upon the scheme's completion in last August. The scheme was successful and effective in resolving long-standing district issues, and was deeply welcomed by the local community. It was therefore proposed in the 2016 Policy Address that the scheme be extended to all 18 districts and renamed as “District-led Actions Scheme” (DAS) to highlight the leading role played by districts. In consultation with DCs, the District Management Committees chaired by District Officers will identify priority district issues for tackling under DAS. In the light of the successful experience of the Pilot Scheme in SSP and YL, we understand that the issues being discussed by the 18 districts to be addressed under DAS include environmental hygiene, shop-front extension, mosquito problems, illegal bicycle-parking, “three-nil” buildings and street sleepers, etc.

## **Arts and Culture**

### **Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme**

8. To further promote the development of the arts and culture, we will launch the Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme (the Pilot Scheme) this year to help the more established arts groups and organisations enhance their ability in raising private donations and sponsorships through matching grants, thereby widening their funding sources and promoting a culture of donation.

9. We have reserved \$300 million for implementing the Pilot Scheme, and will appeal to the private sector for support for the arts groups' fundraising efforts, as well as enhancing the capability of arts groups in raising donations and sponsorships in collaboration with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

### **Free admission to designated Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) museums**

10. To further promote culture and arts as well as knowledge and experience in history and science, and to encourage more visits to the museums for building a wider audience base, the Government decided to make free admission to the permanent exhibitions of designated museums of LCSD a standing practice. Under the new measure, the permanent exhibitions of five fee-charging LCSD museums (i.e. the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum) will open free to the public, whereas the permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Space Museum will offer free admission to full-time students. The Government proposes to amend the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance accordingly to implement these arrangements.

## **Promoting reading among the elderly**

11. With a view to further promoting reading among the elderly, starting from late 2016, LCSD will enhance by phases the reading environment and supporting facilities of public libraries such as seating and reading-aid equipment, taking into account the needs of the elderly. At the same time, we will also enrich the library collections and organise various library activities and workshops suitable for the elderly and their carers in a bid to encourage life-long learning, thereby help equipping the elderly with multiple skills, integrate into the community and enrich their cultural life.

## **Sports Development**

### **Sports facilities**

12. To promote greater participation in sport, we have built new facilities and upgraded existing facilities with a budgeted cost of over \$10.5 billion in total from 2011 to early 2016. Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre, the handball court and roller skating rink of the redeveloped Victoria Park, and the football pitch and roller skating rink of the redeveloped Kwun Tong Recreation Ground were opened last year. New projects currently under way include indoor sports centres at Sha Tin Tau Road in Sha Tin, Siu Lun in Tuen Mun, Ngan Shing Street in Sha Tin, Ma Tin Road in Yuen Long, Chung Mei Road in Tsing Yi and one next to Tsuen Wan Park, and an artificial turf football pitch at Hing Wah Street West in Sham Shui Po. We plan to seek LegCo's support to allocate funding for the construction of an indoor sports centre, swimming pool and two hard surface football pitches at Plover Cove Road in Tai Po at an estimated cost of around \$2.1 billion.

## **Publicity for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

13. The quadrennial Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will be held this year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We will be taking the upsurge of the Games to promote a wider participation in sports of the people in Hong Kong. We will also encourage more support to be given to our athlete delegates and share their spirit of

perseverance and sportsmanship during the games.

### **Career Programme for Retired Athletes**

14. To further enhance support for retired athletes, recurrent funds have been reserved by the Government to set up a new career programme for retired athletes (the Programme) to help retired athletes build a solid foundation for their career plans and future development through subsidising employment at schools and “national sports associations” (NSAs). The Programme will also encourage more potential young athletes to develop to full-time elite athletes and to achieve excellence in international major sports competitions. We are now consulting the main stakeholders to work out specific arrangements for the Programme.

### **Pilot scheme of Angling Zones**

15. To promote a water-friendly culture, we will implement a pilot scheme of angling zones in three LCSD leisure venues in 2016-17, which include Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section), Pak Shek Kok Promenade in Tai Po and Cheung Fai Road Promenade in Tsing Yi. These venues will be provided with designated angling zones and ancillary facilities so that the public may take part in angling activities in a more pleasant environment.

### **Provision of elderly fitness equipment and priority seats**

16. In face of an ageing population, the Government endeavours to create an age-friendly environment in the community. For the leisure and cultural services, we will provide about 150 additional sets of elderly fitness equipment at selected outdoor leisure venues in 18 districts to better meet the needs of the elderly. Besides, we will provide about 1 000 priority seats for the elderly at indoor sports facilities including swimming pool complexes and sports centres.

## **Infrastructure Works and Integrated Basement for West Kowloon Cultural District**

17. Regarding the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), construction of the infrastructure works and integrated basement such as the underground road and the protection works for the existing Airport Express tunnels in M+, foundation works for the Lyric Theatre Complex and its adjoining basement, and the at-grade road serving the Park and the Artist Square Development Area (ASDA) alongside the WKCD developments are now in full swing. In addition, to facilitate pedestrian movements between the existing MTR Kowloon Station and ASDA, the Government plans to seek FC's funding approval in the first quarter of 2017 for the construction of the proposed Artist Square Bridge, which will become an iconic gateway to ASDA.

18. This concludes my brief presentation. My colleagues and I will be glad to answer questions from Members. Thank you.