

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)947/15-16

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

Minutes of meeting

**held on Tuesday, 5 January 2016, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, 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 NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
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 CHUNG Kwok-pan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Public Officers attending : Item IV

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

Mr Andrew TSANG Yue-tung
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E

Mr Dennis CHING Chung-cham
Assistant Secretary for Security

Ms Edwina LAU Chi-wai
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Personnel)

Dr Eric CHENG Tak-ming
Deputy Director (2), Hong Kong Police College
Hong Kong Police Force

Dr Edmond LAU Kam-lun
Senior Police Clinical Psychologist (1) and
Head, Psychological Services Group
Hong Kong Police Force

Miss Cammie LEUNG Ka-mei
Superintendent 2 (Learning Services Division)
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr Simon Francis Hannaford
Superintendent (General) (Support Branch)
Hong Kong Police Force

Item V

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

Mr Andrew TSANG Yue-tung
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E

Mr Dennis CHING Chung-cham
Assistant Secretary for Security

Mr Patrick Douglas Gerard Hodson
Regional Commander (Marine) (Acting)
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr James Mather
Superintendent (Project Implementation Team)
(Marine Region Support Bureau)
Hong Kong Police Force

Item VI

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

Mr Vic YAU Cheuk-hang
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security A

Captain Michael CHAN Chi-pui, MBS, MBB, GSM, AE
Controller
Government Flying Service

Captain Eric LEUNG Man-chiu
Senior Pilot
Government Flying Service

Item VII

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

Mr Alex CHAN Yuen-tak
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security B

Mr WOO Ying-ming
Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services
(Operations)

Mr Dennis CHENG Tung-kit
Senior Engineer / Project 1
Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

Item VIII

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

Mr Alex CHAN Yuen-tak
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security B

Mr Shane LO Siu-hang, FSMSM
Assistant Director (Fire Safety)
Fire Services Department

Mr CHIU Wai-kin
Senior Divisional Officer (Building Improvement) 2
Fire Services Department

Mr Alex CHOW Kim-ping
Assistant Director / Mandatory Building Inspection
Buildings Department

Mr LI Kan-kay
Chief Engineer / Customer Services
Water Supplies Department

Mr Franco KWOK Wai-fan, JP
Assistant Director (4)
Home Affairs Department

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

Staff in attendance : Mr Timothy TSO
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Raymond LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Miss Lulu YEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

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I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
(LC Paper No. CB(2)529/15-16)

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

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)560/15-16(01), CB(2)562/15-16(01) and (02))

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

- (a) letter dated 30 December 2015 from Mr LEUNG Che-cheung suggesting the Panel to discuss measures to combat vice activities;
- (b) letter dated 2 January 2016 from Ms Claudia MO suggesting the Panel to discuss issues relating to recent missing person reports associated with a bookstore; and
- (c) joint letter dated 4 January 2016 from Mr Albert HO, Mr James TO, Ms Emily LAU, Mr WU Chi-wai, Mr SIN Chung-kai and Dr Helena WONG suggesting the Panel to discuss issues relating to recent missing person reports associated with a bookstore.

3. Mr James TO, Ms Emily LAU, Ms Cyd HO, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Kenneth CHAN, Mr Kenneth LEUNG, Mr Dennis KWOK and Dr Helena WONG took the view that a special meeting should be held as soon as possible to discuss issues relating to the incident of alleged missing of shareholders and staff members of Causeway Bay Books ("the incident") as well as the notification mechanism between the Mainland authorities and the Hong Kong Special

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Administrative Region Government regarding Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland. Ms Claudia MO considered that the incident was related to the implementation of "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong and freedom of publication. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about whether any Mainland law enforcement officers had taken enforcement actions in Hong Kong in the incident. She considered that the matter posed a challenge to the implementation of the Basic Law in Hong Kong. Mr Dennis KWOK considered that the incident was related to immigration control and public safety in Hong Kong. Mr Kenneth LEUNG and Mr Charles MOK said that many people in the business sector were concerned about the incident. Ms Cyd HO considered that even though the wife of Mr LEE Po, one of the shareholders, had withdrawn the missing person report regarding her husband, there was a need for the Police to continue investigation into the incident until the missing person had appeared. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that there were a number of suspicious issues in the fax issued by Mr LEE. There was also a need to discuss whether the notification mechanism concerned had functioned effectively. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that this was not the first time when Mainland law enforcement officers were alleged of taking enforcement actions in Hong Kong. Mr James TO said that there was a need to discuss whether the Administration had tried it best to follow up the incident as well as issues relating to immigration control. Dr Helena WONG added that there was widespread public concern about the incident and the implementation of "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong.

4. Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Mr WONG Kwok-kin, Mr NG Leung-sing, Mr YIU Si-wing and Mr Christopher CHEUNG considered it not an appropriate time to discuss the subject concerned when the Police were still carrying out investigation to identify the facts. Mr NG Leung-sing said that he had received a message from an old business friend that the persons concerned had entered the Mainland by smuggling boats and been arrested in the Mainland for prostitution. He queried whether it would be an infringement of a person's privacy, if a meeting was held to discuss something on the basis of rumours before the facts were known. Mr CHAN Kam-lam considered that the Police should continue with its investigation and the results should be made public. Mr WONG Kwok-kin said that there was so far no evidence indicating that Mainland law enforcement officers had taken enforcement actions in Hong Kong. Mr YIU Si-wing said that there were different rumours about the incident and it was premature to draw a conclusion on what had happened.

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5. The Chairman said that he would further consider the suggestion of holding a special meeting to discuss the subject concerned, having regard to the views expressed. Ms Claudia MO said that the Chairman should decide within 10 working days whether to hold a special meeting before the next regular meeting on 2 February 2016.

(Post-meeting note: On the instruction of the Chairman, the item "Notification mechanism between the Mainland authorities and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and assistance to Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland" was included in the agenda for the special meeting on 26 January 2016.)

6. The Chairman said that he had received a request from Mr Kenneth LEUNG for moving a motion relating to the incident. As the motion was not directly related to an agenda item of the meeting, he ruled in accordance with Rule 22(p) of the House Rules that the motion might not be proposed.

7. Members agreed that the Administration be requested to provide a response to the issues raised in the letter from Ms Claudia MO and the joint letter from Mr Albert HO, Mr James TO, Ms Emily LAU, Mr WU Chi-wai, Mr SIN Chung-kai and Dr Helena WONG regarding recent missing person reports. Ms Emily LAU said that a special meeting should be convened once the notification concerned had been received from the Mainland authorities.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)539/15-16(01) and (02))

8. Members agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 2 February 2016 at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Briefing by the Secretary for Security on the Chief Executive's 2016 Policy Address;
- (b) Briefing by the Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption on the Chief Executive's 2016 Policy Address;

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- (c) Comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims; and
- (d) Computerization for "Development of Customs and Excise Information and Risk Management System".

IV. Training on psychological quality of police officers
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)539/15-16(03) and (04))

9. Under Secretary for Security ("US for S") briefed members on the Police's training on psychological quality of police officers.

10. Members noted an information note entitled "Training on psychological quality of police officers" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

Training programmes and materials

11. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper, Mr MA Fung-kwok asked whether the Police had, after the Occupy Movement, reviewed the need for updating its training programmes on psychological quality of police officers.

12. US for S responded that Police Clinical Psychologists had visited frontline police officers to understand their psychological state and provide psychological support during the illegal "Occupy Movement". He said that the Police's training courses on psychological quality were reviewed and updated from time to time where necessary in response to the prevailing needs. Besides the enhancement of psychological knowledge and skills, workshops as well as seminars were held and individual psychological counselling service was provided to police officers. Senior Police Clinical Psychologist (1) and Head, Psychological Services Group, Hong Kong Police Force added that the Police had also developed different training elements and materials after the illegal "Occupy Movement" for police officers, covering such areas as coping with stress arising from prolonged work and handling of differences in views among family members and friends.

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13. Mr NG Leung-sing expressed support for enforcement of the law by police officers. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper, he asked how "Treat your body" could be fulfilled, if the legs of a police officer holding a warning banner with his hands at a public meeting were repeatedly kicked by demonstrators or corrosive liquid was poured from height onto police officers. US for S expressed appreciation for the Police in handling the illegal "Occupy Movement" with professionalism and restraint. He said that investigation would be conducted into illegal acts and prosecution would be initiated if there was sufficient evidence. He said that psychological training was provided to police officers to cope with different situations in large-scale public order events and the Police had suitable equipment for deployment to handle such events.

14. Ms Cyd HO said that an experiment conducted by a professor of an overseas university revealed that many people had a tendency to abuse their power. She asked whether the training programme for police officers covered the prevention of abuse of power within police stations. US for S responded that the experiment quoted was conducted under specific experiment conditions. The Police's psychological training designed for officers covered some of the elements mentioned by Ms HO. He said that the overall performance of the Police was reflected in Hong Kong's law and order situation and low crime rate, which reflected the results of the training provided to police officers.

15. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper, Ms Emily LAU said that the Police should invite participants of large scale public order events to share their thoughts to facilitate the development of training contents in relation to the element "Know your People". US for S said that he would convey the suggestion to the Police. He said that there were different ways to understand the behaviour of participants of large scale public order events and the Police would study them.

16. Dr LAM Tai-fai said that without good psychological quality, a police officer would not be able to maintain law and order effectively. He considered that the Police should constantly update its training programmes in response to social development. US for S stressed that the contents of training programmes and the methodology of training were updated from time to time in response to latest changes in the community with a view to further improving the effectiveness of training. He said that this was reflected in the Police's rolling out of psychological

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competency training, which was then followed by training on emotional fitness as well as the "T.A.K.E. Model - Psychological Preparation for Large-scale Public Order Events".

17. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that the footage of a former superintendent hitting participants of a public meeting with a baton should serve as training materials on what should not be done by police officers.

Effectiveness of the training programmes

18. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Administration's paper, Dr LAM Tai-fai expressed concern that the statistics on the effectiveness of the training programmes were based on a survey conducted in 2008. US for S responded that the training effectiveness survey conducted in 2008 was intended for assessing the results and determining the way forward of psychological competency training.

19. Dr Helena WONG asked whether the Police had assessed the effectiveness of its training programmes on psychological quality. She also asked whether assessments were made of the suitability of individual frontline police officers for law enforcement under confrontational situations and whether follow-up actions were taken after such assessments.

20. US for S responded that the Police had carried out an assessment of emotional fitness training and noted that over 90% of the respondents considered the training programme effective. The Police had also found that the emotional fitness of police officers who had attended the "T.A.K.E. Model - Psychological Preparation for Large-scale Public Order Events" were generally better. He pointed out that the Police's psychological competency training had won an Excellence in Practice Award from the American Society for Training and Development in 2009. In addition, supervisors exercised care for their frontline police officers, while mutual support between officers was also very important. Dr Helena WONG requested the Police to provide members with information on the Police's training materials on psychological competency training.

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Provision of resources for training on the psychological quality of police officers

21. Mr MA Fung-kwok asked whether additional resources were needed for the provision of psychological competency training and counselling for police officers following the Occupy Movement. US for S responded that in view of the illegal "Occupy Movement", the Police had already conducted a large amount of work on the psychological quality of police officers, for example, through counselling by psychologists and supervisors. He said that such work had shown good results.

Tackling the behaviour of insulting police officers with abusive languages

22. Dr CHANG Lai-wan said that she had noted from footages on the Internet showing a police officer being insulted with abusive languages for a few minutes by a person to whom a traffic offence ticket was issued and the police officer had responded calmly. She said that anyone would naturally feel uneasy when being insulted with abusive languages. She asked whether the behaviour of insulting others with abusive languages could be dealt with under existing legislation.

23. US for S thanked Dr CHIANG's praise of the police officer concerned. He said that the Administration was very concerned about the law enforcement difficulties encountered by frontline police officers, who had handled the illegal "Occupy Movement" and other large-scale events with restraint and professionalism despite being provoked by some members of the public. He said that certain behaviour in public places might, depending on its nature, amount to the offences of obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty, criminal intimidation or assault, offences under the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245), or breach of the relevant by-laws of public transport companies, the airport, hospitals, sports facilities and the Ocean Park.

Others

24. Dr LAM Tai-fai asked whether there had been any increase in the turnover rate of Police officers arising from heavy work pressure or psychological competency problems. US for S responded that the turnover rate of police officers had remained at about the same level in the past few years but the retirement rate could be high for certain periods due to large-scale recruitment at some points in the past.

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25. Mr Christopher CHEUNG expressed support for the Police's training on psychological quality of police officers and commended police officers for being calm and restrained in handling the Occupy Movement. He expressed concern that a majority of footages on the Occupy Movement were unfair in that they only covered how police officers took actions against persons but not how these persons breached the law.

26. US for S responded that the Police had started to deploy body-worn video cameras since 2013 to help the gathering of evidence during confrontations. He said that the provision of psychological competency training and emotional fitness training was intended for assisting police officers to cope with psychological stress.

27. Mr YIU Si-wing said that many frontline police officers involved in handling the Occupy Movement had been very restrained despite being insulted by demonstrators with abusive languages. He expressed concern that many participants of the Occupy Movement who had been prosecuted for breach of the law had only been imposed a light sentence by court. He asked whether the Police had taken measures to uphold the morale of police officers.

28. US for S and Assistant Commissioner of Police (Personnel) responded that the Police attached great importance to the morale of police officers, particularly when officers were facing huge challenges. Close communication was maintained between the Police's senior management and frontline police officers through the staff associations as well as workshops for frontline police officers. During the illegal "Occupy Movement", the police management had visited the frontline police units to convey their support of the officers and to ascertain and address the needs of frontline police officers.

V. Acquisition of mobile response and command platform for the marine region of the Hong Kong Police Force
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)539/15-16(05) and (06))

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

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30. US for S briefed Members on the Administration's proposal to acquire a second Mobile Response and Command Platform ("MRCP") for the Police's Marine Region to strengthen its capability in handling maritime rescue operations and in maritime law enforcement.

31. Members noted an information note entitled "Acquisition of Mobile Response and Command Platform" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

32. Mr NG Leung-sing expressed support for the Administration's proposal. He asked whether there were speed boats providing illegal sea transport between Hong Kong and Mainland islands in the proximity of Hong Kong.

33. Regional Commander (Marine) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force ("RC(M)/HKP") responded that the area of Hong Kong waters was very large. The proposed second MRCP would provide the capability of providing extended radar and thermal imaging coverage to parts of Hong Kong waters, particularly the southwest corner of Hong Kong waters.

34. Mr YIU Si-wing asked why there was a need to procure a second MRCP when the Panel had only been briefed on the Administration's proposal to acquire the first MRCP in early 2014. He also expressed concern about the difference, if any, between the first and second MRCPs in terms of equipment and cost.

35. Dr Kenneth CHAN sought information on the existing vulnerabilities referred to in paragraph 3 of the Administration's paper and asked whether the proposed procurement of the second MRCP would adequately address such vulnerabilities.

36. US for S responded that the first priority of the Police was to replace ageing vessels and hence the Administration consulted the Panel in 2014 on the replacement of 18 police launches, including replacing an old regional training launch by the first MRCP. Thereafter, priority was given to addressing existing vulnerabilities and thus the Police proposed to procure a Barge Operating Platform to strengthen the capability in interdicting smuggling and illegal immigration. The third stage was about enhancing the Police's overall maritime operational capability in meeting future challenges. The proposed second MRCP was a core component of this initiative. It would be deployed in strategic locations

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and considerably strengthen the Police's operations in maritime anti-crime and rescue operations. RC(M)/HKP added that the proposed second MRCP, with its thermal imaging equipment, low-light camera system, radar system and extended deployment capability, would facilitate the detection of high-power speed boats and other suspect craft. It would also provide a safe searching environment for vessels suspected of using concealed compartments. In addition, with the MRCP, the Police's fast vessels would be on station for longer periods and police officers could also be deployed for longer periods on sea.

37. Referring to paragraph 6(i) of the Administration's paper, Dr LAM Tai-fai asked how terrorist attacks would be tackled before delivery of the proposed second MRCP. He also sought information on the projected life span of the proposed second MRCP. US for S responded that a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy as well as equipment which met international standards were deployed by the Police against terrorist activities. The proposed second MRCP would further enhance the effectiveness of such strategy. RC(M)/HKP added that the normal life expectancy of the proposed second MRCP was 15 years.

38. Dr Helena WONG said that she was supportive of proposals to enhance marine security. She expressed concern about how the Marine Police would deal with the smuggling of a Hong Kong resident out of Hong Kong. US for S responded that the proposed second MRCP would enhance the Marine Police's law enforcement capability in Hong Kong waters. Any unlawful acts, when detected, would be dealt with in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong.

39. The Chairman concluded that members supported in principle the Administration's proposal to acquire a second MRCP and its associated small support craft.

VI. Creation of a Chief Pilot post in the Government Flying Service for strengthening management and enhancing flight safety
(LC Paper No. CB(2)539/15-16(07))

40. US for S briefed Members on the Administration's proposal to create a Chief Pilot post in the Government Flying Service ("GFS") for strengthening management and enhancing flight safety.

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41. Mr NG Leung-sing expressed support for the Administration's proposal. He considered that the proposal would facilitate the operations of GFS, which covered search and rescue, fire-fighting, air ambulance, surveying and law enforcement.

42. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper, Mr KWOK Wai-keung expressed concern that the number of flying hours of GFS had increased by 18% over the past five years. He said that it could be noted from the Panel's recent visit to GFS that the service provided by GFS was of a very high standard. He expressed support for the Administration's proposal.

43. Dr LAM Tai-fai asked whether the proposed Chief Pilot post for GFS would be filled by internal promotion or external recruitment. US for S responded that the proposed post would be filled by internal promotion in accordance with the established procedures.

44. The Chairman concluded that members supported in principle the Administration's submission of its proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee. He said that the Panel's recent visit to GFS had enhanced Members' understanding of the operations of GFS.

VII. Installation of electric locks security system in the Stanley Prison

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)539/15-16(08) and (09))

45. The Chairman drew Members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure concerning the requirement of disclosing personal pecuniary interest. He pointed out that the Panel had visited the Stanley Prison to understand its operations, including its existing mechanical locks system.

46. US for S briefed Members on the Administration's proposal to install an electric locks security system ("ELSS") in the Stanley Prison.

47. Members noted a background brief entitled "Installation of electric locks security system at the correctional institutions" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

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48. Dr LAM Tai-fai said that he had visited penal institutions for many times and had confidence in their operations. He expressed concern about a possible increase in cost and the possibility of the proposed system becoming outdated, if the proposed system was to be commissioned some eight years later.

49. Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services (Operations) ("ACCS(O)") responded that the Stanley Prison was built 79 years ago and there were many structural problems to be addressed in the installation process. The works concerned would involve, among other things, the installation of about 2 300 gates with electric locks and some 5 000 closed-circuit television cameras, which had to be implemented by stages.

50. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for the Administration's proposal. He asked whether there would be any savings in manpower of the Correctional Services Department ("CSD") arising from the proposed replacement of locks. ACCS(O) responded that the operation of mechanical locks only constituted a small part of the existing work of CSD staff, who also performed other duties including patrolling and monitoring the activities of persons in custody. After the replacement of locks, manpower would still be needed for operation of the electric locks and performing monitoring work in the control room. He said that CSD would review its deployment of manpower after commissioning the proposed system.

51. The Chairman concluded that members supported in principle the Administration's submission of its proposal to the Finance Committee.

VIII. Proposed Member's Bill to amend the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)320/15-16(01) and CB(2)539/15-16(10))

52. The Chairman highlighted the provisions in Article 74 of the Basic Law and Rule 51(3) and (4) of the Rules of Procedures regarding the introduction of a Member's bill.

53. Dr Priscilla LEUNG briefed Members on her proposed Member's Bill, as set out in her letter of 18 November 2015, and highlighted the following points -

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- (a) the proposed Member's Bill sought to amend the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance ("FS(B)O") (Cap. 572) to grant discretion to the Fire Services Department ("FSD") to assist the owners of old buildings who faced difficulties in complying with Fire Safety ("FS") Directions by extension of the compliance period and allowing the owners to propose alternative installation works to meet fire safety requirements; and
- (b) she had, at a meeting with representatives of the Security Bureau, FSD, the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") and the Water Supplies Department ("WSD"), requested the Administration to provide support to assist owners of old buildings, especially "three-nil" buildings, in complying with FS Directions.

54. US for S responded that -

- (a) FSD had, as allowed under FS(B)O, extended the compliance period of FS Directions in the light of the justifications provided and / or the scale of works involved. Having regard to the circumstances of individual buildings, the enforcement authorities had, where basic fire safety would not be compromised, adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases and allowed owners more time and flexibility in complying with FS Directions;
- (b) the Administration was aware of the difficulties encountered by "three-nil" buildings. To strengthen the provision of free professional advice and support services to such buildings and enhance building management and maintenance works on all fronts, including complying with requirements of FS Directions, HAD had introduced the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme since 2011;
- (c) noting that old buildings of three storeys or less might particularly encounter technical difficulties in carrying out fire safety improvement works, FSD and WSD had taken the initiative to roll out a Pilot Scheme on Improvised Hose Reel System in May 2015. The owners of these buildings could install improvised hose reel systems with direct water supply from the government town mains on the ground floor of the

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buildings, thus be spared the installation of fire service water tanks and pumps. If the Pilot Scheme was proved to be successful, the departments would consider extending the measures to other suitable old buildings;

- (d) while understanding that the purpose of Dr Priscilla LEUNG's proposed Member's Bill was to help enhance fire safety, given that the fire safety improvement works would involve various feasible proposals and works arrangements, and the associated costs might vary significantly depending on which final works proposal would be adopted, the owners of the buildings must deliberate on the proposals and reach a consensus before the works were carried out. If the departments were to forcibly carry out the works, it could easily lead to litigation and delay the progress of the works; and
- (e) under the existing regime, the enforcement authorities had been, and would continue adopting a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases. The relevant departments would also continue to review the measures implemented from time to time and explore various works options, with a view to assisting the old building owners in complying with the FS Directions.

55. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:02 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 February 2016