

立法會
Legislative Council

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by the Administration)

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**Subcommittee to follow up on the outstanding capital works projects
of the two Provisional Municipal Councils
for inclusion into the Government's Public Works Programme**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 1 February 2000 at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members Present** : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Chairman)
Hon HO Sai-chu, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sa-lan
Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Yuen-han
Hon WONG Yung-kan
- Absent with Apology** : Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP
- Invited to Attend** : Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP (Member of the Panel on
Home Affairs)
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, JP (Member of
the Panel on Home Affairs)
- Public Officers attending** : Miss Elizabeth TSE
Deputy Secretary for the Treasury
- Mr Paul TANG
Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Food (A)

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Miss Eva TO
Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment and
Food (A) 3

Mr Arthur NG
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Ms Lolly CHIU
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Administration)

Mr Johnny WOO
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Michael MAK
Assistant Director (Libraries & Development)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Robert CHONG
Senior Staff Officer (Planning)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Y T LAM
Assistant Director (Special Duties) I
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr P L KWAN
Deputy Director of Architectural Services

Mr WONG Shiu-kwan
Project Director 3, Architectural Services Department

Clerk in Attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2) 2

Staff in Attendance : Miss Mary SO
Senior Assistant Secretary (2) 8

I. The four projects under review by the Administration : Hammer

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**Hill Road District Park, Tai Kok Tsui Complex, Stanley Complex
and Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground**

Stanley Complex

[Paper No. CB(2) 988/99-00(01)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Food (A) (DS(EF)) introduced the paper setting out the reasons for the Administration's review of the scope of development of the Stanley Complex and the major considerations. DS(EF) said that the review was to ensure that the project was compatible with the overall development of Stanley as a tourist spot, that the proposed market facilities were viable, and that the proposed leisure and cultural facilities would not be under-utilized. The review would also examine the cost-effectiveness of the proposed facilities to enable maximum use of the land resources. DS(EF) added that in reviewing the planned facilities of the proposed Stanley Complex, the Administration would need to consider the following -

- (a) whether the opening of a new superstore in the nearby Ma Hang Estate would have impact on the proposed wet goods market;
- (b) whether it was viable to re-locate the existing street-side dry foods stalls to the second floor of the Complex; and
- (c) whether it was necessary to include a refuse collection point and a public toilet in the Complex as the area was adequately served by two refuse collection points and a new public toilet located next to the new temporary market.

2. With regard to the proposed multi-purpose arena and leisure centre in the Complex, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3) (DS(HA)) said that there was still spare capacity in the four indoor games halls serving the community of the South District. On library facilities, DS(HA) said that the utilization of the mobile library serving Stanley was fairly low and that there would be another community centre with a small scale library in Ma Hang Estate. The Administration therefore considered it necessary to re-assess the need for a small library in the Stanley Complex.

3. Mr Gary CHENG said that while he agreed that the project should be cost-effective, he was of the view that, as a matter of principle, the Administration should not change the scope of development for the proposed Stanley Complex which had been approved by the former Provisional Urban Council (PUC). Mr CHENG said that in reviewing the need for the facilities, the Administration should also take into account the need and expectations of the communities surrounding Stanley. For example, Ma Hang was a

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developing area, while Shek O, Tai Long Wan and Hok Tsui were also in the vicinity of Stanley. The proposed Complex would therefore serve a much larger population than just 15 000. Mr CHENG also reminded the Administration that the proposed wet goods and dry goods market in the Complex were not new or additional facilities but only for reprovisioning the existing temporary wet market in the nearby seafront promenade area and the street-side dry goods bazaar.

4. DS(EF) assured members that the Administration would not renege on its promise to construct the proposed Stanley Complex. The review was only to ensure that the project would be user-friendly, viable and cost effective. Moreover, the Administration would also need to examine the viability of relocating the licensed dry goods stalls to the roof-top of the Complex. Mr CHENG said that consideration could be given to retaining the existing licensed dry goods stalls while the reprovisioning of wet goods stalls could proceed as planned. Assistant Director (Special Duties) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (AD(SD)) responded that the Administration was also examining whether the existing temporary wet market in Stanley would need to be demolished.

5. Mr HO Sai-chu added that the new superstore in Ma Hang would not be convenient to people living in Stanley as Ma Hang was not within walkable distance. AD(SD) clarified that the new superstore was just a few minutes' walk from the proposed Stanley Complex site, after the opening of a new road at the seafront between Stanley Main Street and Ma Hang Estate.

6. On the leisure and cultural facilities in the Complex, the Chairman pointed out that many study rooms and libraries in youth centres would be closed in order to provide resources for the implementation of the One School One Social Worker scheme in each secondary school. He therefore asked whether the youth centre in Ma Hang Estate mentioned by DS(HA) would still be provided with a small library. DS(HA) replied that the proposed library in the youth centre would still stand according to the Housing Manager of Ma Hang Estate.

7. Mr Gary CHENG said that he had no objection to incorporating non-municipal government facilities, such as community halls, into the project to enable more effective use of scarce land resources. However, he did not consider it reasonable to justify additional facilities only on the basis of usage. He urged the Administration to provide a suitable hall in the Complex to enable leisure and cultural facilities to be held indoor so that people living in Stanley and Shek O would not need to hold cultural and entertainment programmes in open space.

8. DS(HA) responded that the Administration hoped to provide a multi-

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purpose venue to meet the needs of people living in the vicinity while at the same time avoid duplication of facilities and low utilization of any new facilities.

9. Mr Edward HO disagreed with the Administration's arguments for the review, as the design and related issues of the project should have been thoroughly discussed by the former municipal councils and government departments since 1996, before funding approval was given by the former PUC in October 1998. He also did not see why the utilization of the four Indoor Games Halls in Aberdeen, Wong Chuk Hang and Ap Lei Chau should be a relevant factor in determining the provision of the multi-purpose arena facilities in the Stanley Complex. Miss CHAN Yuen-han echoed Mr HO's view. Miss CHAN said that the Administration should avoid repeating previous deliberations or making substantial variation to projects which had been approved by the previous municipal councils after consultation with the relevant District Boards, unless there were new justifications for the changes.

10. DS(HA) responded that to ensure that public money was spent in a cost-effective manner, it was incumbent upon the Administration to assess whether the provision of leisure and cultural facilities could meet the needs of the District concerned and whether there would be overlapping or under-utilization of resources. He said that the utilization of the four existing indoor games halls serving the community of the South District was not high, and the utilization rate of the one in Wong Chuk Hang was only 51% on the average. While agreeing that people from Stanley had to take 30 to 40 minutes to travel by public transport to Aberdeen, Wong Chuk Hang and Ap Lei Chau, he said that public transport was not a serious problem in the District. DS(HA) stressed that the Administration had no intention of depriving people living in Stanley of their needs for leisure and cultural facilities. The review was only to look into the best ways to make use of resources having regard to the demand and utilization of the leisure and cultural facilities in the area. The Administration would provide a report on the outcome of the review as soon as possible.

11. On the utilization of the indoor games halls in the vicinity, Mr Gary CHENG remarked that the one in Lei Tung Estate in Ap Lei Chau was always heavily booked. To his knowledge, it was already fully booked for the whole month of February 2000. However, the one in Wong Chuk Hang had a low utilization rate, as its huge size had rendered it unsuitable for small scale activities.

12. Noting that the review of the proposed Stanley Complex would be completed in May 2000, the Chairman asked whether the project would be upgraded to Category A in the next financial year. Deputy Secretary for the Treasury (DS/Tsy) replied that the review would not affect Government's commitment to the construction of the Stanley Complex, as funding had already

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been set aside for the 12 capital works projects which had funding approval from the former Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs). The 12 projects were currently included in Category B of Government's Public Works Programme. Subject to the Administration's review and the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, these projects could be upgraded to Category A for implementation any time.

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13. The Chairman requested the Administration to take into account members' views when reviewing the Stanley Complex project. He also asked the Administration to report on the project in May 2000.

Tai Kok Tsui Complex

[Paper No. CB(2) 995/99-00(01)]

14. DS(HA) briefed members on the paper which gave the reasons for the Administration's review of the Tai Kok Tsui Complex and its recommendations. DS(HA) said that the issue was whether to provide a swimming pool on high floors above the wet goods and dry goods markets in a multi-purpose building. He explained that the Administration had no previous experience of this kind and would therefore need to carefully consider factors such as accessibility, crowd control, as well as the management and maintenance problems before taking a decision. The preliminary views of the Administration were that the provision of a training pool and a leisure pool on the fourth and fifth floors of the complex might pose management problems. It was estimated that there would be about 300-400 people making use of the pools in an hour and this might overload the lift/escalators facilities in the Complex and affect other users of the building. The Administration therefore recommended that the pool facilities be relocated to the adjoining open space to be vacated by a temporary market upon reprovisioning. The site was now zoned as an open space for leisure and recreational purpose, and would be able to accommodate an indoor heated training pool and an outdoor leisure pool, with a larger waiting hall for better circulation. He pointed out that providing pool facilities on the ground would provide better accessibility, and also a larger queuing and circulation area for swimmers.

15. Mr Edward HO queried why the PUC and government departments responsible for the design and lift capacity had not raised concerns previously on the problems of accessibility and crowd control when giving consideration to the proposal of providing pool facilities in Tai Kok Tsui Complex.

16. Assistant Director (Leisure Services) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (AD(LS)) explained that when PUC approved the project in October 1998, accessibility and crowd control were not considered a serious concern because users were expected to spread out during the opening hours of the pools. However, different swimming sessions were introduced to public swimming pools in 1999 to cater for more swimmers and to allow time for

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cleaning during lunch time. This new arrangement was welcomed by swimmers as evidenced by the increased patronage of public swimming pools. Given the new arrangement, the Administration would need to review if this would pose management problems for swimming pools to be located on high floors of a building.

17. Deputy Director of Architectural Services (DD/ArchS) added that the design of the Complex was drawn up according to the requirements and specifications supplied by user departments. The introduction of swimming sessions would have impact on the loading capacity and waiting time for lift facilities. He further pointed out that due to space constraints on high floors, only a small pool deck area could be provided for the swimming pools. A larger pool deck area could however be provided if the pool facilities were provided on the ground.

18. Mr James TO expressed strong reservations about the Administration's proposal. He was of the view that the purpose of the Administration's review was only to delay the construction of public swimming pools in the area with a view to saving public money. He said that the Tai Kok Tsui District was deprived of a public swimming pool for a long time. If there were technical or management problems with the project, the Administration should find ways to overcome the difficulties, for example, by introducing more breaks between swimming sessions, in order to ease the crowd control problem. Mr TO also suggested the Administration to further consult Yau Tsim Mong District Council on the proposal of relocating the pool facilities to the adjoining site. DS(HA) responded that the review was not to save money and that the Administration would consult the District Council concerned in the afternoon.

19. DS/Tsy stressed that there was no question of the Administration deliberately delaying the provision of pool facilities for the purpose of saving money or easing cash flow. As resources had already been earmarked for these 12 projects, it would actually be more cost-effective, strictly from the Finance Bureau's point of view, to start these projects as early as possible because the construction costs would be cheaper at MOD prices.

20. On the estimated number of swimmers of the pools, the Chairman queried that the estimate of 400 persons might only be for the peak hours only. AD(LS) responded that high patronage of public swimming pools would last throughout summer due to the school summer holidays, and this would pose problems in crowd management.

21. Mr HO then asked about the development potential of the adjoining site now occupied by a temporary market. He was concerned that the proposed construction of a swimming pool on the site might affect other planned use of the land. DS(HA) replied that the land was currently

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earmarked as open space for leisure and recreation purposes. Approval of the Town Planning Board would be required if a decision was made to construct swimming pools on the site.

22. Mr James TO asked whether the Administration would identify another site for the provision of open space or a park in Tai Kok Tsui if the original site earmarked for the purpose was to be given up for the construction of swimming pools as proposed by the Administration. The Chairman also asked whether the proposed relocation of swimming pools would mean a reduction of two storeys in Tai Kok Tsui Complex.

23. DS(HA) replied that the site adjacent to the Complex was currently earmarked for recreational purpose and the provision of swimming pools was compatible with the proposed land use. In the long term, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) would discuss with Planning Department on the possibility of finding another site in Tai Kok Tsui for the provision of open space if the swimming pool was to be re-located as proposed. As regards the alternative use of the floor areas originally planned for the provision of pool facilities, DS(HA) said that consideration was being given to using the space as offices.

24. AD(LS) supplemented that there were two parks serving the Tai Kok Tsui area, namely, the park at Anchor Street which had just been refurbished and the park at Lok Kwan Street was opened last year. AD(LS) further said that the existing and planned provision of recreational and leisure space (about 80 hectares in total) in the area should adequately meet the recreational needs of the Yau Tsim Mong District.

25. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that he was unconvinced of the Administration's arguments that relocation of the pool facilities to the adjoining site would be the only solution to the crowd control problems in the Complex. He said that the Administration had undertaken to come up with new initiatives for the management of leisure and cultural facilities after the dissolution of PMCs. He therefore urged the Administration to try new ideas for managing pool facilities on high floors. Mr LEE further said that it was not an effective use of scarce land resources if the pool facilities were to be relocated to the adjoining site which was earmarked for recreational use.

26. DS(HA) said that the Administration would take into account members' views and that of Yau Tsim Mong District Council before taking a decision on the proposed relocation of pool facilities to the adjoining site.

27. The Chairman concluded that members had expressed strong views that the Administration should optimize the use of scarce land resources and that the District Council concerned should be consulted on the proposed relocation

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of the pool facilities. He also requested the Administration to consider other options to solve the crowd control problems. He was also of the view that the floor areas planned for the pool facilities should only be used for recreational facilities instead of Government offices.

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28. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration undertook to provide a report to the Subcommittee in May 2000.

Hammer Hill Road District Park
[Paper No. CB(2) 995/99-00(02)]

29. Members noted that Mrs Sophie LEUNG had tabled a copy of a letter dated 27 January 2000 from the Chi Lin Nunnery to the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services concerning the construction of a Tang Dynasty style garden inside the Hammer Hill Road District Park.

30. Mrs Sophie LEUNG declared that she was a voluntary worker of the Chi Lin Nunnery.

31. DS(HA) introduced the Administration's paper which gave the reasons for revising the design of Hammer Hill Road District Park. DS(HA) said that to make the District Park more in harmony with the adjacent Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex, the Administration proposed that the number of buildings in the Park be kept to the minimum with more greenery. For example, tall trees would be planted on hilly ground on the southern boundary of the Park to shield off traffic noises on the flyovers. In revising the design, the Administration had taken into account views expressed by the Chi Lin and the needs of the residents in the District. As regards the provision of an exhibition venue in the Park, DS(HA) said that there was already a properly fabricated exhibition hall in the Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex. The Administration therefore had reservation over the provision of a separate exhibition centre in the District Park in the way it was previously proposed. Deputy Director (Administration) of Leisure and Cultural Services (Department) (DD(A)) supplemented that at a meeting with the Chi Lin Nunnery Management on 18 January 2000, the Chi Lin Nunnery Management indicated their preference for a park with a theme stressing on imitation of nature. The proposed changes to the project design were made in response to views made by the Chi Lin Nunnery Management.

32. Miss CHAN Yuen-han asked whether the Administration would consult Wong Tai Sin District Council on the proposed changes to the design. DS(HA) replied in the positive.

33. Miss CHAN Yuen-han further asked whether the Administration would provide more exhibition venues for display of the art collections owned by

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Government. She was concerned that these art items were left idle in warehouses. She therefore urged the Administration to retain the exhibition centre in the District Park. Miss CHAN further said that the exhibition hall of Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex would only display Buddhist statues or items related to Buddhism, whereas the exhibition centre in the District Park could cater for other art exhibitions.

34. DS(HA) responded that there were adequate venues such as public museums for the display of art items. Moreover, some large scale museums were also under planning, for example, Hong Kong Heritage Museum in Sha Tin, the Hong Kong Museum of History at Chatham Road and the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence at Lei Yue Mun. Assistant Director (Library & Development) (AD(LD)) supplemented that the Administration was currently exploring ways to broaden the scope of displaying Government's art collection to the public. Apart from the construction of more museums and arrangements for display of art items in Hong Kong Central Library which would open soon, there were plans to show the artworks on the Internet. Discussion was also being held with the Airport Authority and the Hong Kong Tourist Association about the possibility of displaying artworks inside the airport premises and at major tourist spots.

35. Miss Cyd HO expressed strong objection that the exhibition centre in the Hammer Hill Road District Park would be scrapped, as the Wong Tai Sin area presently lacked a venue for organizing arts and cultural presentations. Miss HO was of the view that small scale exhibition centre, such as the one proposed for the District Park, was a more appropriate venue to display small scale or short-term exhibition by budding local artists. Miss HO further said that the lack of a policy on promoting local arts development and public appreciation of arts at the district level was at variance with the recommendation in the Consultant's Report on Culture, the Arts, Recreation and Sports Services published in February 1999.

36. DS(HA) responded that reservations about the plan to build the originally proposed exhibition centre inside the District Park should not be taken to mean that the Administration was abandoning its commitment to providing exhibition venues at the district level. He reiterated that the main consideration was whether the District Park was the most appropriate place to build an exhibition centre. AD(LD) supplemented that Wong Tai Sin area was currently served by the Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, which was a district arts centre providing also exhibition hall facilities which were currently under-utilized. Action was being taken by the Department to promote the use of the Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre.

37. With regard to the proposal for more greenery in the District Park, Mrs Sophie LEUNG hoped that the Administration would carefully consider the

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Tang style garden design proposed in the Chi Lin Nunnery Management's letter of 27 January 2000. The Chi Lin had suggested that the design of the Hammer Hill Road District Park could blend in with the Tang style architecture of the Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex thereby enhancing the area as a major tourist attraction. She emphasized that the architecture of Chi Lin was a result of in-depth research and expert advice from the Mainland and Japan on Tang architecture, and was awarded the 10 Best Architecture in Hong Kong. She hoped that the design of the District Park would be in harmony with the Chi Lin Nunnery to provide an imitation of Tang Dynasty architecture and cultural heritage. Mrs LEUNG suggested a working group be formed, comprising representatives of the Chi Lin Nunnery Management and the Administration, to study how the District Park could be built to bring it in harmony with the Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex. Mrs LEUNG also clarified that Chi Lin did not object to the construction of an exhibition centre in the District Park as the exhibition facilities of the Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex served different purposes.

38. DD(A) responded that the proposal put forward by the Chi Lin Nunnery on the design of the Hammer Hill Road District Park had been referred to the Architectural Services Department (ASD) for consideration. She assured members that the Administration would closely liaise with Chi Lin to ensure that the design of the park would be in harmony with the Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex.

39. DD/ArchS said that the ASD had no differing view from Chi Lin that the design of the District Park should be of the Tang Dynasty style. He however pointed out that the LCSD and Chi Lin would have to sort out whether the District Park should be developed as a frontal for Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex or a District park, as this would have significant impact on the design.

40. Mr James TO supported the proposal of developing the Hammer Hill Road District Park into a strategic tourist spot instead of just a local park. He also urged the Administration to consult Wong Tai Sin District Council on the matter. Mr Edward HO echoed Mr TO's views.

41. Mr Edward HO also sought clarification as to whether the Administration's proposal to reduce the number of hard structures inside the District Park was made in response to Chi Lin's requests or an excuse for delaying the project to save money. DD(A) responded that the proposed revised design of the District Park as detailed in paragraph 5 of the Administration's paper was made in response to the views expressed by the Chi Lin Nunnery Management at a meeting with the Administration on 18 January 2000. However, the detailed suggestions as set out in Chi Lin's letter of 27 January 2000 tabled at the meeting were not relayed to the Administration at the meeting on 18 January 2000. DD(A) also clarified that the consensus was to reduce concrete structures inside the Park, while the tea-house would still be

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included in the plan.

42. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed support for the setting up of a working group on the design of the District Park. She said that the former PUC and the former Provisional Wong Tai Sin District Board had agreed that the design of the District Park should be in harmony with the adjacent Chi Lin Nunnery Monastic Complex, in order to enhance the area to a major tourist attraction.

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43. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that members had high expectations of the District Park. He hoped the Administration would carefully consider members' views especially the suggestions for a working group to study how to bring the Park in harmony with the architecture of Chi Lin and the provision of exhibition hall inside the District Park. He also requested the Administration to report progress at the next meeting. DS(HA) noted member' comments and the Chairman's suggestion.

Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground

[LC Paper No. CB(2) 995/99-00(04)]

44. The Chairman suggested to defer discussion of the project to the next meeting, as the Administration would need to consult Kwun Tong District Council and other local organizations on the permanent closure of a section of Kai Lai Road which fell within the boundary of the project site. Members agreed.

II. The eight former PMC projects for which funding has been set aside
[Paper Nos. CB(2)995/99-00(03) and CB(2)988/99-00(02) (with seven Appendices)]

45. The Chairman said that he had studied the proposals on the above eight capital works projects of the former PMC projects for which funding had been set aside, and found them acceptable. The Chairman suggested that the Subcommittee should not discuss the details of the projects, as the Public Works Subcommittee would consider the proposals at its meeting on 16 February 2000. Members agreed.

(Post-meeting note : The Finance Committee has approved the funding of the eight projects on 10 March 2000.)

46. Responding to the Chairman's enquiry on whether there were changes to the approved plans of the eight outstanding capital works projects of the two former PMCs, DS(HA) said that with the exception of the Jordan Valley Playground project, all other projects were basically the same as approved by the PMCs. In order not to delay construction work on the Jordan Valley

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Playground project, the Administration had decided to take out the provision of a morning trail/jogging track from the project as the slope adjacent to the track would require further geotechnical study to be undertaken by the ArchSD in consultation with the Geotechnical Engineering Office.

III. New mechanism for initiating new capital works projects for the provision of municipal services
[Paper No. CB(2)988/99-00(03)]

47. DS(EF) said that the paper was provided in response to members' concerns at the last meeting about the new mechanism for initiating new projects for the provision of municipal services. In reply to the Chairman's enquiry on the latest position of the 169 projects without funding approval from the former PMCs, DS(EF) said that the Administration was currently reviewing the scope and programme of these projects and would consult the relevant LegCo Panels as soon as practicable.

48. Referring to paragraph 4 of the Administration's paper, Miss Cyd HO asked how the Administration would identify the needs for arts and cultural services as such needs might be less apparent than that for other municipal services such as markets, and leisure and sport facilities. DS(HA) responded that the Administration could receive views from different channels on the need for new or improved arts and cultural services. For example, the District Councils and local organizations could provide input at the district level, while advisory bodies such as Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the new Arts and Heritage Commission could advise on development on a territory-wide basis.

49. Miss HO asked whether there were arrangements to consider new development proposals initiated by private corporations. DS(HA) replied that it was the Administration's intention to encourage more private sector input in the development of arts and cultural services, and he hoped more efforts would be made in this direction in future.

50. Miss HO asked about the financial provisions for the new projects for the delivery of the municipal services, as these projects were previously funded by the municipal councils through the collection of Rates.

51. DS/Tsy advised that the Rates collected would be included in Government's General Revenue Account following the dissolution of the PMCs on 1 January 2000. Funds had been included in the draft estimates under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for the 149 "committed" projects of the PMCs, and 12 other "advanced" projects already included in Category B of the Public Works Programme. In addition, funds had been set aside under a subhead of

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Head 703 of the Capital Works Reserve Fund to finance minor building works related to municipal services.

52. Miss HO expressed concern that the provision of arts and cultural services would be curtailed to make way for the hosting of the 2006 Asian Games in Hong Kong, given that the Rates received were no longer earmarked to fund the delivery of the municipal services.

53. DS(HA) responded that such situation would not arise as the budget for the provision of municipal services for the next financial year was based on last year's budget prepared by the former PMCs.

54. Miss Cyd HO commented that the Administration's support for the small arts and cultural groups in Hong Kong was far from adequate. She cited the example that Government only agreed to re-provision the Oil Street exhibition venue to a much smaller area in the former To Kwa Wan Abattoir for a period of three years, despite repeated requests from artists for a permanent low-cost exhibition venue. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed similar concerns.

55. DS(HA) explained that the artists were fully aware that the Oil Street venue was subject to a short-term lease. The Administration acknowledged the need for an exhibition venue for artists and had identified another site at the former Ma Tau Kok Quarantine Depot for the purpose. To help local artists in developing their talents, the Administration had, with the assistance of Arts Development Council, identified suitable space in government buildings and a site in Shanghai Street for visual arts groups to display their artworks.

56. Mr LEE Wing-tat requested the Administration to provide a paper on the policy on promoting art development in Hong Kong and helping local artists to develop their talents. The Chairman advised that it would be more appropriate for the subject to be followed up by the Panel on Home Affairs. DS(HA) noted Mr LEE's suggestion.

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IV. Date of next meeting

57. Members agreed to hold the next meeting before the end of March 2000 to follow up on the progress of the four projects under review and the outstanding projects.

58. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:50 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

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5 June 2000