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立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1456/99-00

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

**Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 13 December 1999 at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members Present** : Hon CHOY So-yuk (Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon MA Fung-kwok
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Ambrose CHEUNG Wing-sum, JP
Hon Christine LOH
Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, JP
- Members Absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
- Members Attending** : Hon Michael HO Mun-ka
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon SZETO Wah
- Public Officers Attending** : Item III
Mr Augustine CHOI
Commissioner for Rehabilitation

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Dr Constance CHAN
Assistant Director of Health

Mr Augustine CHENG
Deputy Director of Home Affairs

Mr TSANG Hing-kay
District Officer (Kwun Tong)
Home Affairs Department

Item IV

Mr Arthur NG
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs 3

Mr Wilson FUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands

Item V

Mr David TSUI
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs 2

Mr Francis LO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Stephen WONG
Deputy Solicitor General, Department of Justice

Mr Gordon FUNG
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime)
Hong Kong Police Force

**Attendance by :
Invitation**

Item III

Equal Opportunities Commission

Ms Anna WU
Chairperson

Mr LEE Kai-fat
Chief Executive

Mr Frederick TONG
Director (Disability)

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Mr Joseph LI
Chief Equal Opportunities Officer (Disability)

Miss Alexandra PAPADOPOULOS
Legal Adviser

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

Staff in Attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Senior Assistant Secretary (2) 2

I. Information papers issued since the last meeting

[Paper Nos. CB(2)338/99-00(01) to (02) and CB(2)555/99-00]

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

- (a) Concluding Observations made by the United Nations Human Rights Committee after its hearing on the Report of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region of the People's Republic of China in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on 1 and 2 November (unedited copy) [Paper No. CB(2)338/99-00(01)];
- (b) a press release on Government's response to the Concluding Observations [Paper No. CB(2)338/99-00(02)]; and
- (c) Concluding Comments of the Committees on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women extracted from the revised report [LC Paper No. CB(2)555/99-00].

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendix I and II to Paper No. CB(2)580/99-00]

2. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next meeting on Monday, 10 January 2000 -

- (a) Responsibilities and liabilities of owners' corporations in respect of illegal structures in private buildings;

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- (b) Report to be submitted by the Hong Kong Special Administration Region under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and
- (c) Follow-up discussion on the financial implications of hosting the 2006 Asian Games.

Members also agreed that deputations would be invited for discussion of item (b).

(Post-meeting note : The Chairman subsequently acceded to the Administration's request to add the item "Proposed Amendment to the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance" to the agenda.)

III. Investigation report of the Equal Opportunities Commission on the issues arising from the Kowloon Bay Health Centre case

[Paper No. CB(2)507/99-00(01)]

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) introduced the Report on Case Study of Kowloon Bay Health Centre (the Report). She informed members that the EOC became actively involved in the case of the Kowloon Bay Health Centre (KBHC) since it started operation in May 1999. To collect first-hand information of the case, EOC staff conducted surveys on site to obtain factual information and views of the residents of Richland Gardens (RG), and the employees and users of KBHC. At the time of releasing the Report, EOC had received a total of 10 complaints, four on Government departments and six on the residents of the RG. Some of these complaints had proceeded to conciliation while others were being followed up.

The role of District Office

4. Chairperson of EOC said that the District Office, which had a pivotal role in co-ordinating district affairs, should have taken a more pro-active approach to resolve some major problems at an early stage. For example, the Urban Services Department (USD) could be requested to remove the banners and placards, the Lands Department to dismantle the illegal structure of the "Command Post", and the Transport Department to make alternative public transport arrangements for the staff, users and visitors to the KBHC. She informed members that arrangements had now been made by the Transport Department for an additional mini-bus stop to be provided outside the KBHC. The Kowloon Motor Bus Company had also agreed to the EOC's request of re-routing three of its bus services, subject to public consultation and government approval.

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5. With reference to paragraph 8.4 of the Report, Miss Emily LAU inquired whether the suggestion of providing alternative access to KBHC was simply to avoid confrontation with the group of residents who protested against the opening of the KBHC. Chairperson of EOC explained that the suggestion was to meet genuine transport need of the staff and users of the KBHC, irrespective of whether there was protest or confrontation. She had urged the Government to include express provisions in the Deed of Mutual Covenant (DMC) on the public right of way, particularly for those developments in the vicinity of sensitive services.

6. Mr SZETO Wah, Convenor of the LegCo Case Conference on the maladministration of the discrimination incident related to the KBHC (the Case Conference), expressed concern that it took as long as 1 300 days for the Government to remove the "Command Post". According to paragraph 4.2.2 of the Report, the Lands Department was well aware of the erection of the illegal structure from the beginning, and had held six meetings with the District Office. As the Report attributed the inaction to the District Office and not the Lands Department, he sought clarification on the division of responsibilities between the two government departments on this matter.

7. In response, District Officer (Kwun Tong) (DO(KT)) said that he had taken the initiative to convene the first meeting in October 1996 with relevant government departments to consider possible solutions to the problem. He said that it was the collective decision of the government departments concerned, including the Lands Department and the Police, not to take immediate action to dismantle the illegal structure, in view of the intense emotions of the protesting residents at that time. The meeting then decided that verbal warnings should be issued to the residents concerned demanding removal of the banners and placards. It was not until 23 September 1999 that all relevant departments considered it the opportune time for Government to take action on the case in view of the subsiding support for the protesting residents of RG. DO(KT) said that the Lands Department was the authority to dismantle the "Command Post" while the District Office's role was one of co-ordination.

8. Responding to Mr SZETO Wah, Deputy Director of Home Affairs (DD(HA)) explained that the Lands Department had the statutory power to remove illegal structure and the District Office only played a co-ordinating role in sensitive cases such as the case of KBHC. Miss Cyd HO and Mr LEE Wing-tat expressed strong dissatisfaction about the inaction of the District Office concerned and the long delay in the removal of the illegal structure. He considered that the delay had clearly reflected the ineffective co-ordination on the part of the District Office concerned. Mr SZETO Wah requested DO(KT) to provide the minutes of its meetings with government departments on the case for members' reference. DO(KT) noted the request.

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The right of access

9. Chairperson of EOC said that the EOC had conducted a study on the legal issue of right of access by non-residents of the RG. Although the right of access by the public was not expressly stated in the land grant for the RG development, there was an implied invitation that any member of the public might enter the estate to use its facilities such as the bus-stops, the shops and restaurants. The Report had recommended that Government should remove any uncertainty in this respect in future planning so as to avoid friction between residents and non-residents. The EOC was in support of the policy that there should be optimal utilization of community facilities and public transport by members of the public. In this case, the EOC had found conflicting indications on the public right of way in respect of the thoroughfare which cut across the estate between Kai Yan Street and Wang Chiu Road. Nonetheless, the selective exclusion of certain categories of persons from access to the RG premises would constitute an act of discrimination under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO). Chairperson of EOC pointed out that as RG residents constituted 40% of the patients using the out-patient clinic of the KBHC, they should be encouraged to share their facilities with persons in the neighbourhood.

10. Miss Cyd HO observed that the actions taken by the Government and the legal opinions on the case had focused on the right of access or utilization of land by non-residents, instead of the possible violation of anti-discrimination legislation. DO(KT) responded that the Lands Department and the EOC held different opinions on the right of access in this case, and their legal advisers had agreed to pursue the matter further without requesting the District Office to follow up on the anti-discrimination issues.

11. Miss Cyd HO and Mr SZETO Wah expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's reply. They reminded the Administration that LegCo Members who attended the last meeting of the Case Conference had asked the Administration to deal with the case from the anti-discrimination angle. Mr Michael HO also expressed concern about the passive approach adopted by the District Office in this case. DD(HA) clarified that DO(KT) was given the understanding at that time that the legal advisers of the Lands Department and the EOC had agreed to follow up the matter by themselves. As both parties had not requested the District Office to pursue the case and since there were other channels for following up the complaints where necessary, no further co-ordination service was provided by the District Office.

Powers of the EOC

12. Miss Cyd HO asked whether the existing anti-discrimination legislation was adequate for the EOC to conduct formal investigation and to enforce the provisions under these legislation. Chairperson of EOC said that the EOC had identified three major problems in the investigation of the case -

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- (a) the reluctance of victims coming forward as complainants;
- (b) the difficulties for EOC staff to collect evidence by themselves;
and
- (c) the difficulty in identifying respondents in the harassment cases.

13. Chairperson of EOC said that while some had challenged that the removal of banners and placards might violate the freedom of expression of some people, EOC took the view that the message on the banners were blatantly discriminatory and that there should be no question about their removal. However, EOC was not empowered under existing legislation to remove the banners or direct others to do so. This incident illustrated the need to amend the legislation to enable the EOC to take remedial action in its own name on issues of public interest by seeking declaratory and/or injunctive relief from the court of law. However, for grievances between individuals, the victims would still have to bring their own case to court.

14. In response to Miss Cyd HO, Chairperson of EOC said that the main difficulty encountered by staff of EOC in investigating the case was due to the unwillingness of victims to lodge formal complaints. The EOC staff therefore had to collect every piece of evidence from individuals concerned. Since there were no identifiable complainants coming forward as plaintiffs in a tort action, and in the absence of named respondents, the EOC had no alternative but to conduct a direct investigation to obtain first-hand information on the case. If the legislation could be amended to enable EOC to initiate legal action in its own name, it would remove some of the difficulties experienced. The EOC had requested the Government to amend the relevant Ordinances, so that EOC could have the power to apply from the court declaratory and/or injunctive relief in its own name, in respect of unlawful discriminatory acts where there was no identifiable complainant.

15. Mr LEE Wing-tat expressed support for the proposed legislative amendment as recommended in paragraph 8.5 of the Report. However, he sought assurance from the EOC that it would act prudently in exercising this additional power. He stressed that the EOC powers must also be subject to proper checks and balances to prevent abuses.

16. Chairperson of EOC responded that the action of EOC would not go unchecked, as EOC would need to apply to the court for declarative or injunctive relief. Moreover, the EOC would not seek compensation on behalf of the victims. The exercise of the proposed power would be restricted to cases where important principle or public interest was involved.

17. Miss Emily LAU commented that the erection of the "Command Post" in the RG was a shame on Hong Kong. She asked whether the current

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legislation was adequate for government departments to take action to prevent recurrence of similar discriminatory acts. Chairperson of EOC said that legislative amendment was necessary and that it also depended much on the vigilance or awareness of government departments of discriminatory behaviour, and their commitment to eradicate unlawful discriminatory acts.

18. Chairperson of EOC added that some victims of discrimination, such as the AIDS patients, were afraid of being identified and they were reluctant to lodge formal complaints to the EOC. These victims were worried that disclosure of their identity would expose them to greater danger or discriminatory behaviour. To protect these vulnerable persons, EOC recommended that in the process of legal proceedings, the court should have the discretion to prohibit disclosure of their identities in the court or by the media.

19. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel was prepared to further discuss any policy issues arising from the case. She thanked representatives of the EOC and the Administration for attending the meeting.

IV. Performance Venue on West Kowloon Reclamation and Sports Complex in South East Kowloon
[Paper No. CB(2)587/99-00(01)]

20. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs 3 (DS(HA)3) briefed members on the current position with regard to the planning of a performance venue on the West Kowloon Reclamation (WKR), and the possible development of a sports complex in South East Kowloon.

21. DS(HA)3 said that there were three main considerations for the planning of an additional performance venue. According to the Study Report of the Hong Kong Tourist Association, utilization of the existing performance venues in different parts of Hong Kong had reached saturation, for example, in 1996-97, the utilization rate of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre's theatre reached a staggering 97%. Secondly, the availability of large venues would support the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong, and there was good potential for the territory to be promoted as a unique cultural centre in Asia. Thirdly, the availability of additional large venues would directly support the promotion of tourism in Hong Kong, as arts and cultural performances with a local flavour had an increasing appeal to visitors.

22. DS(HA)3 said that based on these considerations, a site of 5.5 hectares out of a total area of 40 hectares had been identified in WKR as a suitable location for arts and cultural development. However, the Administration recognized that the provision of only one performance venue might not be adequate to meet all the needs, and would not have significant impact on

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turning WKR into a district with a cultural identity. The Administration therefore took the opportunity to conduct an overall review of the potential of WKR for development into a centre for arts and cultural activities, as part of the comprehensive planning for meeting the future needs of Hong Kong. DS(HA)3 further informed members that the Administration planned to conduct an open competition on the overall development and design of WKR.

23. As regards the proposed Sports Complex in South East Kowloon, DS(HA)3 said that a site of 10 hectares had been earmarked for the development of a sports stadium. The Planning Department was now examining the optimal land utilization of the site, and the intention was to conduct a study on Hong Kong's strategic requirement for sports and recreational venues. The sports community and concerned organisations would be consulted.

Future development and urban design for the WKR waterfront

24. Mr Timothy FOK declared interest as Chairman of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China. He supported the development of large scale performing venues, and urged the Government to invite participation of world-renowned designers in the WKR project. He considered that the future venue should be functionally effective and aesthetic in design. He also suggested that the venue could be operated on commercial and self-supporting principles. However, Mr FOK expressed disappointment about the omission of sports facilities from the project. He strongly advocated an integrated approach in the planning of an international venue for sports, arts and culture activities. He also urged the Administration to set a target date for completion of the project.

25. Principal Assistant Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands (PAS(PEL)) informed members that the Administration had recently informed the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works that part of the development of the WKR waterfront had been postponed to enable a new planning approach to be taken for the WKR development. According to the original plan, 13.9 hectares (out of a total 40 hectares) in the WKR were earmarked as a theme park. Within the park, the Hong Kong Tourist Association had identified 5.5 hectares for the purpose of building a performance venue. PAS(PEL) said that as undertaken in the 1999 Chief Executive's Policy Address, a new look would be created for the Victoria Harbour such that the future waterfront promenade would provide arts, cultural and entertainment facilities. To this end, the Administration would conduct an open competition for the WKR development, and a brief for the competition was being drafted. To provide flexibility in the design of the WKR development, the Administration did not intend to provide a schedule of specified land use. The Administration would look at the overall planning concept and the functional effectiveness of the design in addition to the aesthetic appearance of the buildings. Nevertheless, the development should not comprise only residential buildings, hotels or

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commercial activities, as the objective was to develop the area into a world-class integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district. The commercial development in the area was only to support the arts and cultural activities.

26. Mr Ambrose CHEUNG expressed support for an integrated approach for the development of WKR which had a sufficiently large site of 40 hectares and a well-developed transport hub. He shared Mr Timothy FOK's concern that the venue should also be used as international sports venue. To ensure that the development was functionally effective, he urged the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau (PELB) to work closely together and to survey the need of the arts, cultural and sports sectors during the initial planning stage. He also suggested that the brief for the design contest should include information on the current facilities and Government's long term plan for arts, culture and sports. The information would ensure that the design would be compatible with the long-term needs of Hong Kong.

27. PAS(PEL) responded that Government had an open mind as to the provision of arts, culture and sports venues in the WKR. The design for the development could include the provision of sports venue and multi-purpose facilities. If it was decided that sports facilities were to be provided in WKR, the planning for the South East Kowloon might be modified to avoid duplication of resources.

28. The Chairman advised that the two policy bureaux, i.e. HAB and PELB, should work closely together in the planning and development of the two projects. PAS(PEL) assured members that the two bureaux were in close liaison on the planning of the two projects.

29. The Chairman asked about the Government's financial commitment for the projects. DS(HA)3 responded that as the project was still at the initial planning stage, it was too early to give an estimation of the likely financial commitment. In this connection, Mr Edward HO pointed out that for design competitions of such a large scale, competitors would need to invest substantially when entering the contest. If Government could not indicate firm financial commitment of the projects or give details on the form of reward, such as whether the winner could participate in the development, the competition would unlikely attract good quality contestants. Miss Emily LAU shared the view of Mr HO. She urged the Administration not to repeat the lesson of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology campus design competition. She also requested HAB to examine all possible options on the land use and provide sufficient flexibility in the brief. Furthermore, she expressed support for Mr Ambrose CHEUNG's comments on the integration approach.

30. PAS(PEL) explained that the design competition would involve very complicated issues. In view of the large size of the site, it might not be a fair

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arrangement for the winner of a design competition to be given the exclusive right of development of the whole site. Subject to the outcome of the open competition, the Administration would explore the best way of disposing of the development rights. He stressed that subject to the final land-use plans of the whole area, the site could be disposed of in one go or in phases. The Government has not taken a firm view yet but the disposal must be fair to all.

31. On the provision of flexibility in the brief for the design competition, PAS(PEL) said that there were a number of considerations. If the brief imposed too much restrictions on the land use and facilities to be provided, it would stifle creativity. However, if competitors were given a complete free-hand in the design, there might be a risk of incompatibility with the overall requirements and the Government's objectives for this project. The Administration therefore saw the need to strike a balance and careful consideration would be given to the scope of information to be included in the brief. He added that the commercial viability of the design was a consideration although it was not the determining factor for winning the contest. PAS(PEL) assured members that the Administration would take into account views expressed by the Panel and interested parties in drawing up the brief for the design contest.

32. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the timetable of the design competition, PAS(PEL) said that consultation with the relevant professions for drawing up the brief would start as soon as possible.

33. Miss Emily LAU asked whether the planning of additional sports facilities for Hong Kong was related to Hong Kong's proposal to host the 2006 Asian Games. PAS(PEL) said that in studying Hong Kong's long term requirement for sports and recreation facilities (including the need for a major new stadium), the Administration made a conscious decision not to build any venue only to cater for the Asian Games. According to the initial findings of the consultancy study engaged by the HAB, the existing facilities in Hong Kong should be adequate for the hosting of the 2006 Asian Games. It was therefore unnecessary for the Administration to make deliberate efforts to expedite the provision of major sports venue in WKR for the 2006 Asian Games. He stressed that the provision of any major sports venue must be planned on the basis of Hong Kong's long-term requirements.

Consultation on the project

34. Miss Cyd HO expressed deep concern about Government's apparent failure to demonstrate a clear understanding of the needs of the arts and cultural community. It appeared to her that Government was entrusting the contestants of the design competition with the provision of the hardware for the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong. Miss Cyd HO emphasized that the provision of the right kind of purpose-built facilities would have direct impact on the future direction of cultural development, and

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Government should take an active and leading role in consultation and implementation. Miss Cyd HO was strongly of the view that the Administration should widely consult the interested parties, and form a body of opinion regarding Hong Kong's long term need in the areas of arts, culture and sport. Based on the opinions collected, the Administration could then formulate a comprehensive policy and strategies in these areas for transformation into a design concept.

35. DS(HA)3 responded that the Hong Kong Tourist Association had consulted the arts and cultural community and the professional bodies when conducting the study on the feasibility for a new performance venue in Hong Kong. He added that the Government had also consulted widely the community on the improved delivery of arts and cultural services and was studying the long-term requirements for the provision of arts and cultural services and facilities.

36. Mr Ambrose CHEUNG shared Miss Cyd HO's concern. He said that Government should conduct wide consultation on the project to ensure that the development would satisfy the needs of the community. He also suggested the Administration to make reference to the five-year strategic plans of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Hong Kong Sports Development Board and the Municipal Councils, in planning the provision of major performance venue and sports complex. He stressed that the Administration should take this golden opportunity to enhance the cultural standard and quality of life of Hong Kong.

37. Mr Edward HO reiterated the importance for Government to give clear policy objectives and guidelines for the development project. He said that he was confused in the course of discussion as to whether the project would include sports venues and whether the competition was for the "design" or "development".

38. PAS(PEL) assured members that the competition brief would specify the essential elements and the optional facilities to be provided. He stressed that the theme of the project was to provide integrated development for the arts, culture and entertainment. The Administration would draw up a set of assessment criteria for the design competition to ensure that the design would meet the functional requirements and would be technically and financially viable. He agreed to report to the relevant Panel on the details of the design competition.

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V. Proposed legislative amendments to the Gambling Ordinance to deal with overseas bookmaking companies conducting business in Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)535/99-00]

39. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs 2 (DS(HA)2) briefed members on the background for the proposed legislative amendments. He emphasised that Government policy was not to encourage gambling but to allow controlled legal gambling outlets to exist. The purpose of the current proposals was to plug existing loopholes in the legislation, and to combat unauthorised overseas bookmaking activities conducted in Hong Kong. He explained that with the advancement of telecommunication technologies, overseas bookmakers, such as the Macau Jockey Club (MJC), could provide convenient facilities to enable Hong Kong residents to open betting accounts and make betting deposits through their service centres set up in Hong Kong.

40. Mr Edward HO said that whilst he had no strong view on the legislative proposal, he would like to know whether Government had any plan of stamping out illegal gambling on the Internet. DS(HA)2 replied that the present legislative proposal was to tackle the problem of service centres of overseas bookmakers operating in Hong Kong. As the problem of illegal gambling on the Internet was less prevalent in Hong Kong and in view of the complexity in applying the law to activities on the Internet, the Administration would need to carefully consider the issue before recommending legislative measures. The Administration's position was to give priority to combating unauthorised bookmaking services centres which operated in Hong Kong and which were readily accessible to the general public. In response to Mr HO's further enquiry about Internet cafés, DS(HA)2 said that such facilities were not yet commonly found in Hong Kong.

41. Miss Emily LAU commented that Government appeared to have adopted inconsistent policies on gambling by allowing admission of children into the race course on the Eve of the New Millennium. DS(HA)2 reiterated that it was Government's position not to encourage gambling. He added that the proposed legislation would also help combat illegal gambling on football matches.

42. As regards the admission of children into the race course, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (PAS(HA)) explained that this would be an exceptional and one-off arrangement to enable families to celebrate on the Eve of the New Millennium. He assured members that adequate measures would be taken to prevent young people under the age of 18 years from betting in the race course. He said that children's activities would be confined to designated areas where games stalls and food bazaar would be available. On the selling of lottery tickets in celebration of the occasion, DS(HA) clarified that it was for charity but not gambling.

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43. Mr Ambrose CHEUNG sought clarification on the application of the legislation by citing examples which he considered to be grey areas. He drew the attention of the Administration to the problem that it might be difficult to differentiate a betting account from a general composite account. He emphasised that in amending the Ordinance, the Administration should be careful in ensuring the practicability of the law and that it was enforceable. Mr CHEUNG also inquired whether members of the MJC would be caught by the proposed legislation.

44. In response to Mr Ambrose CHEUNG, Deputy Solicitor General, Department of Justice (DSG) said that as long as an unlawful act had been performed, a MJC member would be liable in the same way as any member of the public. However, if the betting activity was carried out entirely outside Hong Kong, it would not be covered by the proposed legislation. DSG added that the problem cited by Mr CHEUNG involved issues of technicalities and would require more careful consideration in the course of drafting the Bill. DS(HA)2 pointed out that the legislative proposals sought to define, among other things, the scope of illegal betting activities in order to address the problem of overseas bookmakers operating in Hong Kong. He hoped that the drafting of the Bill could address the concerns expressed by Mr Ambrose CHEUNG.

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VI. Any other business

The Economist's Report on the proposal to host the 2006 Asian Games

45. Members noted that the Government had yet to provide the Government Economist's Report on the proposal for Hong Kong to host the 2006 Asian Games despite a motion was passed by the Panel at a special meeting on 7 December 1999 demanding the Government to provide the Report to the Panel immediately. Mr Andrew CHENG suggested that the Panel Chairman should report the Panel's concern on the matter at the House Committee meeting on 17 December 1999. The Chairman therefore asked members if they would agree to request the Chairman of the House Committee to relay the Panel's concern to the Chief Secretary for Administration, and to request the Administration to provide the Economist's Report for further discussion by the Panel at its next meeting on 10 January 2000. Members agreed.

46. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:25 pm.