

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)427/99-00

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

LegCo Panel on Welfare Services

**Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 7 October 1999 at 12:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members Present : Hon CHAN Yuen-han (Chairman)
Hon HO Sai-chu, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon David CHU Yu-lin
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Member Absent : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum

Clerk in Attendance : Ms Doris CHAN
Chief Assistant Secretary (2) 4

Staff in Attendance : Mrs Justina LAM
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Assistant Secretary (2) 4

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 1999-2000 session

Miss CHAN Yuen-han invited nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 1999-2000 session.

2. Mr Fred LI Wah-ming nominated Miss CHAN Yuen-han and Mr David CHU Yu-lin seconded the nomination. Miss CHAN accepted the nomination.

3. Mr HO Sai-chu took over from Miss CHAN Yuen-han to preside over the election of the chairman of the Panel. As there were no other nominations, Mr HO declared Miss CHAN elected as chairman.

4. Miss CHAN Yuen-han took the chair and presided over the election of the deputy chairman of the Panel for the 1999-2000 session.

5. Mr LAW Chi-kwong nominated Mr HO Sai-chu and Mr Eric LEE Ka-cheung seconded the nomination. Mr HO accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominations, the Chairman declared Mr HO elected as deputy chairman.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 1999-2000 session

6. Members agreed to hold regular meetings on the second Monday of each month at 10:45 am and to hold a special meeting for the Administration to brief members on the major welfare policy programmes for 1999-2000 on 14 October 1999 at 10:15 am.

III. Discussion items for the next meeting

7. Members agreed to discuss the following issues at the next regular meeting to be held on 8 November 1999 at 10:45 am -

- (a) Year 2000 compliance in social welfare organizations;
- (b) The new Computerized Social Security System (SSS); and
- (c) Child care services.

8. On item (b), Mr LAW Chi-kwong suggested to invite the Administration to brief members on the information and data on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme that would be provided by the new Computerized SSS to

Action

facilitate members' discussion and monitoring of the CSSA policy. As regards item (c), Mr LAW suggested to discuss the need to extend the operating hours of child care centres, the problem of under-utilization of some child creches and the Government's policy on child care services. In this connection, Mr Eric LEE Ka-cheung said that he would like to discuss the proposal recently made by the Education Commission to amalgamate kindergarten education and child care services. Miss Cyd HO Sau-lan added that the Administration should be requested to review its child care policy to take into account the demographic changes of the Hong Kong population.

9. The Chairman considered that the 1999 Policy Address failed to address adequately the problem of unemployment in Hong Kong and the Support for Self-reliance Scheme could not provide effective assistance to the unemployed CSSA recipients. She suggested that the Panel should discuss what could be done by the Administration to help the unemployed and to improve the unemployment problem. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said that it would facilitate members' discussion on the subject if the Research and Library Services Division could provide members with more information on the measures adopted by other countries to help and protect the unemployed. In view of the nature of the subject, he considered that the LegCo Panel on Manpower should be involved and the proposed research project should be a joint-Panel project. He suggested that a working group comprising interested members from both Panels be formed to discuss the scope of the research. Members supported the proposal and agreed that the Chairman and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, who were also members of the Manpower Panel, should bring this matter up at the meeting of the Panel on Manpower in the afternoon to seek its agreement.

10. Mr Eric LEE Ka-cheung noted that the 1999 Policy Address had mentioned that the Administration was exploring more cross-boundary co-operation to help new arrivals integrate into the local community, such as by providing induction service to them before they arrived in Hong Kong. Mr LEE expressed interest in this programme and suggested that the subject be discussed by the Panel if the Administration failed to provide adequate information on it at the meeting on 14 October 1999.

11. The meeting ended at 12:45 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat
18 November 1999