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7 September 2009

Ms. Betty FONG
Clerk to Panel
LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms. FONG,

Youth Development

At the meeting on 12 June 2009, when discussing the initiatives to be implemented by Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to promote youth participation in volunteer service, Members requested HAB to consider their views and to submit an update on the initiatives. Besides, the Panel requested the Administration to provide information on the policy on youth development and the Summer Youth Programme.

As requested, we now provide information paper in relevant to the Panel for their reference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jacky LUM', written over a horizontal line.

(Jacky LUM)

For Secretary for Home Affairs

Encl.

Youth Development

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Policy on Youth Development

2. HAB is responsible for promoting the work on youth development at community level, in particular, the nurturing of civic awareness and positive values among young people. We dedicate to encourage youth's participation in voluntary and community work, to enhance leadership training among them, to deepen their understanding of Chinese culture and heritage as well as to broaden their international perspective.
3. HAB's key partner in this area of work is the Commission on Youth (COY). COY's mission is to cooperate with different bodies in society, to assist in formulating and motivating youth development plans and relevant activities, to nurture vision, creativity, leadership and sense of responsibility among youths so that they can be leaders of Hong Kong in future.
4. HAB provides annual recurrent subventions to major youth uniformed groups, Hong Kong Award for Young People (HKAYP) and Agency for Volunteers Service (AVS). Over the years, these organisations have been promoting youth development through a variety of training programmes and activities.
5. Besides HAB, relevant policy bureaux and departments also undertake youth nurturing and support services. For example, Education Bureau implements education policies to nurture talents, provides quality school education to students to develop their potential to the full and to prepare them for challenges in life. Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides timely

support for young people in need, help them to cope with difficulties and challenges, encourage them to become mature, responsible and contributing members of society.

Summer Youth Programme

6. Each summer, community organisations, schools and non-governmental organisations organise various activities for young people. Home Affairs Department (HAD) launches the Summer Youth Programme (SYP) with the following main objectives:

- (a) Instil positive values into young people;
- (b) Engage young people in the community;
- (c) Promote cultural and arts activities among young people for enhancement of their cultural and artistic development;
- (d) Promote sports activities among young people for the development of physical health, sportsmanship and teamwork;
- (e) Provide training for young people to better equip and prepare them for the future; and
- (f) Promote civic awareness and a sense of belonging to Hong Kong among young people.

With the support of the 18 SYP District Co-ordinating Committees, government departments and district organisations, SYP organises a wide range of activities every summer to promote all-round development of children and young people aged from 6 to 25. There are five major categories of activities, namely education and development, community service, recreation, sports as well as culture and arts. Examples of activities held in 2008 were the Inter-district Soccer Competition and a youth learning programme (“We Learn 共 ‘童’ 學習成長計劃”) with students from international schools teaching English tutorial classes for new arrival children.

7. SYP is mainly financed by sponsorship from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (the Trust), subventions from the Government and District Councils, participation fees, funding from organisers and private donations. For example, the SYP 2008 received \$16.5 million from the Trust, \$2.2 million from the Government and District Councils, \$7.4 million from participation fees, \$2.4 million from the organisers, and \$0.3 million from private donations.

In 2009, the slogan of SYP is “Be Confident, Be Positive, Be an Achiever”, which aims to encourage young people to stay strong in the face of adversity and have confidence in their future, to enable them to show their immense vitality and potential, and to keep them away from the temptation of drugs and other bad influences through a variety of summer activities. Around 5 300 activities will be organised in the 18 districts this summer and more than 300 000 participants are expected to take part in these activities.

Community Programme against Youth Drug Abuse

8. HAD together with its 18 District Offices have been rolling-out a year-long Community Programme against Youth Drug Abuse starting from August 2009. Targeted at young people who are at risk or have abused drugs, the programme will be implemented by the 18 District Offices with the assistance of SWD. Supporting partners include District Councils, professional bodies and district organisations (such as sports associations, religious organisations, schools, parent-teacher associations, hospitals and non-governmental organisations), etc.

Youth Volunteer Programmes

9. The Financial Secretary announced in May 2009 that an additional \$10 million would be allocated to HAB with a view to helping young people to broaden their horizon and contribute to the community by participating in volunteer service through COY and other channels. The allocation provides additional resources to HAB, which will enable it to implement further initiatives to promote youth development. HAB plans to channel \$7 million from the allocation to COY for implementation of youth volunteer programmes and the remaining \$3 million to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) for engaging young people in volunteering in arts and cultural activities.

10. Helping youth people to develop positive values towards life and self-discipline, strengthen their will power and ability to distinguish right from wrong through encouraging their participation in volunteer service is in line with our policy objectives on youth development. While the programmes are not designed to provide support services to young people with problems

directly, they will enable youth participants in the programmes to develop positive values towards life, which is conducive to their staying away from drugs and other undue temptations.

11. One of the functions of COY is to encourage better cooperation among relevant organisations involved in youth development. Allocating additional resources to COY and capitalising on its network and coordination mechanism will facilitate effective and efficient implementation of the programmes, bringing about more creative and diversified initiatives and a wider network of young volunteers to participate in the programmes.

12. COY has invited a total of 14 organisations including 11 youth uniformed groups¹, AVS, the Hong Kong Volunteers Association and HKAYP to collaborate in the planning of the programmes. These organizations have responded positively and proposed various initiatives to COY for its consideration. Their dedication to voluntary service or youth development over the years make them suitable partners for implementing the programmes to promote youth development through participation in voluntary service. Besides, with their extensive network and membership, a spectrum of multi-faceted volunteer programmes and activities will be brought about for the benefits of more young volunteers and service recipients.

13. After deliberation with the abovesaid organisations, COY has adopted “moral development” as the theme of the volunteer service programmes. These organisations have submitted to COY their project proposals based on this theme. Their proposed projects are mainly of the following categories:

- (a) Provide disciplinary training to develop discipline and sense of responsibility among the youth trainees and teach them how to deal with adversity and care for others. Through topical talks and sharing sessions, they will learn messages about healthy and positive life as well as the meaning and basic skills of voluntary service;
- (b) Arrange for visits to the community such as to primary and secondary schools and drug treatment centres to enable young

¹ They comprise the Scout Association of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Girl Guides Association, Hong Kong Red Cross, Hong Kong St John Ambulance, Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps, Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps, Hong Kong Adventure Corps, Boys' Brigade Hong Kong, Girls' Brigade Hong Kong, Hong Kong Road Safety Association and Civil Aid Service Cadet Corps.

people to help young people. Volunteer service teams will visit schools to help foster a drug-free culture through different channels including exhibitions, talks, publications and CDs; the teams will also visit drug treatment centres or to join with students under drug treatment in attending skill training and other healthy activities for the purpose of fostering mutual support and assistance;

- (c) Promote youth participants to further their involvement in volunteer service training and volunteer service through the setting up of volunteer network or database, in order to encouraging them to keep serving the community and achieving self enrichment.

COY is now considering the proposals submitted by these organizations.

14. It is the Government's policy to create an environment conducive to freedom of artistic expression and creation, and the wider community participation in cultural activities. In strengthening our cultural software, the Government and its partners take a three-pronged approach: artists training/arts programmes development, audience building, and arts education and manpower training. We attach particular importance to nurture appreciation of arts and culture among the youths. The additional allocation of \$3 million will be dedicated to promote the participation of young people in arts and cultural activities. Specific initiatives are set out in the following paragraphs.

15. HKAPA plans to collaborate with the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA) to launch two community arts programmes in November this year in order to enable young people to broaden their horizons and develop positive values through volunteering in arts activities and arts promotion. Details of the programmes are as follows:

- (a) Programme (1) targets at young people in the community. Artists will be arranged to partner with four BGCA community centres to provide a series of workshops and arts training on drama, dancing, creative music, video filming, visual arts, etc. The works of the participants will be displayed or performed in various districts; and
- (b) Programme (2) targets at young people from the BGCA centres with potential for drama and theatrical arts. They will be arranged to

participate in “Stranger’s Life Project” for cultural exchange with youths from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia through multi-media technology, online discussion, and drama production, etc. They will then perform in the community. The project also includes an exchange camp in Hong Kong with artists and representatives of youth leaders from these four places.

Participants of the above programmes will become Youth Volunteer Ambassadors for Art to help promote art in the community.

16. HKADC will provide opportunities for volunteer service in arts and culture in its three current approaches to promote youth development, which include:

- (a) Invite district organisations to design and launch activities aimed at training young arts volunteers and enhancing their interest in arts through the “Enhanced Community Arts and Cultural Activities Programme”;
- (b) Provide funds through “Project Grant” and “Multi-Project Grant” schemes from January to December 2010 to support cultural and arts activities organised by arts groups aimed at encouraging youths’ participation in volunteer service; and
- (c) A one-month Hong Kong Dance Festival in late 2010 to be organised by HKADC to demonstrate the achievements of Hong Kong dance development in all aspects to local and overseas audience. Suitable organisations will be invited to launch a territory-wide dance performance for the promotion of the art. A large number of volunteers will also be recruited as activity instructors, team leaders and performers.

Advice Sought

17. Members are invited to note the information set out in this paper.