

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of special meeting
held on Wednesday, 20 October 2010, at 8:30am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Hon CHAN Tanya
- Member attending** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
- Members absent** : Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Public Officers : Home Affairs Bureau
attending

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Florence HUI, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Raymond YOUNG, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Home Affairs Department

Mrs Pamela TAN, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Clerk in : Ms Betty FONG
attendance Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in : Ms Yvonne OA-YANG
attendance Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Cerry YU
Legislative Assistant (2)2

Miss Monique TSEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 2

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I. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2010-2011

[LC Paper No. CB(2)41/10-11(01), CB(2)67/10-11(01), the 2010-2011 Policy Address : "Sharing Prosperity for a Caring Society", and the 2010-2011 Policy Agenda booklet]

Briefing by the Administration

Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the initiatives relating to the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") in the 2010-2011 Policy Agenda.

Discussion

Building Management

2. Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired about the timeframe for the Administration to introduce a mandatory licensing regulatory regime for the property management industry. He urged the Administration to submit a legislative proposal to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") no later than the 2010-2011 session. Ms Miriam LAU considered that the regulation of property management companies ("PMC") would inspire public confidence on their service quality and better protect the interest of building owners. She suggested that the Administration might draw reference to the experience of the security and guarding industry in the implementation of the aforesaid regime for PMCs, and consider introducing different level of licensing requirements to cater for the need of PMCs of various sizes, so as to promote healthy competition and enhance the service standard of the industry.

3. SHA noted the urgency to introduce a legislative regime for the regulation of PMCs, but stressed the need for the Administration to proceed carefully with due regard to various concerns expressed on the proposal, such as the impact of the regulatory regime on small and medium sized PMCs and the possible increase in management fees to cover the compliance cost.

Library services

4. On the Administration's latest proposal to set up drop-in boxes on a trial basis at major MTR interchange stations to make it more convenient for people to return books and other library items, Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired about the duration of the scheme, and the possibility of extending the scheme to four more major stations at Tsing Yi, Yuen Long,

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Siu Hong and Tuen Mun so as to facilitate commuters along the Light Rail and Tung Chung Lines. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered that the scope of service was too conservative. He suggested that the Administration could draw reference to the experience of Shenzhen, where 24-hour self-service book lending/returning machines had been introduced at busy transport interchanges to facilitate the accessibility to a range of library services by the working population.

5. SHA said that the Administration would take into account members' suggestions in the planning of library services. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") supplemented that the Administration would meet the MTR Corporation to discuss the detailed arrangements for setting up drop-in boxes for returning books at three major MTR stations at Central (to serve commuters along the Island Line, Tsuen Wan Line and Airport Express); Kowloon Tong (to serve those along the Kwun Tong Line and East Rail Line); and Nam Cheong (to cover those along the West Rail Line and Tung Chung Line), with a view to implementing the trial scheme within 2011. DLCS added that the scheme would be reviewed in 12 months' time and subject to the outcome of the review, the Government might consider expanding the scheme to other major MTR interchange stations.

Asian Games

6. Mr CHEUNG Man-Kwong expressed reservation about the need to extend the public consultation period for hosting the 2023 Asian Games. In his view, there was already a clear public consensus for the Government to appropriate the social resources to address more pressing needs in the areas of education, healthcare, housing and poverty alleviation. Miss Tanya CHAN reiterated her concerns about the inadequate support for athletes and provision of sports facilities. She further enquired how the Administration would quantify the views collected in the public consultation for hosting the Games. Dr LAM Tai-fai suggested that the Administration might consider organizing a visit to the 16th Guangzhou Asian Games for LegCo Members and District Council members to enhance their understanding about the Games.

7. SHA said that the extension of the public consultation was a direct response to the suggestion of LegCo Members. While he noted the public concern about the substantial commitment for hosting the Asian Games, he considered that more time was needed for the public to express further views, such as how the resources should be allocated for sports facilities/development and other social needs. SHA further advised that the Administration would follow the established practice in collating

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and analyzing the views collected in the public consultation through different communication channels, such as the Internet, surveys and questionnaires.

Sports development

8. Ms Miriam LAU said that there was a lack of public support for the Games because the Government had not been able to devise an effective policy for the nurturing of athletes and provide adequate sports facilities to meet the needs of the community. She urged the Administration to step up its efforts to promote the long-term development of sports, particularly in providing more support to athletes to facilitate their participation in international sports events.

9. The Deputy Chairman said that according to the outcome of a recent survey, more than 60% of the public did not support the bid for hosting the 2023 Asian Games. He asked in the event that Hong Kong decided not to host the Games, whether the Administration would continue its efforts in promoting sports development, particularly in the provision of sports facilities and encouraging public participation in sports with a view to promoting the "sports for all" culture. The Deputy Chairman further asked as to whether the Administration had conducted any survey to assess the fitness of Hong Kong people and the time they spent on sports activities. Regarding the support to athletes, the Deputy Chairman suggested that the Administration should work in collaboration with secondary schools and tertiary institutions for the provision of an integrated education to athletes with a view to enhancing their career prospects after retirement.

10. SHA said that the hosting of the Asian Games was conducive to the development of sports and sports culture for Hong Kong. Referring to outcome of a recent survey, which showed that there was room for improvement in terms of Hong Kong people's fitness and participation in sports, SHA advised that the Government would endeavour to strengthen its efforts in the development both hardware and software with a view to facilitating and encouraging the public at large to take part in sports. On the nurturing of athletes, SHA said that comprehensive training and support programmes based on scientific methods and advanced equipment were the most essential for athletes to achieve excellence performances nowadays. The Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") was taking forward training programmes for elite athletes on the basis of such concept and had worked in collaboration with tertiary institutions to enhance the educational opportunities for athletes.

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11. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and Dr LAM Tai-fai enquired about measures to enhance the development of disabled athletes. SHA acknowledged the achievements of disabled athletes in international sports competitions in recent years, and stressed that the Government had attached much importance to the development of these athletes. For instance, representatives from the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled were invited to sit on the Asian Games Provisional Bid Committee to advise the Administration on the hosting of this important sports event.

Youth development

12. Referring to the Government initiative to form a "Service Corps" in the coming year to recruit and provide financial support for young people aged between 18 and 29 to serve in the underprivileged areas in the Mainland for 6 to 12 months, Miss Tanya CHAN said that she gathered from tertiary students that which the Programme might enrich their experience in providing voluntary services in tough environment, it was not so useful in addressing the unemployment problem among young people. She also queried that rationale for arranging young people to take part in the Programme for such a long duration.

13. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che enquired about the implementation details of the Programme. Mr Paul TSE expressed support for the Programme, which in his view should provide valuable learning experience for young people. He suggested that the Administration should consider sponsoring non-governmental organizations, such as the youth uniform groups to operate such programmes. Quoting the example of Australia, where university graduates might receive financial support from the government to render volunteer services in the developing countries, Ms Cyd HO suggested that Administration should extend the scope of the Programme to cover developing countries in different parts of the world, so as to broaden the exposure of young people.

14. SHA advised that a concrete plan for the Programme should be available around the first half of 2011. During the visits to tertiary institutions to solicit students' view on the Programme, the Administration had received positive feedbacks from many students. While there might be different views in the community, the Programme should offer an option for young people who were interested in serving the underprivileged areas and provide valuable learning experience for these young people. Participants of the Programmes would receive specialized training before departure for the volunteer services, and the various uniformed groups might not have adequate capacities to cope

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with this level of training at the moment. SHA added that apart from the Programme, the Government had proposed in the Policy Agenda to extend the 3 000 temporary work opportunities created for young people to gain work experience to March 2012, to address the unemployment problem among young people.

15. Dr LAM Tai-fai expressed concern about the slow progress in encouraging youth participation in district affairs and considered that the Commission of Youth should step up its efforts in this regard. Mr CHEUNG Kwork-che requested the Administration to submit to LegCo the investigation reports on the study of juvenile drug abuse, prostitution and neglect of elderly people and children compiled by the Family Council. SHA advised that the full reports were yet to be available as the deliberation on the preliminary reports was still underway.

Development of the arts and culture

16. Ms Cyd HO considered that the first and foremost task in the development of public museums was to devise a concrete cultural policy to provide a foundation for the development of the cultural content of these museums, rather than over-emphasizing on the iconic architecture and catering facilities, which tended to commercialized such service. Ms HO further remarked that the promotion of arts critiques would help enhance the appreciation and the popularization of the arts and culture in the community. She urged the Administration to attach greater importance to promote these activities, for instance, by incorporating such programmes in the West Kowloon Cultural District development. She further enquired about the measures taken by the Administration to promote arts critiques. SHA responded that to promote the appreciation of the arts and culture, the nine major performing arts groups as well as other subvented arts groups would organize educational/discussion workshops to enhance the public's understanding of their respective programmes and art forms. Moreover, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department had organized docent tours for students from time to time.

17. Miss Tanya CHAN urged the Administration to strengthen the protection of Intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") by way of a legislative regime. SHA took note of Miss CHAN's suggestion, and advised that the Government had attached much importance to the preservation and protection of ICH and would continue its effort in this regard.

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Promotion of social harmony

18. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che expressed concern about the community's resistance to the setting up of columbarium facilities and residential care homes for elderly and persons with disabilities in their local districts. He further pointed out that among the 24 Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness, 23 centers had difficulties in finding premises for operation. He called for more Government efforts to strengthen the community education programmes with a view to promoting the social acceptance of these disadvantaged groups and the related facilities.

Assist new arrivals and ethnic minorities

19. Referring to the education support measures for Non-Chinese Speaking ("NCS") Students, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed concern that many of these students might not be able to benefit from these measures as they could not afford the costly traveling expenses to attend classes at the "designated schools". He suggested that the Administration should consider arranging volunteer language teachers to provide outreach services at schools attended by NCS students. SHA took note of Mr CHEUNG's suggestion.

Promotion of tourism industry

20. Mr Paul TSE expressed support for the Administration's initiatives in hosting blockbuster arts and cultural events, such as the exhibition of the "River of Wisdom - Animated Version of the Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival", and organizing a package of complementary programmes with special discounts for visitors in collaboration with the tourism industry. DLCS responded that the Government was encouraged by the overwhelming public response to the aforesaid cultural event and would seek further opportunities to host and organize similar events as well as to collaborate with the tourism sector in future.

21. Referring to the "Mid-Levels spot illegal commercial photo-taking service" incident, Mr Paul TSE considered that there was a need to protect tourists from illegal commercial vendors, and suggested that the Administration should take preventive measures, such as introduction of a licensing regime, to regulate photo-taking services at tourist spots.

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II. Any other business

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:30 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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