

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 142/11-12
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 8 April 2011, at 8:30 am
in the 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 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 CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Hon Tanya CHAN

Members absent : Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Public Officers : Agenda item III
attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Miss Winnie TSE
Principal Assistant Secretary (Civic Affairs) 3

Agenda item IV

Home Affairs Department

Mrs Pamela TAN, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Ms Mimi LEE Mei-mei, JP
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1)

Mr Andy CHAN Shui-fu, JP
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (1)

Mr MA Kit-chi
Chief Liaison Officer (1)2

Agenda item V

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Donald CHOY Chi-mun
Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3

Mr LEE Yuk-man
Assistant Director (Libraries & Development)

Miss Shirley CHUNG Yuk-fong
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 2

Clerk in : Mr Thomas WONG
attendance Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Alice LEUNG
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Yvonne OA-YANG
Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Monique TSEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2 (Acting)

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I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

Members noted the following paper issued since the last meeting -

LC Paper No. CB(2)1434/10-11(01)	-- Referral from a meeting between the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members and the Eastern District Council ("DC") members on 9 December 2010 regarding matters relating to the resumption of private roads in the Eastern District
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II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendixes I and II to LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1420/10-11]

2. Members noted the following items to be discussed at the next regular meeting on 13 May 2011 -

- (a) Monitoring of private recreational leases;
- (b) Implementation of District Minor Works Projects; and
- (c) Vibrant people, harmonious community activities.

3. To allow more time for discussion of items (a) and (b), members supported the Chairman's suggestion for the deferment of item (c) to the regular meeting in June 2011.

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Meeting arrangements

4. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that a joint meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs and the Panel on Education be held on Friday, 13 May 2011, from 9:00 am to 10:40 am to discuss matters relating to the promotion of arts and sports education in schools, and the next regular Panel meeting, originally scheduled for 13 May 2001 at 8:30 am, would be re-scheduled to 10:45 am on the same day.

5. Ms Cyd HO suggested and members agreed that members of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project be invited to join the discussion on arts education in schools at the joint Panel meeting.

III. Regulation of Internet Cafes

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1420/10-11(03) and (04)]

6. At the Chairman's invitation, Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the Administration's proposed statutory licensing regime for Internet Computer Service Centres ("ICSCs"). Members noted that the Administration would consult the trade and other stakeholders, including parent-teacher associations and youth organizations, on its proposal in the second and third quarters of 2011, and revert to the Panel afterwards.

Statutory regulation

7. Referring to his written submission on the regulation of ICSCs [LC Paper No. CB(2)1487/10-11(01)], Mr WONG Kwok-hing welcomed the Administration's positive response to his motion passed by the Panel in June 2010 urging the Government to consider the statutory regulation of ICSCs.

8. The Deputy Chairman expressed disappointment that the Government had only put in place the Code of Practice for ICSC Operators ("the Code of Practice") in 2003 for voluntary compliance by ICSCs, and they had not been subject to any statutory regulation. The belated proposed licensing regime for ICSCs was better than none. He suggested that the Panel should receive deputations on the subject and conduct a visit to ICSCs to understand their operation, especially at night, since many members might not have been to ICSCs. His suggestion was echoed by Mr Paul TSE.

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9. SHA responded that dating back to 2003, there had been diverse views on whether ICSCs had to be subject to statutory regulation immediately upon their emergence as a business in Hong Kong, which was a free market economy. Even nowadays, whether ICSCs should be subject to licensing control remained debatable.

10. Noting that establishments equipped with five or less computers would be exempted from the proposed licensing regime for ICSCs, Mr WONG Sing-chi raised concern about the definition of "computer" and whether it would cover wireless/portable computers and tablet personal computers ("PCs"), etc., and, if so, how they would be regulated.

11. Mr Paul TSE raised concern about the effectiveness of regulating ICSCs by legislation and whether such regulation should be accorded high priority, as it would involve a lot of resources and might bring about various problems. For instance, exemptions provided to certain establishments that might be caught by the definition of ICSC might give rise to grey areas and disputes. Putting ICSCs under statutory control might reduce the opportunity for youngsters to engage in social gathering and consequently worsen the problems of hidden youth. He sought information on how overseas jurisdictions dealt with ICSCs.

Licensing conditions

12. The Deputy Chairman noted that certain licensing conditions for Amusement Game Centres ("AGCs") were absent in the proposed licensing regime for ICSCs. For instance, there were no restrictions on the establishment of an ICSC within a radius of 100 metres from an educational institution (i.e. the 100-metre rule) and the entry of persons in school uniform to ICSCs. Nor was there any requirement for consulting local residents before the establishment of an ICSC. He queried why the proposed licensing conditions for ICSCs were more lax than those for AGCs. Mr CHAN Hak-kan shared similar views and added that the Administration should disallow children under 16 to remain in ICSCs after midnight.

13. SHA responded that AGCs and ICSCs were different in that the former provided game machines for amusement, whereas the latter provided computer sets by which patrons, including tourists, might not play games but access information and maintain communication on the Internet with low fees. As such, it should be more appropriate to regulate ICSCs by a licensing regime different from that for AGCs. SHA also advised that the restriction on children under 16 to remain in ICSCs after midnight had been set out in the Code of Practice and could be a licensing

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condition for ICSCs. The Administration would consult the trade on the applicability of the 100-metre rule, and consider the practical needs of students in school uniform to stay in ICSCs for study. The Administration was willing to hear views on these matters during the public consultation exercise.

14. Mr CHAN Hak-kan opined that the Administration's reasons for not regulating ICSCs by a licensing regime as stringent as that for AGCs were less than convincing. Many parents often complained to him that their children had stayed in ICSCs for amusement instead of study. If ICSCs were not subject to stringent regulation and could not provide a healthy environment for youngsters, the youth crime rate would continue to rise. SHA took note of his concern but advised that it might not be fair to label all ICSCs as a hotbed for crime.

15. Ms Cyd HO expressed support for the proposed licensing regime, which would require ICSCs to comply with statutory and relevant requirements relating to fire safety, building safety and noise control. To further protect the health of patrons, the Administration should require ICSCs to comply with office safety requirements relating to the use of computers, which covered the lighting condition, workstation design and proper posture for computer use.

16. Miss Tanya CHAN recalled the concerns raised by members in past discussions about the potential risks of the dense electrical installations in ICSCs. She asked whether the Administration would consider setting special licensing requirements for the safety of such installations, and whether it had received any complaints about ICSCs' fire safety and ventilation problems or noise nuisance.

17. SHA responded that the fire safety, ventilation and lighting requirements for ICSCs had been put in place. The Fire Services Department ("FSD") would conduct regular inspections on ICSCs to ensure their compliance with such requirements. Principal Assistant Secretary (Civic Affairs)³ added that according to FSD, the number of relevant complaints received was less than 10 per year for the past several years.

18. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che pointed out that at present, unlike AGCs, ICSCs allowed entry for children of any age. Children patronizing ICSCs were likely from low-income families and most of them were for amusement and social gathering instead of study. The Administration should provide more information on the impacts of ICSCs on youngsters to facilitate the discussion on the regulation of ICSCs.

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19. SHA responded that the Administration would gauge the views of parents, the social welfare sector and the trade on the licensing of ICSCs, including whether to impose restrictions on the business hours and age of patrons of ICSCs and whether to follow the arrangement for AGCs by dividing ICSCs into two types for adults and children respectively. The Administration was aware that the regulatory arrangements for ICSCs in other jurisdictions varied. For instance, in Macau and on the Mainland, children under 12 and 18 were not allowed to enter ICSCs respectively. In Singapore, students under 16 were only allowed to enter ICSCs during a certain period of time after school. As the services provided by ICSCs had been a normal business, the Administration would carefully consider whether they had to be subject to stringent regulation.

20. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered that time had changed since the enactment of the Amusement Games Centre Ordinance (Cap. 435) of which he had participated in the scrutiny, and there were differences in the modes of operation between AGCs and ICSCs. As such, the regulatory approach to AGCs might not be simply applied to ICSCs, and he would keep an open mind about how ICSCs should be regulated. In his view, the actual operation of ICSCs, the possible regulatory difficulties involved and the needs of the youth had to be taken into account before drawing up a regulatory framework for ICSCs. Such a framework should include the safety (such as fire safety) of the establishments, the control of violent and pornographic contents on the Internet and the restriction on young patrons' access to ICSCs during a certain period of time. In particular, young people should not be encouraged to stay late in ICSCs and become young night drifters ("YNDs"), creating another problem that needed to be dealt with. He expressed support for the regulation of ICSCs by legislation but stressed the importance of listening to the views of not only ICSC operators and other stakeholders but also young people. SHA responded that the Administration would consider the regulation of ICSCs in the same direction.

21. While sharing the view that the statutory regulation of ICSCs should have come earlier, Dr LAM Tai-fai urged the Administration not to over-regulate ICSCs to avoid jeopardizing their survival. He shared the concerns of Miss Tanya CHAN and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong about the Administration's proposed restriction of access to ICSCs by children under 16 from midnight to 8:00 am. He was worried that the restriction might give rise to other problems. For instance, how to check the age of young patrons might create conflicts. The restriction might also force children to go, and shift the problems in ICSCs, to other establishments,

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thus giving rise to concern as to whether such establishments should also be subject to statutory regulation. He asked how the Administration would strike a balance between prevention of crimes in ICSCs and avoiding the possible adverse impacts on their normal business operation.

22. SHA agreed that the regulation of ICSCs without jeopardizing their survival was a balancing exercise. The Administration noted that ICSCs had operated with a small profit margin, as it was roughly estimated that about half of their patrons were young people. To lower their rental cost, some ICSCs were operating in upstairs units, which might bring about problems relating to fire safety, etc. Regarding the restriction on children's access to ICSCs at night, the Administration was of the view that children should not stay late in ICSCs. Nevertheless, the Administration noted the demands for ICSCs from workers, especially those working night shifts, who patronized ICSCs for amusement or taking a rest.

23. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the Administration would consider putting in place a demerit points system under which the licence of an ICSC operator might be revoked if a certain number of demerit points were accumulated. Such a system should pose a deterrent effect on ICSC operators who had violated the licensing conditions repeatedly. SHA agreed that if a licensing regime for ICSCs was to be introduced, a corresponding mechanism to revoke an ICSC licence should be put in place. The Administration undertook to consider the suggestion.

Support for youngsters

24. Mr WONG Sing-chi expressed support for the proposed regulation of ICSCs in which gullible youths might fall prey to criminals or be used by them to commit offences. He sought information on whether social workers had been allowed to enter ICSCs to provide counselling to patrons addicted to the Internet. SHA responded in the affirmative and added that social workers could help ICSCs to maintain a healthy environment for their patrons. The Administration was not aware of any ICSC operators which denied social workers from entering ICSCs.

25. Mr WONG Sing-chi suggested that the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") should co-ordinate non-profit-making bodies to establish more ICSCs with registered social workers available therein to provide support to youngsters. His suggestion was echoed by Prof Patrick LAU. Given the proposed restriction on children under 16 to remain in ICSCs from midnight to 8:00 am, Miss Tanya CHAN also supported the provision of more venues (similar to the Warehouse in Aberdeen) specifically for

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youngsters who preferred not to stay home during the night. SHA undertook to consider with the social welfare sector the demand for such venues.

26. Prof Patrick LAU suggested that as the use of PCs was common among youngsters and low-income families might receive public financial support to purchase computers for their children, the Administration should study the reasons for the existence of so many ICSCs, which should not make much profit from their low-charge services. He also suggested that free WiFi services be provided in the open spaces of all public estates to attract youngsters to have social gathering there rather than linger in ICSCs.

27. SHA responded that youngsters preferred to gather in ICSCs for amusement, as they could afford the low-charge services there and their living space might not allow them to use computers. In view of the social demands for ICSCs, proper regulation would help promote their healthy development.

28. Ms Cyd HO opined that the problems of ICSCs had been closely related to those of YNDs. A licensing regime for ICSCs would not be sufficient to protect YNDs, as they were reluctant to go home, even they could not stay in ICSCs after midnight. Noting that there were YND service centres operated by the Administration in conjunction with non-governmental social welfare organizations, she sought information on their operation and efficacy. The Chairman advised that the services for YNDs might not be directly relevant to the regulation of ICSCs and the work of HAB but agreed that the Administration should provide written information on the latest development of such services after the meeting.

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29. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Administration's paper, which stated that there was concern on possible crimes associated with ICSCs, and the popularity of ICSCs among youngsters could attract the penetration of drug dealers or members of the triad society, Mr Paul TSE asked whether the Administration had any concrete statistics to indicate the seriousness of crimes, especially youth crime, in ICSCs. Principal Assistant Secretary (Civic Affairs)³ responded that according to the Police, there were about 200 crime cases in 2010 and half of them were theft ones.

30. Mr Paul TSE shared the view that the problems associated with ICSCs should be attributed to youth problems rather than the lack of regulation. SHA responded that the Administration had attached importance to youth development by supporting youth uniform groups

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and encouraging youngsters to take part in various sports and arts programmes.

Interim measures

31. In view of parents' worry about the influences of the triad society on youngsters and their access to on-line pornographic and violent contents in ICSCs, Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked how the Administration would ensure effective monitoring of ICSCs before introducing a licensing regime. He also sought information on the frequency of Police inspections on ICSCs and the number and distribution of ICSCs in Hong Kong.

32. SHA responded that the existing Code of Practice for ICSCs had addressed the issues raised by Mr WONG. The implementation of the Code of Practice by big ICSCs was satisfactory in that patrons needed to have their Identity Card numbers recorded before entering ICSCs and manpower was deployed to check whether patrons accessed pornographic and violent contents on the Internet in ICSCs. In addition to the Police, which conducted regular inspections on ICSCs, FSD and the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority were responsible for inspecting the fire service installations and Internet contents in ICSCs respectively. In the absence of a licensing regime for ICSCs, the Administration had not compiled a formal record of their number and distribution in Hong Kong. According to the Police inspection reports, there were currently around 200 ICSCs in Hong Kong.

Follow-up action

33. Members agreed that a Panel meeting be held to receive views from not only ICSC operators and other stakeholders but also youngsters on the regulation of ICSCs. Members generally considered it not necessary for the Panel to conduct a visit to ICSCs, as it might be more appropriate for interested members to visit such establishments on their own.

IV. Matters relating to the Village Representative Elections

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1420/10-11(01) and (02)]

34. At the Chairman's invitation, Director of Home Affairs ("DHA") briefed members on the key features of the arrangements and outcomes of the 2011 Village Representative ("VR") elections [LC Paper No. CB(2)1420/10-11(01)].

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Upsurge in the number of registered electors

35. Ms Tanya CHAN drew members' attention to the fact that compared to those in the 2003 and 2007 VR elections, the number of registered electors in some constituencies in the 2011 VR elections surged significantly. For instance, the number of registered electors in Po Toi surged from 19 and 18 in 2003 and 2006 respectively to 40 in 2011. In Hang Tau Tsuen, the number of registered electors surged from 82 and 116 in 2003 and 2006 respectively to 416 in 2011. She asked what measures had been taken by the Administration to achieve the upsurge in the number of registered electors in 2011 and whether there were any review mechanism for verifying the eligibility of electors. She also requested the Administration to provide a breakdown of electors by indigenous inhabitant and by non-indigenous resident.

36. Mr WONG Sing-chi pointed out that Indigenous Inhabitant Representatives ("IIR") for indigenous villages had wide powers, which included confirming the identity of an indigenous inhabitant. In addition, VRs were members of Rural Committees ("RCs"), and the chairmen and vice-chairmen of RCs were ex-officio councillors of Heung Yee Kuk ("HYK"), and HYK was a functional constituency from which a LegCo Member might return. In view of the importance of VRs elections and the occasional engagements in corrupt and illegal conduct by VRs, he asked how the Administration would strengthen its monitoring of VR elections, especially IIR elections.

37. DHA responded that the increased registered electors in the 2011 VR elections were mainly indigenous inhabitants who, in relation to Indigenous Villages that existed in 1898, were persons descended through the male line from persons who were residents of those Villages in 1898. An indigenous inhabitant was eligible to register as an elector in a VR election regardless of where he/she resided. The upsurge in the number of registered electors in 2011 had not been abnormal, as indigenous inhabitants residing overseas might be interested in a particular VR election and therefore register to vote.

38. DHA also advised that the elector registration process had been under monitoring. An applicant for registration as an elector was required to declare that the particulars provided, including the address, in the registration form were true and accurate. The registration form had also stated that any person who made any false or incorrect statement or gave false or misleading information committed an offence. If the information in the registration forms received was found incomplete or

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incorrect, the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") would verify the particulars provided in the registration forms and, if necessary, send written inquiries to applicants or conduct inspections to seek clarification or proof. HAD had also made available a provisional voters' register for public inspection. Any person who questioned the eligibility of a person whose names appeared in the provisional register might raise objection through a legal proceeding. DHA stressed that any corrupt or illegal conduct in VR elections was subject to the regulation of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance ("ECICO") (Cap 554). The Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC") had received 75 complaints about the 2011 VR elections and were following up.

39. Mr Paul TSE sought clarification on whether a registered elector would commit an offence if the elector had provided false or misleading information in the voter registration form but did not cast a vote in a VR election. DHA affirmed that it would be an offence for a person to provide false information knowingly in an application for registration as an elector.

40. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che opined that while there was improvement in the operation of VR elections since the enactment of the Village Representative Election Ordinance ("VREO")(Cap. 576) in 2003, the progress had been very slow. He pointed out that a person was required to reside in an existing village for at least three years immediately preceding the date of application for registration as an elector in Resident Representatives ("RR") elections. However, this requirement did not apply to IIR elections. He enquired whether the Administration would consider applying the same residency requirement to RR and IIR elections.

41. DHA repeated the rationale for not making residence a requirement for voting in an IRR election, in particular that related to the fact that the indigenous villagers were linked by a common ancestor, not by a common residency. She also said that in its scrutiny of the Village Representative Election Bill in 2003, LegCo had thorough discussions on various issues, including the residency requirement in VR elections. Any proposal to make changes must be carefully considered.

Conduct of VR elections

42. Ms Cyd HO said that she was told that new residents in villages had been discouraged by local residents to register as electors or vote in VR elections. As the electorate base of some villages was small and to avoid voting manipulation, she sought information on the measures to be

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taken by the Administration to enhance electors' awareness of their right to vote by secret ballot and to exercise their voting right free from coercion.

43. DHA responded that the Administration had all along recognized the importance of keeping elections clean and fair. It had allocated \$450,000 to ICAC for the promotion of clean VR elections in 2011. HAD would endeavour to obtain more resources to step up the promotion and education on clean VR elections. As in LegCo and DC elections, electors cast their votes by secret ballot in VR elections. Members of the public were encouraged to report cases of suspected illegal or corrupt election-related activities to the law enforcement agencies.

44. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming declared that he was the Vice-chairman of HYK. He opined that compared to DC elections which had been brought under statutory control since 1982 and LegCo's direct elections which were introduced in 1991, VR elections had been held only three times since the enactment of VREO in 2003, and therefore it was not unusual to find certain defects in them. Compared to previous ones, the 2011 VR elections had showed substantial improvements in that the relevant rules and guidelines had been set clearly.

Female participation in VR elections

45. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed grave disappointment at the lack of progress in female participation in the 2011 VR elections. Although about 47% of registered electors were females, only about 4% of the candidates, elected VRs and VRs returned uncontested were females. He opined that females in villages had been discouraged by certain practices and values of rural clans to participate in rural elections, and such practices and values might violate the principle of gender equality. He urged the Administration to help break the male dominance in VR elections.

46. DHA responded that the Administration had all along encouraged more females to register as electors and run for VR elections. HAD had issued letters to HYK and women associations to solicit their assistance in encouraging more females to take part in the elections. The Administration had also taken into account the principle of gender mainstreaming in making publicity for the elections. However, whether a female would run for the elections was ultimately her personal choice.

47. DHA further responded that there was improvement in female participation in the 2011 VR elections. Of the 182 000 registered voters,

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47.3% were females. Compared to 2003 and 2007, the number of female registered voters for the 2011 VR elections increased by 16.2% and 7.7% respectively. The number of female candidates rose by 11%, from 35 in 2007 to 39 in 2011. There were 30 female candidates who had won the 2011 elections, representing an increase of 7% over 2007.

48. Mr Paul TSE declared that he was an indigenous inhabitant, a registered elector and an advisor to HYK. While welcoming the Administration to encourage female participation in such elections, he opined that it might be more appropriate to allow gradual change in deep-rooted traditions impacting on such elections instead of forcing change by legislation.

49. In response to Mr Paul TSE's enquiry about the number of complaints relating to the verification of the status of indigenous inhabitants in the 2011 VR elections, DHA advised that the Administration had received more complaints relating to the eligibility of electors in the 2011 elections compared to the 2007 elections, and were following up such cases. On Mr TSE's enquiry about whether it was a corrupt conduct for any person making false declaration in his/her registration as an elector, DHA responded in the affirmative.

50. Mr WONG Yung-kan declared that he was an advisor to HYK, and was pleased to see 30 females win the 2011 VR elections. He was given to understand that females actively participating in rural affairs had been encouraged to run for the election, and was pleased to see a decrease in election-related violence incidents. DHA advised that no such incidents had been reported in the polling of the 2011 VR elections.

51. Ms Emily LAU noted from the LegCo Secretariat's background brief that only 28 out of the 1 320 VRs in the 2007 VR elections were females and the number of female VRs only increased to 30 in 2011. She expressed disappointment at the small number of female VRs and hoped that HYK could encourage more females to participate in the elections. At her request, the Administration undertook to provide information on the respective numbers of registered electors, candidates, elected VRs and VRs returned uncontested, and a breakdown by gender, in the 2007 and 2011 elections.

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(Post-meeting note: A supplementary information paper provided by the Administration on the numbers of registered voters, candidates and elected VRs in the 2007 and 2011 VR elections was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1961/10-11(01) on 2 June 2011.)

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Review on the 2011 VR elections

52. Dr LAM Tai-fai considered it necessary for the Administration to seriously and comprehensively review the 2011 VR elections, with a view to proving whether they had been clean, fair and civilized. He asked whether the review would involve various departments, and sought information on the Administration's criteria for considering the elections fair, open and honest. As there were reports on complaints about the demarcation and electorate of village constituencies, he also asked whether the Administration would verify the number of residents in each constituency. DHA advised that the elections had been conducted in a fair, open and honest manner under the oversight of the Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC"). The review would involve several departments including the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the Department of Justice, the Police and ICAC.

53. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming considered that as VR and HYK elections had been brought under statutory control, the Administration should also have the responsibility to put RC elections under similar regulation. He asked whether the Administration would have a legislative timetable for RC elections. Mr WONG Yung-kan shared a similar view. DHA responded that the review to be conducted by the Administration on the 2011 VR elections would cover the feasibility of regulating RC elections by legislation. She hoped that HYK would provide full support in this regard.

54. Ms Cyd HO, Ms Emily LAU, Mr WONG Sing-chi and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the Panel should consider receiving deputations on the 2011 VR elections to facilitate the Administration's review on them. Ms LAU also requested the Administration to respond to the concerns raised in a submission from "官商勾結監察連線" on VR elections [LC Paper No. CB(2)1421/10-11(01)].

55. Ms Emily LAU said that according to some HAD staff, they did not want to participate in the work relating to VR elections and such work should be returned to EAC. She asked whether this issue would be addressed in the review. DHA responded that HAD had all along maintained good communication with its staff and they had been willing to participate in such work although they requested that more resources and auxiliary facilities be provided. Their requests had been acceded to in the 2011 VR elections.

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56. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming, Mr WONG Yung-kan, Ms Miriam LAU suggested that it might be more appropriate for the Panel to receive deputations after the Administration had provided more information on the scope and timetable of its review on the 2011 VR elections. The Chairman and other members agreed.

V. Construction of a District Open Space, Sports Centre and Library in Area 74, Tseung Kwan O

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1420/10-11(05) and (06)]

57. Ms Emily LAU enquired whether green facilities, barrier-free access and gender-mainstreaming measures (such as the provision of adequate baby care facilities and female water closets) had been incorporated in the project of constructing a district open space, sports centre and library in Area 74, Tseung Kwan O ("TKO") ("the proposed project"). Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3 of Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("AD(LS)3/LSCD") advised that the Administration's paper did not mention the requested facilities in detail, but the proposed project would provide them, including a water cooling air conditioning system, solar energy facilities and rainwater recycling for irrigation.

58. Ms Emily LAU expressed dissatisfaction about the lack of information on such important facilities in the Administration's paper. At her request, AD(LS)3/LSCD undertook to provide the relevant information after the meeting. Ms LAU also reminded the Administration to incorporate such facilities in the design of all relevant public works projects.

59. Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed support for the proposed project and urged the Administration to expedite its completion, which was currently scheduled for 2014, as it had been reviewed and requested by the Sai Kung District Council as early as 2006. Noting that many TKO residents preferred to travel by bicycle, he hoped that the Administration could facilitate their access to the project area by providing more bicycle parking spaces. AD(LS)3/LSCD responded that the project area was convenient and only seven-minute walk from the TKO MTR station. Car parks were also available in nearby residential estates. The proposed project would provide 50 bicycle parking spaces. Mr CHAN requested more such spaces to meet residents' needs. AD(LS)3/LSCD undertook to consider his request with the Architecture Services Department.

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60. Noting from the Administration's paper that the proposed project area appeared to be surrounded by roads, Ms Miriam LAU urged the Administration to ensure the adequate provision of pedestrian crossing facilities leading to the project area, and to provide a more detailed layout plan showing such facilities in its paper to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC"). AD(LS)3/LSCD responded that he had visited the project area and understood that the current design had taken into account the public access to the area from different directions. For instance, as showed in Enclosure 1 to the Administration's paper, the project area could be accessed from the nearby Choi Ming Court and would be connected with the TKO Centre by a pedestrian subway.

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61. Summing up, the Chairman considered that members had no objection to the proposed project. He requested the Administration to address members' concerns and provide the requisite information in its submission to PWSC for consideration.

VI. Any other business

62. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:42 am.