

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)653/11-12

(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

### **Panel on Home Affairs**

#### **Minutes of meeting**

**held on Friday, 13 May 2011, at 10:45 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 Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
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

**Member : attending** Hon LEE Wing-tat

**Members absent** : Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, 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

Mr Jonathan McKinley, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr Benjamin MOK  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs  
(Recreation and Sport)

Hong Kong Sports Institute

Dr Trisha Leahy  
Chief Executive

Agenda item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Raymond YOUNG, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jonathan McKinley, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr Benjamin MOK  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs  
(Recreation and Sport)

Agenda item V

Home Affairs Department

Mrs Pamela TAN KAM M-wah, JP  
Director of Home Affairs

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

Mr Andrew TSANG Yue-tung, JP  
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Paul CHEUNG Kwok-kee  
Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services  
(Leisure Services)1

Architectural Services Department

Mr FONG Siu-wai  
Assistant Director of Architectural Services  
(Property Services)

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Thomas WONG  
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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Action

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

Members noted the following papers issued since the last meeting -

LC Paper No. CB(2)1531/10-11(01) -- Administration's information paper on programmes and activities to commemorate the centenary of the 1911 Revolution

Action

LC Paper No. CB(2)1541/10-11(01) -- Submission from a member of the public about the services of public libraries

LC Paper No. CB(2)1541/10-11(02) -- Submission from a resident of Peng Chau on matters relating to village representatives elections

LC Paper No. CB(2)1552/10-11(01) -- Referral from Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members' meeting with Kowloon City District Council ("DC") members on 6 January 2011 on concerns about the environmental hygiene and security of old buildings in the district after acquisition by private developers

LC Paper No. CB(2)1734/10-11(01) -- Administration's information paper on a proposal to develop a joint-user complex in Area 44, Fanling

2. Members raised no objection to the Administration's submission of the proposal to develop a joint-user complex in Area 44, Fanling (LC Paper No. CB(2)1734/10-11(01)) to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration in June 2011.

**II. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1695/10-11]

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting on 10 June 2011 -

- (a) Vibrant people, harmonious community activities; and
- (b) sports development in Hong Kong.

Cheung Chau Bun Festival

Action

4. Referring to a recent incident in May 2011 relating to the Cheung Chau Bun Festival in which local bakeries had been prohibited by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") from stamping buns with the Chinese character "peace" outside their premises, Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed concern about the promotion and preservation of the cultural heritage of the Festival in which the buns were an important feature, and suggested that the matter be discussed at a Panel meeting.

Admin

5. Miss Tanya CHAN, Ms Emily LAU and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong shared a similar view that as FEHD did not fall under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB"), the matter raised by Mr CHAN Hak-kan should be discussed from the perspective of cultural heritage protection. They suggested that the Administration should provide an information paper on the matter to facilitate members' consideration of Mr CHAN's suggestion. Members agreed.

*[Post-meeting note: The aforesaid information paper was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2183/10-11(01) dated 23 June 2011.]*

### **III. Establishment of the Elite Athletes Development Fund**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1695/10-11(01) and (02)]

6. Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the Administration's proposed injection of \$7 billion into an Elite Athletes Development Fund ("EADF") [LC Paper No. CB(2)1695/10-11(01)]. SHA highlighted that Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") would no longer receive an annual subvention from the Government but would receive income generated from the investment return from EADF. The Administration intended to seek the Finance Committee ("FC")'s approval for the proposed injection within 2011.

#### Establishment of EADF

7. Members including Mr WONG Kwok-hing, Miss Tanya CHAN, Mrs Sophie LEUNG, Dr LAM Tai-fai and the Deputy Chairman expressed support for the establishment of EADF. Dr LAM Tai-fai, who declared that he was a member of the Board of Directors of HKSI, and Mr WONG Kwok-hing considered that EADF had been long-awaited by elite athletes and could provide steady and sustainable financial support for their development. The Deputy Chairman said that the Democratic Party welcomed the establishment of EADF, which was in response to his

Action

motion passed by the Panel urging the Government to set up a \$6 billion sports fund to promote sports for all and enhance the training and retirement arrangements for elite athletes.

Sustainability of funding

8. Mr WONG Kwok-hing noted that the future operation of HKSI would be largely financed by the investment returns on the seed capital of EADF. On the assumption that the long-term average investment return would be about 4% to 5%, the \$7 billion EADF would generate between \$280 million and \$350 million per annum. He was concerned whether the investment return assumption was too optimistic, and asked about the actions to be taken by the Administration when the investment return fell short of the amount required to support the operation of HKSI.

9. SHA responded that the 4 to 5% annual investment return was based on the performance of the Hong Kong Exchange Fund managed by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority over the past six years. If the investment return failed to meet the target, SHA might use the seed capital of EADF to meet the funding needs of HKSI.

10. Dr LAM Tai-fai asked whether the Government would inject additional funding into EADF if part of its seed capital had been spent in times of economic downturn. Noting that HKSI's annual budget was projected to increase by only about 10% from \$240 million in 2010-2011 to \$270 million in 2011-2012 and to \$300 million by 2013-2014, he considered that these estimates were rather conservative and might not be sufficient for HKSI to support more full-time elite athletes or enhance the financial assistance to them, if the operation of HKSI under EADF was successful.

11. SHA responded that EADF aimed at providing a steady financial support for HKSI. If necessary, the Administration would consider injecting additional funding into EADF, subject to FC's approval. On whether the projected annual budget for HKSI in the next few years, including the monthly financial assistance to elite athletes, should be increased, SHA advised that the matter should be decided by the Board of Directors of HKSI, which would submit its recommendation to the Sports Commission ("SC") for consideration.

Development of elite athletes

12. Mr LEE Wing-tat opined that EADF could only support the development of elite athletes but could not improve their prospect after

Action

retirement from competitions. He urged the Administration to put in place a flexible educational pathway through which retired elite athletes could receive further education; more post-secondary education opportunities; and, with reference to overseas experiences (in the United Kingdom and Japan, etc.), the Administration could encourage big corporations to employ them.

13. SHA responded that the Administration had attached importance to the career prospect for retired elite athletes. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs ("DSHA") added that the eight funded institutions under the University Grants Committee had admitted elite athletes directly recommended by the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC") or HKSI. In the past three years, 43 retired elite athletes had been admitted to local universities through this arrangement. This was not a big number but had indicated the beginning of a trend that would continue in future. In addition, with Government's funding, SF&OC established the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme ("HKACEP") in 2008 to improve the education and career prospects for retired elite athletes. HKSI had also implemented programmes to meet their education and career development needs.

Admin

14. At Mr LEE Wing-tat's request, DSHA undertook to provide after the meeting a paper on the Administration's initiatives to enhance the education and career development opportunities for serving and retired elite athletes.

15. Ms Emily LAU was concerned whether the establishment of EADF could help attract more young athletes with potentials to develop their sporting career in the absence of a flexible educational pathway. She recalled that at the Panel meeting on 14 January 2011 and during the Democratic Party's visit to HKSI, HKSI had advised that a flexible education system for young elite athletes to receive training and education would be conducive to the development of elite athletes.

16. Chief Executive of HKSI ("CE/HKSI") responded that if a flexible education system could be implemented in Hong Kong, she was confident that more young athletes would be attracted to take up sports as a career. HKSI might be the only sport institute around the world expressly adopting a scientific training model for the whole person development of elite athletes, which included physical, psychological and social skills training. She also advised that members' views on the development of elite athletes were already covered in HKSI's five-point strategic development framework.

Action  
Admin

17. Ms Emily LAU requested the Administration to relay HKSI's views on the need to introduce a flexible education system in Hong Kong to the Education Bureau for consideration and to provide a paper on this matter to the Panel.

18. In response to Ms Emily LAU's enquiry about HKACEP, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) (PAS/HA(R&S)) advised that in 2008, about \$11 million was allocated to SF&OC for the establishment of HKACEP to provide education and employment training and counseling services to serving and retired elite athletes. If necessary, the Administration would consider providing additional funding for HKACEP. HAB would continue to liaise with SF&OC in this regard.

#### Support for team sports

19. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed dissatisfaction with the exclusion of the three most popular team sports in Hong Kong, viz. football, basketball and volleyball, from EADF, and the neglect of the development of athletes in these team sports. He called on the Administration to allocate a specific portion of EADF to promote them.

20. SHA responded that EADF aimed at providing funding to the HKSI, inter alia, for supporting Elite Sports that had been selected through an objective assessment mechanism. While the three popular team sports had not been selected as Elite Sports based on the existing selection criteria, the Government had strengthened the financial support for the development of team sports, including football, through the Arts and Sport Development Fund ("ASDF"), among others. CE/HKSI added that HKSI was a delivery agent in promoting sport and had not been involved in the formulation of the selection criteria for identifying Elite Sports. Such selection criteria had been formulated by SC in conjunction with various stakeholders in the sports sector. HKSI would support any team sports, including football, if they were qualified as Elite Sports.

21. Prof Patrick LAU asked how a sport could be qualified as an Elite Sport. CE/HKSI advised that under the existing assessment mechanism, the average scores of at least two outstanding athletes in both senior and junior categories in major sports events in the past two years would be considered for elite vote support for a period of four years, subject to a periodic review after the first two years. HKSI would conduct an assessment on every Elite Sport every year. HKSI's current funding system covered not only the 14 Elite Sports but also non-elite sports. There was funding for the training programmes for individual elite



Action

athletes outside the 14 Elite Sports, and such athletes could also receive financial assistance.

22. Dr LAM Tai-fai pointed out that every National Sports Association ("NSA") in Hong Kong wished its sport to be selected as an Elite Sport. It was therefore necessary to have an objective benchmarking system for the selection of Elite Sports. Whether a particular sport was qualified as an Elite Sport should be based on its performance instead of popularity. He said that while he was a football fan and wished football to become an Elite Sport, it had not reached the required standards. As EADF aimed at supporting the development of elite athletes, its scope should not be extended to non-elite sports.

23. Prof Patrick LAU noted from paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper that with the establishment of EADF, there would be scope for the Administration to redeploy existing resources, such as the sports portion of ASDF, to strengthen support for athletes who were not on HKSI's elite programmes, in particular athletes in team sports, and to promote greater community involvement in sports. He asked whether all team sports were funded by ASDF.

24. PAS/HA(R&S) responded that in addition to Elite Sports, HKSI had provided financial support to sports with potentials. For instance, as rugby had been identified as a sport with potentials, the NSA concerned would receive a financial support of \$1.5 million per annum to promote the sport in the next two years. Sports that were not identified as Elite Sports could also receive support from the Sports Subvention Scheme administered by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"). In addition, the Administration would continue to enhance support for team sports at various levels through ASDF, among others.

25. Miss Tanya CHAN asked whether there was any difference in the assessment criteria for selecting team sports and individual sports as Elite Sports, as it was rather difficult for all athletes in a team to be qualified as elite athletes. SHA advised that the assessment criteria for team and individual sports had been the same, i.e. performance-based.

Support for disabled elite athletes and non-elite athletes

26. Miss Tanya CHAN asked whether disabled elite athletes and non-elite athletes would benefit from EADF, and whether EADF would provide funding for the recruitment of high-quality coaching staff, as they were important to the development of elite athletes. SHA responded in the affirmative. CE/HKSI advised that both able-bodied and disabled

Action

elite athletes had equal access to all the facilities in HKSI, and there were designated facilities for disabled ones. On the recruitment of coaches, she advised that while the number of full-time elite athletes supported by HKSI was expected to increase eventually from the current 170 to 500, HKSI would strive to maintain the existing 1:6 coach-to-athlete ratio. In the coming five years, the staff in HKSI would increase by 26% and 65% of the increased staff would be coaches. HKSI would strive to recruit the best coaches, which might include local retired elite athletes if they met the required standards.

27. Mrs Sophie LEUNG considered that with the support of EADF, HKSI should attach importance to the provision of mental and psychological training to elite athletes, as it could enhance their performance and be conducive to their pursuit of a second career after retirement from competitions. In its recruitment of coaches, HKSI should give due regard to their capability of providing such training to elite athletes. SHA shared her view and added that psychological qualities, such as determination, perseverance and motivation were essential to the success of an athlete. From his visits to HKSI, he noted that HKSI had attached equal importance to physical training and psychological counseling for elite athletes.

Monitoring

28. Noting the Administration's proposal for having the statements of account of EADF audited by the Director of Audit and included in the financial report of the Secretary for the Home Affairs Incorporated for tabling at LegCo annually, Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked whether the Administration could report to LegCo on the implementation of EADF and answer Members' questions at regular intervals. SHA assured members that the operation of EADF would be highly transparent and subject to LegCo's monitoring. The Administration was willing to report to the Panel on EADF if the Panel so wished.

29. The Deputy Chairman considered the Administration's proposed arrangement for LegCo's monitoring of EADF inadequate. He asked whether the benchmarks for the identification of Elite Sports supported by HKSI and HKSI's strategic development plan could be submitted to LegCo for consideration and endorsement. SHA responded that the HKSI's strategic development plan was considered and endorsed by the Board of Directors of HKSI.

**IV. Monitoring of private recreational leases**

Action

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1695/10-11(03) and (04)]

30. At the Chairman's invitation, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs ("PSHA") briefed members on the initial conclusions of the Administration's review on Private Recreational Leases ("PRLs") and a possible way forward [LC Paper No. CB(2)1695/10-11(03)].

Policy review

31. Members generally expressed support for a policy review on PRLs by the Administration, with a view to providing greater public access to the sports and recreational facilities of organizations operated under PRLs. PSHA responded that most PRLs would be subject to renewal between end-2011 and 2012. The Administration would take into account members' views when considering whether to conduct a further policy review on PRLs.

Admin

32. Noting that the number of premises operated under PRLs had continued to increase from 71 in June 2010 to 73 in March 2011, Miss Tanya CHAN requested the Administration to provide a paper explaining the policy intent and principles of and grounds for granting PRLs. PSHA undertook to provide the requisite information, and added that under the Administration's current policy direction, in future PRLs would only be granted to social welfare organizations, uniformed groups and NSAs.

33. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered that the grant of lands to private clubs operated under PRLs had been a privilege and historical legacy from the British colonial era. He expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's hands-off approach to these clubs. The Administration had not been mindful whether they had fulfilled their social responsibility or complied with the requirement for making available their facilities for public use.

34. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that he did not oppose to granting lands to uniform groups and social welfare organizations operated under PRLs. However, he expressed disgust at the continuation of the legacy of the British colonial era by granting lands to private clubs operated by a small group of privileged people under PRLs. The lands granted to these clubs were public resources worth billions of dollars. It was unreasonable to request the public to beg permission by these clubs to access their facilities. He considered that instead of using a piecemeal approach to amend PRLs such as revising the access requirements, the Administration should conduct a comprehensive policy review on PRLs. While it was

Action

understood that the PRL policy could not be abolished overnight, the Administration should formulate a long-term policy to open up, in phases, the facilities of these clubs for public use.

35. PSHA responded that the Administration did not beg but required the private clubs concerned to open up their facilities for public use. These clubs had contributed and would continue to contribute to the promotion of sport in Hong Kong. For instance, the facilities of the cricket clubs and the golf clubs were not commonly provided in public sports venues but had been made available for public use.

36. Ms Cyd HO declared that she had been a member of the South China Athletic Association. She opined that PRLs should only be granted to organizations with a mission of providing community services. If members of a private club operated under PRL did not wish to open up the facilities for public use, the Administration should consider requiring the club concerned to pay the market value for the land granted by the Administration. She was aware that ordinary members of the public could not afford to use some major facilities of private clubs (e.g. the Yacht Club), even they were opened up for public use. She expressed support for a comprehensive policy review on PRLs and hoped that the Administration could revert to the Panel on the matter by July 2011.

37. PSHA responded that the Administration would revert to the Panel on the matter as soon as practicable. It would take into account members' views and see whether certain provisions could be added or revised when considering renewal applications for PRLs.

38. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che declared that he was an employee of the Caritas Centre. He pointed out that some sports clubs operated under PRLs had turned into social clubs and deviated from the original objectives of their establishment. These clubs should no longer be eligible for being granted PRLs. The Administration should not merely revise the individual lease conditions of PRLs but conduct a comprehensive policy review on PRLs.

39. Dr LAM Tai-fai declared that he was a member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Scout Association of Hong Kong and the South China Athletic Association. He considered that the organizations operated under PRLs were different in nature and had different historical backgrounds. For instance, some organizations holding PRLs, such as the South China Athletic Association, Po Leung Kuk and the Scout Association of Hong Kong, were community-based and members of the public could join them easily. Their facilities had been inadequate to

Action

meet the demands of their members and might not afford to be further opened up to the public. As such, the Administration should be given sufficient time to conduct a comprehensive review on PRLs, and the issues involved should not be dealt with across the board. PSHA agreed.

40. Declaring that she was a member of several organizations holding PRLs, Mrs Sophie LEUNG shared the view that PRLs were a historical problem and the issues involved should not be simplified. She noted that some private clubs operated under PRLs had been granted lands by the Administration for the purpose of promoting certain types of sports at the community level. While these clubs had been required to pay a low land premium, they had put in a lot of efforts and resources to promote sports, stage sports events and expand their linkage with the community. The Administration should review each and every case of PRL with reference to the relevant past documents to understand the background of and reasons for granting PRL to a club. Pending the outcomes of the review, PRLs due to expire in near future could be renewed for a certain period, thereby allowing the Administration to have more time to conduct a policy review on PRLs. If a club operated under PRL wished to purchase the land granted by the Administration, the Administration should consider whether the organization concerned should pay the value of the land on the date when it had been granted or the present market value of the land.

41. The Chairman declared that he was a member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. He considered that PRLs were a complicated issue, and there should have sufficient discussion on how to deal with it. He expressed support for the policy direction of further opening up the facilities of clubs operated under PRLs.

42. Prof Patrick LAU declared that he was a member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. He opined that given the scarcity of land in Hong Kong, the Administration should examine whether the land granted to private clubs had been fully utilized and how to make their facilities more available for use by schools when they were not used by club members.

43. Referring to the list of organizations holding PRLs in Annex I to the Administration's paper, Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked why there was a private company known as Reach Networks Hong Kong Limited (formerly known as The Post Office and Cable & Wireless Recreation Club Limited), which was exempted from paying a land premium and was only required to pay a government rent of \$100 per annum. PAS/HA(R&S) responded that the land site had been used by the employees union of the former Cable and Wireless Company. The land

Action

lease of the site had been expired and was subject to renewal every three months. The Administration could resume the land by giving three months' notice to the grantee.

Lease conditions

44. Noting the Administration's proposed revision to the access requirement under PRLs by replacing "no more than three sessions of three hours per week" with "40 hours per month or more", Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong pointed out that there was no actual increase in the opening hours of the facilities of the private clubs concerned to the public. He queried why the Administration did not require such clubs to allow more access to their facilities by outside bodies, particularly when the facilities were not used by their members.

45. PSHA responded that private clubs operated under PRLs had contributed to the sports and recreational development in Hong Kong. The Administration's proposed revised access requirements had struck a balance between the operational needs of the clubs concerned and public demands. The revised requirements would not only increase access by the public to the facilities of such clubs but also facilitate athletes' training and the staging of sports events and therefore serve the Government's policy objectives for sports development.

*[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes to end at 1:00 pm.]*

Admin

46. Ms Emily LAU sought information on the lease conditions of PRLs that were considered obsolete. She called on the Administration to incorporate members' views in its revisions to such conditions before renewal of PRLs, so as to provide greater public access to the facilities of private clubs operated under PRLs. PSHA agreed that certain lease conditions were obsolete. The Administration would consider revising such conditions before renewal of PRLs, having regard to the views of the community.

47. Miss Tanya CHAN expressed worry that by virtue of the relevant provisions in the Memorandum and Articles of Association ("MAA") of the private clubs operated under PRLs, members of these clubs might veto the clubs' decision to revise the access requirements. PSHA advised that the Administration had communicated with the relevant organizations about its proposal for requiring them to further open up their facilities to outside bodies. These organizations were in general

Action

positive about accommodating the new arrangements to make it easier for outside bodies to book their facilities. He added that irrespective of the provisions of the MAA, the private clubs operated under PRLs must comply with the lease conditions.

Admin

48. At Mr Paul TSE's request, PSHA agreed to provide information on the annual Government rent payable (in terms of the amount of money and percentage of the rateable value of the land) by each organization operated under PRLs.

Monitoring

49. Miss Tanya CHAN asked whether each PRL lessee would be required to submit to the Administration a quarterly report on the use of its facilities by outside bodies, and, if yes, whether such a requirement would be stated in PRLs. She was of the view that if the Administration had performed its monitoring effectively, such a quarterly report might not be necessary, as it might increase burden on PRL lessees. PSHA advised that while most PRL lessees had made available their facilities to outside bodies, there was no requirement for them to submit reports to the Administration in the past. In future, the Administration could make it a lease condition to require PRL operators to provide a quarterly report on the use of their facilities by outside bodies.

Publicity

50. On the Administration's proposal to allow outside bodies to directly approach the organizations operated under PRLs to book their facilities, instead of having to go through a "competent authority" (viz. the Secretary for Home Affairs, Secretary for the Civil Service, Secretary for Education, Director of Social Welfare and Director of Leisure and Cultural Services), Miss Tanya CHAN expressed concern whether the competent authority still had any role in facilitating the public access to such facilities. PSHA responded that many outside bodies had approached the organizations operated under PRLs direct to book their facilities, but they might also do so through the competent authority. The Administration would improve publicity on the availability of facilities at premises operated under PRLs to the public.

51. The Deputy Chairman criticized the Administration for failing to provide any publicity on the availability of facilities at organizations operated under PRLs to the public. He was also not aware of any relevant information published on the websites of some of these organizations such as the Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club. He

Action

urged the Administration to make it clear whether it would be mandatory for these organizations to publicize such information. Noting the Administration's proposal to allow more flexibility in the booking of such facilities by the public, he sought information on the measures to mitigate the possible conflicts between club members and outside bodies over the use of such facilities, the channels for outside bodies to lodge complaints about the difficulties in booking facilities, and the deadline for the operators of the premises to publish the relevant information on their website.

52. PSHA agreed that publicity could be stepped up to make more outside bodies aware of the availability of facilities in organizations operated under PRLs. In the past, the competent authorities had helped to publicise the opening-up requirement to outside bodies under their respective purviews, e.g. there was a circular to inform schools of the availability of such facilities, and many of the PRL operators had accepted bookings made by schools. In the case of the Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club, it accepted the booking of its facilities by outside bodies, including eight sports associations, 12 social welfare organizations, 22 schools and four other organizations in 2009-2010. The Administration would require the organizations concerned to publish information about the availability of facilities on their websites as soon as possible. Relevant information had also been uploaded onto HAB's website. PSHA further advised that the Administration had not been aware of any conflicts between club members and outside bodies over the use of such facilities, and HAB could handle complaints, if any, in this regard.

53. Summing up, the Chairman reminded members of focusing their discussions on the Administration's policy on PRLs rather than individual cases of PRLs. He hoped that the Administration would revert to the Panel on the subject as soon as practicable.

**V. Implementation of District Minor Works projects**  
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1695/10-11(05) and (06)]

Implementation of projects

54. Miss Tanya CHAN pointed out that to reduce the administrative cost, DCs had awarded tenders for several district minor works ("DMW") projects to a contractor in one go, and this might hinder small contractors from tendering for such projects. DHA responded that as DMW projects were relatively small in scale and less complex, small architectural and



Action

surveying firms should also participate in tenders for such projects, provided that they had met the minimum requirements for being included on the Government's list of approved consultants and contractors.

55. Ms Emily LAU asked whether, apart from the 2 600 DMW projects endorsed by the 18 DCs as at end March 2011, there were any DMW projects endorsed by DCs but disapproved by the Administration. DHA responded that the Administration did not object to implement any DMW projects supported by DCs. In some cases, time was required for discussion among Government departments to decide which department would be responsible for the management and maintenance of the project concerned. If necessary, the responsible department also needed to go through the required procedures to seek funding from LegCo. DHA stressed that the DMW Programme had been effective in improving the living environment and hygienic conditions of districts. Over 2 000 of some 2 600 DMW projects endorsed by DCs had been completed.

Admin

56. Referring to paragraph 7 of the Administration's paper, Ms Emily LAU requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on a breakdown of the number of DMW projects endorsed by the 18 DCs (as at end March 2011) by three categories, viz. projects completed, projects under implementation and projects under planning, and the estimated total expenditure under each category. DHA undertook to provide the information.

Term consultants

57. Prof Patrick LAU pointed out that the Administration did not mention in its paper the concerns of the term consultants about the restrictions and difficulties in designing and implementing the DMW projects, owing to the small project scale and sites and DCs' occasional requests for alterations to project designs. He considered that it was unfair to simply blame the term consultants on the slow progress of their work. He advised that the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning under the Panel on Development had conducted an overseas duty visit in April 2011 to study the institutional arrangements for waterfront planning and management. The relevant overseas experiences should help improve the implementation of leisure and cultural services projects in Hong Kong.

58. DHA advised that while it was understandable that DCs wished to have a thorough discussion on DMW projects before their implementation, consultants hoped to keep the discussion concise so that the projects could be implemented as early as possible. DHA believed that DCs should support early implementation of such projects, as they

Action

would be beneficial to districts.

59. The Chairman advised that as far as he knew, DCs had always respected the advice of term consultants. He hoped that Prof Patrick LAU could reflect this view to his sector.

60. The Deputy Chairman pointed out that DCs had raised concern about the high consultants' fees for the delivery of DMW projects. He urged the Administration to streamline the procedures for the design and implementation of these projects to lower such fees. DHA responded that DMW projects were less complicated than large-scale works but still had to go through the necessary planning and implementation procedures, which included formulating the project idea, defining the project scope, conducting a feasibility study, consulting relevant government departments, identifying departments for the management and maintenance of the project, designing the project, consulting DCs, drafting the tender document and issuing invitations for tender.

Design of facilities

61. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the monotonous and impractical design of the district facilities under the Home Affairs Department. He called on the Administration to attach equal importance to the appearance and practicality of such facilities. DHA responded in the affirmative and added that the design of district facilities had been improving, and the Administration had attached equal importance to the professional views of term consultants and those of DCs.

62. Ms Emily LAU asked whether the need of barrier-free access had been incorporated into the planning of DMW projects. DHA responded that all new government facilities had free-barrier access. Old facilities would also be improved gradually to meet the requirement.

Maintenance costs

63. Miss Tanya CHAN raised concern about the rise in the costs of the management and maintenance works in relation to DMW projects, and asked whether the Administration would bear such costs and, if no, the arrangement for dealing with them. DHA responded that of the \$300 million of the annual provision for the DMW block allocation, \$30 million was allocated for the maintenance of DMW projects. Such an amount was more than sufficient, as the maintenance works of DMW projects normally did not involve structural problems. The Administration would keep in view the costs of maintenance.

Action

**VI. Any other business**

64. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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