

立法會

Legislative Council

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Report of the Panel on Home Affairs for submission to the Legislative Council

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") during the 2010-2011 Legislative Council ("LegCo") session. It will be tabled at the Council meeting of 6 July 2011 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by resolution of the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to district, community and rural matters, civic education, building management, youth matters, the provision of leisure and cultural services, the development of arts and culture, public entertainment, sport and recreation. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

3. The Panel comprises 21 members, with Hon IP Kwok-him and Hon KAM Nai-wai elected as its Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

Major work

District and rural matters

Support for District Council ("DC") members

4. Following up its discussion on the Administration's review of the remuneration package for DC members in the last session, the Panel examined the Administration's proposed enhancements to the remuneration package for DC members, which included the introduction of an accountable Medical Allowance of \$26,970 per annum and an end-of-term gratuity equivalent to 15% of the honorarium, and an increase in the rate of the accountable Operating Expenses Reimbursement ("OER") by 15% from \$233,544 to \$268,572 per annum.

5. Members basically accepted the proposed remuneration package but expressed regret over the Administration's unwillingness to increase the honorarium for DC members, as its current level was insufficient to attract more people of high calibre to join DCs and disproportionate to the efforts made by many DC members working full time. In view of DC members' difficulty in renting offices at the prevailing market rental level, members urged the Administration to further increase the rate of OER. In the Administration's view, the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the District Councils had balanced both the operational needs of DC members and the public expectation when drawing up the proposed remuneration package.

Review on the 2011 Village Representative ("VR") elections

6. The Administration reverted to the Panel on the key features of the arrangements and outcomes of the 2011 VR elections. Members remained concerned about the low female participation in the elections. Although about 47% of the registered electors were females, only about 4% of the candidates and VRs were females. Members were given to understand that females in villages had been discouraged by certain traditional practices and values of rural clans to participate in rural affairs. They urged the Administration to help break the male dominance in VR elections.

7. According to the Administration, it had all along encouraged more females to register as electors and run for VR elections. The 2011 VR elections had shown improvement in female participation. Of the 182 000 registered electors, 47.3% were females. Compared to the 2003 and 2007 VR elections, the number of female registered voters for the 2011 VR elections rose 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 VR elections, representing an increase of 7% over 2007.

8. Members expressed concern about the surge in the number of registered electors in some village constituencies in the 2011 VR elections when compared to those in 2003 and 2007. They queried whether the Administration had any

review mechanism to verify the eligibility of electors. According to the Administration, the increased registered electors 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 was not unusual, as indigenous inhabitants residing overseas might be interested in a particular VR election and therefore register to vote. The Administration also assured members that the voter registration process had been under close monitoring.

9. Members in general were of the view that in view of the importance of VRs and as VR and Heung Yee Kuk elections had been brought under statutory control, the Administration should consider regulating Rural Committee elections by legislation. The Administration assured members that its review on the 2011 VR elections would cover members' concern.

10. The Panel will invite deputations to give views on the review on the 2011 VR elections.

Community matters

Community Care Fund ("CCF")

11. The Panel examined the Administration's proposed operation of CCF unveiled in the Chief Executive's 2010-2011 Policy Address. According to the Administration, the Government and the business sector would each contribute \$5 billion to CCF, which aimed at providing assistance to people facing financial difficulties, particularly those who fell outside the safety net, i.e. the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, or those within but were not covered by the safety net because of special circumstances.

12. Members expressed diverse views on CCF. Some members were concerned about the possible dilution of CCF on the business sector's donations to charities and of the view that CCF should not be a long-term measure. Some other members opined that CCF could help line up different parties in the community to work together for building a caring culture in Hong Kong. Notwithstanding the diverse views, members considered it necessary for the Administration to report to LegCo on the implementation progress of CCF at regular intervals, as LegCo was the gatekeeper for the Government injection of \$5 billion into CCF. The Administration assured members that it would monitor CCF's impact on donations to charities, and CCF would not duplicate the programmes under charitable funds and the Government's existing social welfare service network. CCF's operation, including the total amount of

donations received, would be highly transparent. The statement of accounts of CCF would be audited by the Director of Audit and tabled at LegCo annually.

Monitoring of unlicensed hotels and guesthouses

13. The Panel received a briefing by the Administration on measures to combat unlicensed hotels and guesthouses, which posed safety hazards to patrons and nearby residents. Some members expressed disappointment at the low rate of prosecutions against such hotels and guesthouses, as only about 10% of the number of complaints received in 2009 and 2010 against them had resulted in prosecutions. The low prosecution rate indicated that the Administration had failed to fulfill its duty to take enforcement action and had condoned the presence of such hotels and guesthouses.

14. In the Administration's view, it was not unusual to find the number of complaints far higher than that of prosecutions in many law enforcement exercises, and many complaints might involve one case only. The Office of Licensing Authority ("OLA") under the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") would collect evidence upon receipt of any complaint against a suspected unlicensed guesthouse, and if there was prima facie evidence indicating unlicensed operation of a hotel or guesthouse, it would seek legal advice from the Department of Justice ("DoJ"). OLA would take action in accordance with DoJ's advice. The Administration had not condoned unlicensed hotels and guesthouses, and had adopted a two-pronged approach to combat them by strengthening law enforcement actions and stepping up publicity. In particular, the Licensed Guesthouse Logo Scheme launched by OLA in September 2009 had been effective in helping tourists to identify licensed hotels and guesthouses.

Regulation of internet computer services centres ("ICSCs")

15. In response to the motion passed by the Panel in the last session urging the Administration to consider the regulation of internet cafes, the Administration consulted the Panel on its proposed establishment of a statutory licensing regime for ICSCs.

16. Members in general supported the statutory regulation of ICSCs in which gullible youths might fall prey to criminals or be used by them to commit offences. Nevertheless, some members queried why the proposed licensing conditions for ICSCs were more lax than those for Amusement Game Centres ("AGCs"). Some other members hoped that the Administration could strike a proper balance between the effective regulation of ICSCs and the survival of them, as many ICSCs were small-and-medium-sized enterprises. In the Administration's view, 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 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. Members noted that the Administration would consult the trade and other relevant stakeholders on its proposal in the second and third quarters of 2011, and revert to the Panel afterwards.

Building management

Regulation of property management companies ("PMCs")

17. In response to members' dissatisfaction with the Administration's slow progress in taking forward a legislative proposal for the regulation of PMCs in the last session, the Administration reverted to the Panel on its plan to establish a statutory licensing regime for PMCs. Members generally supported the adoption of such a regime but were worried that it might drive out small-and-medium-sized PMCs, leading to the monopoly of big PMCs and a surge in management fees for owners, particularly those of old tenement buildings. They considered that the licensing regime should cater for different needs of different types of property owners and buildings. The deputations received by the Panel generally shared similar views.

18. The Administration assured members that as safeguarding the interests of small-and-medium-sized PMCs would be key to maintaining the market vibrant and the services affordable to owners, due regard would be given to their interests in the design of the licensing regime. The Administrations' initial thinking was that a multi-tier licensing regime for different types of PMCs should help avoid market monopoly, and would enhance the quality of services, without increasing the management fees significantly. In view of the lack of adequate qualified housing management personnel in small-and-medium-sized PMCs, the Administration undertook to consider providing a transition period for them to adapt to the new licensing regime. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel in July 2011 on the outcomes of its public consultation on the regulation of PMCs.

Implementation of the mandatory procurement of third party risks insurance

19. In addition to the regulation of PMCs, members were gravely concerned about the problems encountered by Owners' Corporations ("OCs") in compliance with the Building Management (Third Party Risks Insurance) Regulation (Cap. 344B) ("the Regulation"), which required the mandatory procurement of third party risks insurance by OCs and took effect on 1 January 2011. Many OCs with insurance were confused whether the insurance

coverage was in compliance with the Regulation and if not, the transitional arrangements which would be needed. Members criticized HAD for failing to provide sufficient assistance to OCs in understanding the mandatory requirement. Some members expressed concern that many OCs might have to be dissolved if they were unable to procure insurance. They called on the Administration to identify OCs of old buildings which were unable to procure insurance, and to assist them in convincing the court that they had already made their best endeavor to procure insurance.

20. According to the Administration, the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers ("HKFI") had issued a circular to its members on the implementation of the mandatory requirement. HAD had all along maintained contact with OCs, and would liaise with HKFI once it noticed questions raised by owners and OCs over the operation of the mandatory requirement. In response to members' request for the Administration's undertaking not to prosecute OCs without insurance coverage in the first year of the implementation of the mandatory requirement, the Administration assured members that the spirit of the Regulation was not to penalize owners but to enhance their awareness in building safety and to assist them in procuring insurance. In case an OC was required to carry out building maintenance works, which might take more than one year, before being qualified to procure insurance, it would not be prosecuted.

Youth matters

21. The Panel received a briefing from the Administration on its plan to set up a "Service Corps" Programme under which senior secondary schools leavers, tertiary students and working youth aged 18 to 29 would be subsidized to serve in underprivileged areas on the Mainland for six to 12 months in the form of knowledge training on hygiene, language, environmental protection, etc, with a view to developing themselves while they were serving others. Some members considered that while the Programme might enrich youngsters' experience in providing voluntary services in tough environment, it might not effectively help address the unemployment problems among youngsters. On the other hand, some members suggested that the Administration should consider sponsoring non-governmental organizations, such as youth uniform groups, to operate similar programmes, and extending the scope of the Programme to cover developing countries to further broaden the exposure of youngsters. Members noted that the Administration would make available a concrete plan for the Programme around the first half of 2011.

Development of arts and culture

Provision of leisure and cultural services

22. The Panel continued to follow up the progress of the outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services ("LCS") projects of the former Municipal Councils ("ex-MCs") that had yet to be implemented. Members generally expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's failure to provide a concrete implementation timetable for many long-planned and long-delayed ex-MC LCS projects in various districts. They urged the Administration to respect DCs' views and make every endeavour to take forward those LCS projects to which DCs had accorded top priority, and to identify and clear the hurdles to their implementation. According to the Administration, in the past 10 years, 106 LCS projects, including 47 ex-MCs projects and 59 non ex-MC projects at a total cost of about \$14 billion, had been completed or under construction. Another 20 LCS projects at a total cost of \$10 billion were under detailed planning. The Panel agreed to revisit the subject as soon as practicable, with a view to pushing the Administration to expedite the implementation of the outstanding LCS projects.

Preservation of intangible cultural heritage ("ICH")

23. The Administration reverted to the Panel on the progress of the territory-wide ICH survey launched in 2009. Members welcomed the compilation of an ICH inventory in Hong Kong upon completion of the ICH survey. They noted from the Panel's duty visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea in the last session that the two countries had been active in safeguarding ICH by providing a lot of resources to universities in conducting research on ICH and training for students to become ICH transmitters, as well as enacting legislation to safeguard ICH. Some members expressed concern whether ICH in Hong Kong could be preserved from generation to generation in the absence of statutory means. They were worried that ICH items in Hong Kong would vanish eventually if there was a lack of practitioners fully dedicated to the transmission of such crafts and traditions. It appeared that apart from establishing an ICH inventory, the Administration had not put in place any concrete measures to protect and promote ICH. Noting that many ICH items had been closely related to local communities, some members also expressed concern that urban redevelopment had resulted in the closure of many small stalls associated with ICH and the disappearance of some valuable crafts and skills. They urged HAB to liaise with relevant government bureaux to consider how to better protect local traditions and customs during urban development.

24. According to the Administration, after compiling an ICH inventory, it would discuss with the stakeholders how to best preserve each ICH item, e.g. whether to use public resources to sponsor the transmission of ICH or to use market force to promote it, and whether the enactment of legislation would be

necessary. The Administration was aware of the disappearance of some ICH items with their elderly master craftsmen or for commercial reasons. The establishment of an ICH inventory would be the last resort to record their details. As many ICH items still existed, the Administration would devise measures to preserve and promote them.

25. Some members raised concern about the composition of the Government's Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee ("ICHAC"), which appeared that only academics specializing in areas relating to ICH were eligible for appointment as ICHAC members. According to the Administration, while the majority of ICHAC members were university professors with profound expertise in ICH, a professional and a representative of the local community, both of whom were not from the academic sector, also sat on ICHAC. As ICH was closely related to local communities, the Administration undertook to consider appointing more representatives from local districts to ICHAC.

Development of private museums

26. The Panel examined the Administration's proposed capital works project for the expansion of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum ("HKMM") and its proposed relocation to Central Pier 8 at a total estimated cost of about \$100 million. Members in general supported the proposed project but urged the Administration to formulate a comprehensive policy for the development of private museums in Hong Kong. The Administration undertook to consider formulating such a policy but advised that given the unique nature and operational needs of individual private museums, it would examine and process the requests for support from private museums on a case-by-case basis at the current stage. The Administration assured members that as HKMM would be partly funded by the public purse, the auditor's reports and performance reports on HKMM would be made available to LegCo at regular intervals.

Nomination of arts interests representatives for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council ("HKADC")

27. The Panel received a briefing from the Administration on the nomination of arts interests representatives for HKADC in 2010 ("the nomination exercise"). Noting that the 2010 nomination exercise had been criticized by media reports as casual, members raised grave concern about its arrangements. First, HKADC's composition was undemocratic. Of its 27 members, only up to 10 might be nominated by 10 specified arts interests. Second, under the current cross-voting system, a voter might cast a maximum of 10 votes, with one vote in each contested arts interest, for candidates standing for nomination. This might give rise to a situation whereby an arts

organization which had been registered as a member of the nominating bodies of an arts interest might register their members as voters and mobilize them to cast their votes collectively for its preferred candidate in each of the 10 arts interests. Consequently, a single arts organization in an arts interest might dominate the results of the nomination exercises of all other arts interests. Third, there was an abnormal situation whereby the numbers of blank votes in the nomination exercise of some arts interests had been higher than those obtained by the elected candidates. Members called on the Administration to review the nomination exercise.

28. Members noted the Administration's undertaking to examine the reasons for the occurrence of a large number of blank votes in the 2010 nomination exercise and the improvement measures to be taken. According to the Administration, the cross voting system was introduced in 1999 upon recommendation by the Consultant's Report on Culture, Arts, Recreation and Sports Services issued in March 1999 and after detailed discussion in HKADC. As evidenced by the 2010 nomination exercise in which one voter cast votes for five arts interests on average, the cross voting system could encourage members of an arts interest to care about other arts interests and the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong. On HKADC's composition, the Administration advised that apart from the three official members representing the Government, some of the 14 members not nominated by arts interests also had arts or other backgrounds. Having regard to HKADC's wide scope of work, including resource allocation and vetting applications for funds, members with other expertise could contribute to HKADC's discharge of its functions.

29. The Administration admitted that there were inadequacies in the nomination exercise, and assured members that it would conduct a review. The Panel decided that deputations would be invited to give views on the subject.

Work of the Advisory Committee on Arts Development ("ACAD")

30. The Panel received a briefing from the Administration on the work of ACAD established in November 2010 to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") on, among others, the use of the arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund ("ASDF").

31. Some members expressed concern about the membership of ACAD. Of the 12 non-official ACAD members appointed by the Administration, only two were from the arts sector and others were mainly from the business sector. The arts sector was seriously under-represented. Members were also concerned about the wide ambit of ACAD, which included advising SHA on the use of the arts portion of ASDF. Members called on the Administration to

consider appointing more members to ACAD from arts groups, given its importance to the development direction of the arts and culture in Hong Kong; experts in arts administration in view of its lack of such professionals; and the representative of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") Authority, as WKCD was important to the sustainable development of the arts and culture in Hong Kong. Members also hoped that the meetings of ACAD could be held in public to facilitate the public's monitoring of the performance of ACAD members. While not subscribing to the view that the arts sector was under-represented on ACAD, the Administration undertook to consider appointing more representatives from the arts sector to ACAD and opening up the meetings of ACAD where appropriate.

32. The Panel also examined the new \$30 million Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme ("ACDFS") to be set up under the advice of ACAD following the injection of \$1.5 billion to the arts portion of ASDF in July 2010. ACDFS aimed at supporting applications that met the four major objectives of arts development, viz. contents development, audience building, arts education and capacity development. The Sub-committee on ACDFS under ACAD would be responsible for assessing applications according to six criteria, viz. creativity and originality; impact on arts sector and community; technical feasibility; financial viability; and track record and execution ability of applicants and participating arts practitioners.

33. Members in general supported ACDFS. Nevertheless, some members were concerned about the absence of audience building and arts education in the assessment criteria for applications for ACDFS. They were worried that the Subcommittee on ACDFS might attach too much importance to the professional arts aspects of applications and neglect the promotion of arts to the public. They called on the Administration to provide the respective weightings on the six assessment criteria.

34. According to the Administration, the six assessment criteria had been formulated by the Subcommittee on ACDFS, which would work out their weightings in the summer of 2011. There were four Subcommittees under ACAD and one of them was on arts education, which was conducive to audience building and capacity building of arts groups. ACAD aimed at, among others, cultivating a supporting culture for the arts and encouraging the community and private enterprises to sponsor arts development. The particular objective of ACDFS was to enhance the arts capacity of arts groups. The promotion of arts education did not solely rely on ACDFS. There were also other initiatives to promote audience building and arts education at schools and in the community. ACDFS might cover audience building and arts education but the actual proportion of ACDFS to be spent on them would depend on the number and merits of the relevant applications received.

Development of WKCD

35. During the 2010-2011 session, the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project ("the Subcommittee") formed under the Panel and the Panel on Development in December 2008 held four meetings to discuss various issues, including the resignation and recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer of the WKCD Authority, the results of Stage 2 public engagement exercise and the selection of Conceptual Plan Options for WKCD, the public's expectations on the latest development of WKCD, the development of cultural software to promote WKCD, the vision and latest development of the M+ project, and the interim programmes and activities in WKCD before the commissioning of Phase 1 arts and cultural facilities.

Development of cultural software

36. To tie in with the development of WKCD, the Panel attached importance to the development of cultural software in Hong Kong. In this connection, the Panel held a joint meeting with the Panel on Education to discuss, among others, the arts education in schools. Some members urged the Administration to ensure that students with financial difficulties would not be stripped of the opportunity to learn and experience arts and culture. Some other member raised concern about the deployment of arts teachers to teach non-arts subjects, and the general trend for schools to give excessive weight on core subjects and attach less importance to arts subjects. Members also urged HAB to collaborate closely with relevant government bureaux and arts bodies in organizing various activities and programmes for students outside the classroom. The Administration undertook to review and refine the strategies on curriculum implementation to facilitate the development of arts and culture in schools. Members agreed that the two Panels should hold another joint meeting to push the Administration to enhance the promotion of arts education in schools.

Sports and recreation

Bid to host the 2023 Asian Games

37. The Panel continued to consider whether Hong Kong should bid to host the 2023 Asian Games ("the Games"), following the launch of the public consultation exercise by the Administration in September 2010 on the issue. The Panel also received views from stakeholders, including athletes who had taken part in the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games. All attending athletes expressed the view that hosting the Games would help improve sports facilities and raise the morale of local athletes.

38. While having empathy with local athletes' support for the bid, members in general were mindful of their responsibility to examine the bid carefully. Some members were worried that the actual cost of hosting the Games would be appalling if the inflation rates in the next decade were factored in. Some other members stressed that they would not oppose to the bid for the Games after 2023 when comprehensive sports facilities were available and when local athletes could perform well overall and not just in some events. On the other hand, some members supported the bid on the ground that should Hong Kong abandon the bid, it would face increasingly fierce competitions from the rising neighbouring cities to bid for the Games in future. In their views, hosting the Games would provide a good opportunity for local athletes to display their abilities.

39. The Panel passed two motions requesting the Government to shelve its bid to hold the Games; to set up a Sports Fund with a sum equal to the \$6 billion direct cost to be earmarked for staging the Games, regardless of whether it would mount or win the bid, for the purpose of promoting the policy of sports for all and enhancing the training and retirement arrangements for local elite athletes; and to draw up immediately a 10-year blueprint for sports development.

40. According to the Administration, it had devised a comprehensive policy on the long-term sports development at the community, school, sport association and elite levels, and would continue to invest considerable resources in the construction and upgrading of sports facilities in the next decade. It assured members that regardless of whether Hong Kong would mount or win the bid, it would actively implement the plans to build sports venues and facilities stated in the public consultation document on the bid.

Sports development

41. The support for elite athletes and the provision of public sports facilities were major concerns of members at various meetings. Members noted that the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") was supporting 14 elite sports and a top-level full-time elite athlete could receive monthly financial assistance of around \$30,000. They expressed concern about the financial assistance received by full-time elite athletes who did not win a medal at major sports events, and whether athletes in non-elite sports could receive any support. Some members were concerned about the substantial disparity in the amount of monthly subsidy provided to able-bodied elite athletes and disabled elite athletes. Members generally were of the view that that the uncertain prospect for elite athletes after retirement had deterred parents from encouraging their children to pursue a sports career. More opportunities should be provided to

elite athletes to pursue further education in local tertiary institutions. Members noted that in some overseas places like Australia, both high schools and universities allowed student athletes to extend their study period, and this flexible system could, if adopted in Hong Kong, provide help student athletes to further their study. Members urged the Administration to study how such system could be applied to Hong Kong. The Administration should also take the initiative to improve the career pathway for retired athletes and to devise concessionary measures to encourage the business sector to employ them.

42. According to the Administration, individual athletes in non-elite sports who had potential or achieved good results could receive support from HKSI and their National Sports Associations. The monthly financial assistance to elite athletes was performance-based. The disparity in the amount of subsidy received by able-bodied elite athletes and disabled elite athletes was largely attributed to the different historical backgrounds under which the respective financial assistance schemes were drawn up. The Administration had reviewed and adjusted the financial assistance to disabled athletes in 2009 and would do so again when appropriate. The Administration had allocated funding to the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China to establish the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme in collaboration with the business sector, with a view to improving the education and career prospects for serving and retired athletes. The Administration undertook to consider whether the programme could be enhanced.

43. Following the passage of the motions by the Panel mentioned in paragraph 39 above, the Financial Secretary proposed in the 2011-2012 Budget the establishment of the \$7 billion Elite Athletes Development Fund ("EADF") to help make HKSI a world-class training centre, provide more comprehensive support to elite athletes, and strengthen the Government's efforts to identify and train young athletes with potential. According to the Administration, HKSI would no longer receive an annual subvention from the Government but would receive income generated from the investment return from EADF. Members welcomed the establishment of EADF, as it would provide steady financial support for HKSI to nurture elite athletes. They noted that the Administration would consider injecting additional funding into EADF if its seed capital had to be spent to meet the needs of HKSI in times of economic downturn. The Administration assured members that the operation of EADF would be transparent. The statement of account of EADF would be audited by the Director of Audit and subject to LegCo's monitoring. If requested, regular reports on the progress of EADF might also be submitted to the Panel.

44. The Panel also attached importance to the provision of public sports facilities. Members generally expressed concern about how sports for all and athletes' performance could be enhanced in view of the long-standing shortage

of sports facilities in Hong Kong. They called on the Administration to formulate a comprehensive, long-term and sustainable sports development policy to address, among others, the shortage of sports facilities at the district level and schools. In addition, members noted with concern that the total hours of schools' use of major public sports facilities had decreased significantly in the past three years. They urged the Administration to look into the matter. According to the Administration, since 2005, it had completed new sports facilities or upgraded existing facilities at a cost of more than \$4.5 billion. In planning new facilities, the Administration would make reference to the planning standards set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, the policy objectives for sports development, the utilization rates of existing facilities, the preferences of members of the public, and the extent to which such facilities were provided by the Government and other non-governmental organizations. As members were generally dissatisfied with the slow implementation progress of sports facilities in various districts, the Panel decided to revisit the subject before the end of the 2010-2011 session.

45. The Panel also examined the Administration's proposals to create a permanent Chief Systems Manager (D1) post in the Information Technology Office of Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"), and to build a district open space, sports centre and library in Area 74, Tseung Kwan O ("TKO"). Members raised no objection to the staffing proposal and hoped that it would facilitate LCSD's delivery of its services to the public. Members also supported the capital works project in TKO and urged the Administration to expedite its completion, which was currently scheduled for 2014.

Monitoring of Private Recreational Leases ("PRLs")

46. The Administration reported to the Panel on the initial conclusions of its review on the extent to which organizations operating under PRLs could be more open to outside bodies and contribute more to the development of sports in Hong Kong. Members generally considered that PRLs were a legacy from the British colonial era and certain obsolete leasing conditions under PRLs should be removed to facilitate the public's access to the sports and recreational facilities at the premises of the organizations operating under PRLs. Moreover, the lands granted to such organizations were highly valuable. Members called on the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review on the policy of granting PRLs, with a view to ensuring the effective use of valuable land resources.

47. In response to members' concerns, the Administration undertook to consider conducting a comprehensive policy review on PRLs. The Administration would also remove obsolete leasing conditions from all PRLs, and step up publicity to make more outside bodies aware of the availability of

sports and recreational facilities at premises operating under PRLs, such as requiring the operators of the premises to publish information about their facilities on their websites and uploading the relevant information on HAB's website.

48. As the issues relating to PRLs involved significant public interests and more than 50 out of the 73 cases of PRLs would be subject to renewal between 2011 and 2012, members urged the Administration to revert to the Panel as soon as practicable upon the completion of its policy review on PRLs.

Meetings held

49. From October 2010 to June 2011, the Panel held a total of 14 meetings. Another meeting has been scheduled for July 2011.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 June 2011

Legislative Council

Panel on Home Affairs

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to district, community and rural matters, civic education, building management, youth matters, provision of leisure and cultural services, development of arts and culture, public entertainment, sport and recreation.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Home Affairs

Membership list for 2010-2011 session

Chairman	Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Deputy Chairman	Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Members	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 WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, 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 Hon WONG Yuk-man (Total : 21 Members)
Clerk	Mr Thomas WONG
Legal Adviser	Miss Kitty CHENG
Date	30 June 2011