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**Panel on Security**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 7 December 2010**

**Police measures against cross-boundary deceptions**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on measures adopted by the Police in combating deception activities.

**Statistics on deception cases**

2. According to the information on the website of the Police, deception cases commonly carried out by criminal gangs or fraudsters are classified mainly as "street deceptions" and "other deceptions", which include the following -

- (a) Street deceptions
  - ✧ lottery scam
  - ✧ fake gold
  - ✧ fake jade bracelets
  - ✧ fake herbs
  - ✧ fake electronic parts
  - ✧ dropped money
  - ✧ spiritual blessing
  - ✧ foreign currency exchange
  - ✧ borrowing money
  
- (b) Other deceptions
  - ✧ timeshare schemes
  - ✧ project financing

- ✧ improper sales - unsolicited/unordered goods
- ✧ Nigerian /4-1-9 fraud
- ✧ London gold
- ✧ bogus modeling agencies
- ✧ telephone deceptions
- ✧ pyramid schemes
- ✧ credit card fraud
- ✧ long firm fraud.

3. According to the Commissioner of Police's report on the crime situation in Hong Kong in 2009, there were 5 130 deception cases in 2009, representing an increase of 477 cases or 10.3% when compared with 2008. Except for street deception, other common deception cases, such as telephone deception and deception involving lost or stolen credit cards, registered an increase in 2009. Apart from the rise in the number of deception cases, the amount of money involved also saw an increase as compared with 2008.

### **Measures adopted by the Police to combat deceptions**

4. According to the Administration, the Police has all along been adopting a three-pronged strategy to combat deception activities, which include prevention, intelligence-led operations and prompt and effective investigations.

#### Prevention

5. In respect of crime prevention, the Police has stepped up efforts in preventing deception activities through enhanced publicity. Besides raising the awareness of members of the public through the media, District Response Teams have been established within each district to strengthen the liaison with banks, kai-fong associations and other organizations, so as to spread the anti-deception message to the targeted audience throughout the territory.

#### Intelligence-led operations

6. Apart from enhanced publicity, the Police updates its information base regularly and mounts intelligence-led operations targeting identified known personalities and black spots to keep deception activities in check. Regular contact is also maintained with the Mainland authorities to deal with Mainland-based syndicates. For example, as a result of cooperation with the Shenzhen authorities, the Police had successfully cracked down a criminal syndicate in January 2008 and arrested seven persons suspected to have been involved in over 100 telephone deception cases.

### Prompt and effective investigations

7. To facilitate prompt and effective investigation of deception crimes, where appropriate, deception cases are handled by regional or district investigation teams with the necessary experience, expertise and resources.

### **Established co-operation mechanism among Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao in combating cross-boundary crimes**

#### Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Tripartite Criminal Investigation Department Heads Meeting

8. To tackle cross-boundary vice activities, including triad activities, deception, commercial and computer crimes, issues relating to criminal activities which are of mutual concern are raised at meetings of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Tripartite Criminal Investigation Department Heads Conference held at six-month intervals. If and where necessary, additional meetings are held on criminal activities of mutual concern. Apart from exchanging views on strategies to be employed against cross-boundary crimes, heads of crime investigation units from the three places would also discuss ways to further enhance the existing liaison mechanism, exchange intelligence on syndicates involved in cross-boundary crimes, and explore co-operative exchange of investigative technology/techniques for enhancing mutual capabilities in the fight against cross-boundary crimes at the meetings.

#### 24-hour notification system

9. For closer collaboration, a 24-hour notification system was set up to facilitate the immediate exchange of information and intelligence among the three parties, with a view to combating cross-boundary crimes jointly and efficiently.