

**Legislative Council Panel on Security Bureau
17 October 2011**

Policy Initiatives of Security Bureau

This note elaborates on the Security Bureau's initiatives in the 2011-12 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

Policy Address

Nuclear Safety

2. In response to public's concern about the safety of the nuclear power stations in the vicinity of Hong Kong and to ensure that Hong Kong's nuclear emergency preparedness and response can progress with time, the Government has established a dedicated task force to conduct a comprehensive review of the Daya Bay Contingency Plan (DBCP). We will make reference to the actual situation of Hong Kong and the latest international discussion and practices. For example, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has sent fact-finding mission to Japan and organised a special ministerial conference on nuclear safety in the middle of this year, and at its General Conference held in September, an Action Plan on Nuclear Safety was endorsed, which sets out, among other things, the requirement to review and strengthen IAEA safety. In reviewing our DBCP, we will take into account these relevant practices and standards.

3. When reviewing the DBCP, we will also make reference to the practical experiences of major overseas countries in nuclear emergency. Duty visits to the United States, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and Japan have been arranged for the experts of Government departments to exchange directly with the regulatory authorities, nuclear emergency departments and nuclear plant operators. Through the above activities, we will look into the latest development of the international society on nuclear emergency preparedness and response, so as to ensure that our contingency plan and emergency arrangement will closely follow the international standards.

4. We plan to conduct a large-scale and comprehensive inter-departmental exercise early next year in the light of the revised DBCP to ensure that various departments could effectively cope with possible emergency situations. To build public's confidence and enhance their understanding, we will, as appropriate, involve the community to participate in relevant parts of the exercise. The Government will make use of various channels such as production of Announcement in Public Interests and publication of related publicity materials to promote and enhance public education on radiation safety and nuclear emergency preparedness.

Policy Agenda Initiatives

Anti-drug efforts

5. The Chief Executive has since 2009 made all-out efforts in mobilising community support in the anti-drug campaign. Recently, we have seen an easing in the youth drug abuse problem, with a drop in the total number of reported drug abusers and young drug abusers in 2010 by 11.2% and 18.7% respectively comparing with 2009. For the first half of 2011, the number of reported drug abusers and young drug abusers has also dropped by 9.1% and 28.3% respectively comparing to the same period in 2010. However, the Government will not slacken its anti-drug efforts.

6. Launched in 2009, the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District has effectively advocated the anti-drug culture on school campuses. Therefore, we will be actively promoting voluntary school drug testing to all secondary schools in Hong Kong.

7. Although drug consumption is a criminal offence, there is currently no legal basis in Hong Kong to mandate suspected drug abusers to undergo drug testing. Currently, psychotropic substances are more common among youth drug abusers and are hidden in nature in their consumption methods and harmful effects on the body. This renders immediate detection by parents, teachers and even law enforcement officers difficult. To enable more effective identification of those endangered by drugs in a bid to enhance early intervention and rehabilitation, the Government is considering the proposal by the Task

Force on Youth Drug Abuse led by the Secretary for Justice, to examine the introduction of legislation to implement drug testing at the community level, empowering law enforcement officers to require a person reasonably suspected of having consumed dangerous drugs to undergo drug test.

8. Complex legal, human rights and implementation issues involved and relevant downstream services, resource implications, and implementation details, etc., have to be carefully considered. We are thoroughly examining the matter and will engage in discussion with stakeholders on the way forward as soon as possible with a view to setting out a detailed proposal for public consultation.

Enhancing the Service of the Boundary Control Points to facilitate visitors

9. The number of Mainland visitors to Hong Kong has been on the rise in recent years. We will enhance the e-Channel system by extending the service to Mainland frequent visitors following enrollment. The Immigration Department (ImmD) plans to commence enrollment for the Scheme by this December, with a view to launching the service first at the Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Points within the first quarter of 2012.

10. Moreover, since the ImmD introduced the Express e-Channel pilot scheme at the Lo Wu Control Point in March 2009, 1.4 million Hong Kong residents have been enrolled to use the service. Separately, as regards immigration convenience measures for Hong Kong and Macao residents travelling between the two places, 730 000 Hong Kong residents and 150 000 Macao residents have been enrolled to use the e-Channels at the other side.

11. To enhance the handling capacity of control points, the number of e-Channels at the Lok Ma Chau and Man Kam To Control Points will be increased from respectively 20 and 9 to 43 and 18 following the implementation of improvement works. In the next few years, a number of new control points will be opened to further facilitate the movement of people and goods across the boundary, including the New Cruise Terminal in 2013, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link in 2015

and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in 2016.

12. To facilitate smooth clearance of road cargoes, the Customs and Excise Department introduced a Road Cargo System (ROCARS) which enables registered shippers or their authorized agents to submit advanced cargo information by electronic means. Under the system, truck drivers can also enjoy seamless customs clearance at all Land Boundary Control Points. ROCARS will be fully launched on 17 November 2011.

Undertaking the necessary legislative and administrative measures with a view to reducing the coverage of the Frontier Closed Area

13. We announced in January 2008 to substantially reduce the land area of the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) from about 2 800 hectares to about 400 hectares. To safeguard the security of the reduced FCA, we need to construct a secondary boundary fence along the existing boundary patrol road (BPR). New sections of the BPR, with a primary and a secondary boundary fence constructed along its northern and southern curbs, will also be constructed at certain parts of the boundary.

14. The project has been divided into four sections. The first, the second and the fourth sections are being taken forward in the first phase. Among the three sections, the construction work for the first “Mai Po to Lok Ma Chau Control Point Section” and the fourth “Lin Ma Hang to Sha Tak Kok Section” sections has been completed in September 2011. Accordingly, we will amend the Frontier Closed Area Order (Cap. 245A) to stipulate the relevant reduction of the FCA. We plan to table the Amendment Order in LegCo within 2011, with a view to implementing the reduction in early 2012 when more than 740 hectares of land will be released from the FCA for public access. The construction work for the second section will be completed by the end of 2012.

15. The second phase of the project involves private land. We have completed the statutory land resumption procedures, and have consulted the Panel on Security in May 2011. We plan to seek funding approval from the Public Works Sub-Committee and the Finance Committee in late 2011 and early 2012 respectively.

Establishing Sexual Conviction Record Check for Child-related Work

16. The Law Reform Commission (LRC), after conducting thorough studies and public consultation, published a report on “Sexual Offences Records Checks for Child-related Work: Interim Proposals” in February 2010, recommending the Administration to establish an administrative mechanism for sexual offences records checks. We have accepted the LRC’s recommendation and will implement by the end of this year through the Police a sexual conviction record check scheme whereby the employers of organisations or enterprises may check and ascertain whether applicants for child or mentally incapacitated person (MIP)-related work have any sexual conviction records. The purpose of the scheme is to enhance protection for children and MIPs against sexual assaults.

Auxiliary Medical Services Cadet Corps

17. We have set up a Cadet Corps under the Auxiliary Medical Services (AMS) with an aim to encourage young people aged between 12 and 17 to develop practical skills and leadership through participating in various discipline training and group activities which focus on general medical knowledge. Through these training and activities, we hope to prepare them to become good citizens with devotion to social services by helping them build up confidence, a sense of responsibility, self-discipline and the spirit to serve others. So far, we enrolled about 400 members who have completed the basic training and have been deployed in community service. AMS’ target is to recruit 1 000 members of cadet corps in five years.

Legislative Regime for Combating Terrorism

18. Hong Kong is fully committed to combating terrorism and terrorist financing, and will continue to cooperate with the international community in this regard. The United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (Cap. 575) has been brought into full operation since 1 January 2011.

19. In 2008, the Financial Action Task Force (“FATF”)¹ published the Mutual Evaluation Report on Hong Kong’s anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing regime. While recognizing the strengths of Hong Kong’s anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing regime, the Report made a series of recommendations to further improve the regime. To address FATF’s Mutual Evaluation Report recommendations, we propose to amend the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance. We plan to consult the Panel on Security shortly, and to submit an Amendment Bill to LegCo in 2011 for Members’ consideration.

Continuing to seek long-term solutions to address the problems of outdated facilities and overcrowding in some of our panel institutions

20. The opening of the redeveloped Lo Wu Correctional Institution last year has significantly improved the overcrowding situation of female institutions. The latest overall occupancy rate of female institutions has dropped from 115% to about 80%. In the coming year, we will embark on the partial redevelopment project of the Tai Lam Centre for Women, which includes increasing penal places and enhancing various facilities (e.g. increasing the number of hospital beds, etc.). We will continue to consider other redevelopment projects and improvement works to address the problem of ageing facilities and meet the custodial and rehabilitative service needs of offenders.

Torture Claims Screening Mechanism

21. The Government enhanced the administrative mechanism for screening torture claims in end 2009, including providing publicly-funded legal assistance to claimants through the Duty Lawyers Service, and appointing persons with a legal background to decide on petitions. As at end September 2011, the ImmD has processed over 1 700 claims, with decisions served on 800 of them.

¹ FATF is the international anti-money laundering standard-setter. FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 and Hong Kong joined FATF in 1990. Hong Kong is required to implement recommendations made by FATF and is subject to a process of Mutual Evaluation to monitor progress made in implementation.

22. Since the introduction of the enhanced screening mechanism, we have received nearly 3 000 new claims. At present, the number of outstanding claims is around 6 700. We introduced into LegCo the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2011 this July to underpin the screening mechanism for torture claims. We will work closely with LegCo to facilitate its scrutiny of the Bill, and envisage that the effectiveness of screening torture claims will be further enhanced after the passage of the Bill.

Security Bureau
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