

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)292/12-13
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

Subcommittee on Poverty

**Minutes of the first meeting
held on Monday, 5 November 2012, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon TANG Ka-piu

Members absent : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

Member attending : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Public Officers attending : Item II

Mr Mathew CHEUNG, GBS, JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Miss Annie TAM Kam-lan, JP
Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Ms Jane LEE Sze-yan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)

Ms Reddy NG Wai-lan, JP
Principal Economist (4)
Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit
Financial Secretary's Office

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Miss Tifa LEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Election of Chairman (and Deputy Chairman)

Election of Chairman

Mr Albert HO, member present who had the highest precedence in the Council, presided over the election of Chairman. Mr HO called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee"). Mr Frederick FUNG was nominated by Mr Ronny TONG and the nomination was seconded by Mr WONG Yuk-man. Mr FUNG accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr HO declared Mr Frederick FUNG elected as Chairman of the Subcommittee. Mr FUNG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman proposed and members agreed to elect a deputy

Action

chairman for the Subcommittee. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Subcommittee. Dr Fernando CHEUNG was nominated by Mr WONG Yuk-man and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che. Dr CHEUNG accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr Fernando CHEUNG elected as Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II. Meeting with the Administration

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)137/12-13(01) to (02)]

5. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

6. The Administration was requested to provide the meeting agendas and timetables of the tasks forces of CoP when available.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

7. Members agreed that the Subcommittee would receive public views on poverty line and deliberate the arrangements for discussing retirement protection at the next meeting.

(Post meeting note: The next meeting of the Subcommittee would be held on Tuesday, 11 December 2012 at 2:30 p.m.)

IV. Any other business

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 December 2012

**Proceedings of the first meeting of the
Subcommittee on Poverty
on Monday, 5 November 2012, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
000121 - 000217	Mr Albert HO Mr Ronny TONG Mr Frederick FUNG	Election of Chairman	
000218 - 000316	Chairman Mr WONG Yuk-man	Election of Deputy Chairman	
000317 - 001633	Administration	Briefing by the Administration on the work of the Preparatory Task Force on the Commission on Poverty and the key areas of work of the new Commission on Poverty ("CoP"). [LC Paper No. CB(2)137/12-13(01)].	
001634 - 002304	Mr Albert HO Administration	Mr Albert HO's view on the need to set specific targets for poverty alleviation and roll out short and medium relief measures periodically to help the needy. The Administration's response that - (a) a poverty line would be used as a tool for gauging Hong Kong's poverty situation and assessing the effectiveness of poverty alleviation policies; and (b) in addition to long-term policy issues, short- and medium-term measures would be considered to address more imminent poverty situations for the benefits of the needy.	
002305 - 002803	Mrs Regina IP Administration	Mrs Regina IP's view that - (a) the long-term goal of CoP should be helping the poor to eradicate poverty by enhancing their self-reliance; (b) the Administration should study policies on widening industry structure thereby creating more employment opportunities; (c) to prevent inter-generational poverty, educational policies should be formulated to help youngsters equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills for employment; and (d) reference should be made to overseas studies	

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		<p>on the definition of poverty such as those conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD").</p> <p>The Administration's response that -</p> <p>(a) the task forces formed under CoP would focus on specific areas of concern which included education, employment and training; and</p> <p>(b) the CoP would set a poverty line. CoP would take into account the views collected from different stakeholders and make reference to relevant practices in doing so.</p>	
002804 - 003219	Mr TAM Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Mr TAM Yiu-chung's concern about whether CoP would be able to accomplish its objectives and meet the expectations of the public having regard to the enormity of its tasks.</p> <p>The Administration's response that CoP would be pragmatic and set appropriate priority for its work.</p>	
003220 - 003900	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Administration	<p>Dr Fernando CHEUNG's concern about the alignment of work between the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee") and CoP.</p> <p>The Administration's assurance that it would have close liaison with the Subcommittee.</p>	
003901 - 004633	Dr KWOK Ka-ki Administration	<p>Dr KWOK Ka-ki's view that some existing policies had in fact worsened or caused the problems of poverty. Property hegemony, inadequate supply of public housing, hefty public transportation costs and insufficient supply of publicly-funded university places were some cases in point.</p> <p>The Administration's response that the Government was determined to improve the overall poverty situation.</p>	
004634 - 005357	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's view that -</p> <p>(a) there should be collaboration among District Councils, CoP and policy bureaux to ensure that poverty alleviating measures could be carried out at district level timely; and</p> <p>(b) policies on the development of social enterprises ("SE") should be formulated.</p> <p>The Administration's response that except for the Social Security and Retirement Protection Task Force which would be chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS"), the</p>	

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		chairpersons of the rest of the task forces under CoP would be non-official members to facilitate participation from different sectors of the society. There would be a task force under CoP on SE funding.	
005358 - 005941	Miss CHAN Yuen-han	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han's view that-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) there were occasions where policies could not be implemented due to lack of collaboration among bureaux. Cross-bureaux collaboration should therefore be strengthened; and (b) CoP should provide the Subcommittee with its road map and timetables for taking forward the recommendations made by LegCo Members and community groups in respect of poverty alleviation. 	
005942 - 010453	Mr TANG Ka-piu	Mr TANG Ka-piu's view that CoP should formulate concrete poverty alleviation policies from a macro perspective. Apart from CS and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, other Bureaux Secretaries should also participate in the work of CoP.	
010454 - 011047	Mr CHAN Kin-por Administration	<p>Mr CHAN Kin-por's view that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) more low-skilled jobs and jobs requiring only low academic qualifications should be created so as to enhance the self-reliance of the disadvantaged groups; and (b) CoP should give priority to the study of the long-term development and enhancement of the self-reliance of SE. <p>The Administration's explanation that under CoP, there would be a task force focusing on education, employment and training, and another one on SE funding.</p> <p>Mr CHAN Kin-por's enquiry and the Administration's response regarding the support provided to food banks.</p>	
011048 - 011703	Mr KWOK Wai-keung Administration	<p>Mr KWOK Wai-keung's view that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) public consultations should be conducted to collect views on the criteria for drawing up the poverty line so that a consensus in the community could be reached; (b) concrete targets for each of the 24 poverty indicators should be set; and 	

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		<p>(c) policies to help needy women and elderly who were not in the workforce should be formulated.</p> <p>The Administration's response that CoP would consider policies and measures to address poverty issues as well as the poverty problems at district level.</p>	
011704 - 012224	Mr Frankie YICK Administration	<p>Mr Frankie YICK's concern that given the general perception that many elementary posts lacked upward mobility, there was a serious shortfall in the supply of manpower for elementary posts. CoP should take steps to address the problem and enable the survival of pillar industries such as the logistics industry.</p> <p>The Administration's explanation on the measures taken to help young people who had low academic attainment to enter and stay in the workforce.</p>	
012225 - 012822	Mr Alan LEONG Administration	<p>The Administration's response to Mr Alan LEONG's enquiry on CoP's terms of reference, structure and workplan that CoP would examine poverty alleviation policies in a holistic manner. The Chief Executive would chair annual summits to broaden community engagement and to provide overall steer and set policy directions to CoP. The relevant Bureau Secretaries would take active part in the work of CoP.</p>	
012823 - 013304	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's view that the indicators or targets set by CoP should be used for assessing whether the current policies were compatible with the new policies formulated by CoP.</p> <p>The Administration's response that CoP not only would review the existing policies but would also be forward looking in formulating new policies, where appropriate.</p>	
013305 - 013654	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Administration	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han's view that community groups should not be excluded from the consideration for appointment to CoP.</p> <p>The Administration's response to Miss CHAN Yuen-han's concern about the district-oriented poverty alleviation measures that CoP would explore ways to promote district-based poverty alleviation measures to better meet the specific needs of local residents. Societal engagement was one of the main tasks of CoP.</p>	
013655 - 014038	Mr TANG Ka-piu Administration	<p>The Administration's response to Mr TANG Ka-piu's enquiries on the structure of CoP, the roles</p>	

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		of Bureau Secretaries in the work of CoP and the poverty indicators of North Districts and Islands Districts.	
014039 - 014717	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's concern about the criteria for and the process of drawing up the poverty line and how CoP would work closely with the Subcommittee. The Administration's response that CoP would listen to different views before drawing up the poverty line.	
014718 - 015022	Mr KWOK Wai-keung Administration	Mr KWOK Wai-keung's view that time frames for short-, medium- and long-term policies should be set and studies on the topics of working poor, elderly in poverty, women in poverty and inter-generational poverty should be conducted. The Administration's response that long-term measures would be used to solve more fundamental problems which might be implemented by phases, as appropriate.	
015023 - 015327	Mr Frankie YICK Administration	Mr Frankie YICK's view that the Administration should help young people who had low academic attainment to enter the workforce as early as practicable by providing them with the necessary training. The Administration's response that it would explore ways to enhance publicity with a view to removing the wrong perception of the public of certain jobs so that youngsters would be willing to take up these jobs.	
015328 - 015700	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Administration	Dr Fernando CHEUNG's reiteration of his request for the meeting agendas and timetables of CoP and his view on the membership of CoP. The Administration's response that different sectors and stakeholders would be invited to participate in the work of CoP.	
015701 - 020105	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Chairman Administration	Mr LEUNG Yiu-Chung's concern about how CoP and the Subcommittee could foster mutual support and develop a bilateral communication. The Administration's response that it attached great importance to consulting and interacting with members.	

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020106 - 021746	Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG Mr CHAN Kin-por Mr TANG Ka-piu Administration Mr Alan LEONG Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che	Suggestions by the Chairman on the arrangements for discussing retirement protection for members' consideration at the next meeting – (a) to form a subcommittee on retirement protection under the Panel on Welfare Services; (b) to make the subject of retirement protection a standing discussion item of the Subcommittee; or (c) to form a group under the Subcommittee to study issues relating to retirement protection. Date of next meeting and items for discussion.	
021747 - 021750	Chairman	Closing remarks	