

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting  
of 14 March 2014**

**Questions scheduled for the  
Legislative Council meeting of 19 March 2014**

Questions by:

- |      |                        |                 |
|------|------------------------|-----------------|
| (1)  | Hon Starry LEE         | (Oral reply)    |
| (2)  | Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG | (Oral reply)    |
| (3)  | Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat    | (Oral reply)    |
| (4)  | Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan  | (Oral reply)    |
| (5)  | Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG | (Oral reply)    |
| (6)  | Hon Albert HO          | (Oral reply)    |
| (7)  | Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau    | (Written reply) |
| (8)  | Hon CHAN Han-pan       | (Written reply) |
| (9)  | Hon YIU Si-wing        | (Written reply) |
| (10) | Hon Mrs Regina IP      | (Written reply) |
| (11) | Hon IP Kin-yuen        | (Written reply) |
| (12) | Hon WONG Yuk-man       | (Written reply) |
| (13) | Hon MA Fung-kwok       | (Written reply) |
| (14) | Dr Hon Helena WONG     | (Written reply) |
| (15) | Hon TAM Yiu-chung      | (Written reply) |
| (16) | Hon NG Leung-sing      | (Written reply) |
| (17) | Hon James TIEN         | (Written reply) |
| (18) | Hon Dennis KWOK        | (Written reply) |
| (19) | Hon Christopher CHUNG  | (Written reply) |
| (20) | Hon Claudia MO         | (Written reply) |
| (21) | Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN    | (Written reply) |
| (22) | Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT  | (Written reply) |

註 :

NOTE :

# 議員將採用這種語言提出質詢

# Member will ask the question in this language

## Alleviation of the crowdedness of MTR train compartments

(1) Hon Starry LEE (Oral reply)

According to a paper submitted by the Transport and Housing Bureau to the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways under the Panel on Transport of this Council, the busy sections of the Tseung Kwan O Line, East Rail Line (“ERL”), West Rail Line (“WRL”), Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line and Kwun Tong Line have been loaded with passengers to capacity or are close to that during the morning peak hours, based on the actual passenger density level of 4 persons (standing) per square metre. Regarding alleviation of the crowdedness in MTR train compartments, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether the authorities will take measures (such as requesting the MTR Corporation Limited to modify its fare structure, making use of other modes of public transport for diversion of passengers and setting up shopping areas near the boundary) to alleviate the passenger loading of the railways; if they will, of the details and the implementation timetable; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) as ERL has already been loaded with passengers to capacity during peak hours but the project of North East New Territories New Development Areas (“NDA”) will increase the population to be served by ERL, and the carrying capacity of ERL will be reduced by the replacement of the current 12-car trains by 9-car trains upon the full commissioning of the Shatin to Central Link (“SCL”), of the plans of the authorities to alleviate the crowdedness in the train compartments of ERL; and
- (3) whether it has assessed the impact of the commissioning of SCL, the South Island Line and the West Island Line on the patronage of MTR, as well as the number of ERL passengers to be generated by the additional population upon the completion of the relevant items of the NDA project; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; whether it has plans to accelerate the development of the Northern Link so as to divert some ERL passengers to WRL; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

The requirement for persons with special educational needs to move out of small group homes upon reaching the age of 18

(2) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG (Oral reply)

It is learnt that children with special educational needs (“SEN”) such as those with mild intellectual disability may be admitted to small group homes (“SGHs”) under the Social Welfare Department, but the age limit for living in SGHs is 18 years old. Some persons with SEN who moved out of SGHs upon reaching the age of 18 but had not yet completed their senior secondary school education have encountered adjustment difficulties in daily life due to the drastic changes in their living environment, and their study progress has also adversely been affected. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of persons with SEN who moved out of SGHs as they had reached the age of 18 in each school year since 2009-2010, with a tabulated breakdown by their characteristics and circumstances as follows: genders, types of schools attended (i.e. mainstream or special schools), types of SEN (i.e. specific learning difficulties, intellectual disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, autism spectrum disorders, physical disability, speech impairment, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder), and their accommodation arrangements after leaving SGHs (e.g. living with parents or relatives, admitted to private residential homes or those homes with vocational training for adults, etc.); and
- (2) with regard to persons with SEN who have not yet completed their senior secondary school education, whether the authorities will raise their age limit for living in SGHs; if so, of the procedures and guidelines for such upward adjustment; if not, the reasons for that?

## Disruption of railway services

(3) Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat (Oral reply)

It has been reported that train services were disrupted for several times last year due to malfunctioning, and quite a number of passengers were late for school or work due to delay in their journeys. Recently, such failure incidents have occurred more frequently. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether it has considered appointing an independent committee or rail transport consultant to conduct a comprehensive study on the operational problems of the railways in Hong Kong, including:

- (1) whether the transfer of the operation of the railways (including the East Rail, West Rail, Light Rail, etc.) operated by the then Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation to the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) by the Government, which has resulted in MTRCL having to concurrently manage a number of railways, has exerted excessive pressure on the operation of MTRCL; and
- (2) whether the operation of railways outside the territory by MTRCL has distracted its attention away from the local operations, resulting in its neglect of operational problems of the railways in Hong Kong?

## Rising costs in public works

(4) Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Oral reply)

It has been learnt that recently, the expenditures of several public works projects have substantially exceeded the approved project estimates due to rising commodity prices and shortfalls of construction workers, etc. In this connection, will the Government:

- (1) set out in table form the title, estimated costs and date for submission of each public works project which the authorities have planned to submit to the Finance Committee ("FC") of this Council for approval within the next two years; and among the projects which have commenced or are yet to commence, the title and approved project estimate of each of the projects for which the authorities have envisaged that application for supplementary provisions to FC will be required within the next two years, as well as the amount of supplementary provision to be applied for;
- (2) set out in table form the estimated number of public and private construction works projects which will commence within the next four years, as well as the respective numbers and shortfalls of workers and management personnel of various trades of the construction industry in the period; and
- (3) inform this Council, as it has happened from time to time that the authorities had to apply to FC for supplementary provisions because of cost overrun in public works projects, whether the authorities have reviewed the existing process for calculating the project estimates of public works projects, with a view to narrowing the gap between the estimated and the actual expenditures so that the projects can be completed on time without the need to apply for supplementary provisions; if they have, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Assisting owners and occupiers of “three-nil buildings”  
in complying with Fire Safety Directions

(5) Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG (Oral reply)

The Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance stipulates that the fire safety of composite and domestic buildings constructed on or before 1 March 1987 must be enhanced to better meet the requirements of the day. The Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department issue Fire Safety Directions (“Directions”) to owners and/or occupiers with regard to fire service installations and fire safety constructions in those buildings, with a view to enhancing the basic fire protection measures in those buildings. Quite a number of owners and residents of old buildings in Mong Kok (including Fa Yuen Street) have relayed to me that they have recently received one after another the Directions issued by the authorities. However, as the buildings in which they live do not have owners’ corporations (“OCs”) or any other residents’ organisations and are not managed by property management companies (i.e. the so-called “three-nil buildings”), and coupled with most of the residents being the indigent elderly, they have the will but lack the ability to co-ordinate the improvement works required for complying with the Directions. Some owners and residents have been fined \$700 per household for failing to comply with the Directions. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that as they are unable to form OCs despite the co-ordination efforts of the authorities, the owners of some three-nil buildings have all along not complied with the Directions, and they have been fined repeatedly for this, whether the authorities will consider exercising discretion in handling such cases, including suspending the Directions concerned as well as allowing them more time and providing them with appropriate assistance to facilitate their compliance with the Directions; if they will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) as the authorities have indicated that they will consider accepting alternative proposals made by owners when there are technical difficulties for individual buildings to comply with the Directions, whether such a flexible approach is applicable to three-nil buildings; if it is, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether the authorities will consider assisting, through other means, the owners of three-nil buildings, who have all along been unable to form their OCs, in complying with the Directions, e.g. by the authorities co-ordinating the required improvement works and afterwards recovering the advanced payments for such works from the owners concerned; if they will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

## Regulation of the businesses of licensed money lenders

(6) Hon Albert HO (Oral reply)

It has been reported that as at March 2013, the authorities issued 1 001 money lender licences and were handling 2 556 licence applications. Regarding the regulation of the businesses of licensed money lenders, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of complaints against licensed money lenders received by the Police and the number of licensed money lenders prosecuted in the past three years;
- (2) whether it has considered cancelling the arrangement of the Registrar of Companies serving concurrently as the Registrar of Money Lenders; if it has, of the details and implementation timetable; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) given that no institution is now responsible for regulating the businesses of licensed money lenders, and the Police will only conduct investigations into their illegal practices, such as charging a lending rate above the statutory ceiling or employing illegal debt collection tactics, whether the authorities have considered putting the businesses of licensed money lenders under the regulation of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and setting requirements such as maximum loan-to-value ratio, minimum registered capital and capital buffer, etc. in respect of such businesses; if they have, of the details and implementation timetable; if not, the reasons for that?



## Meal breaks for ambulancemen

(7) Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau (Written reply)

Under the existing arrangements of the Fire Services Department (“FSD”), ambulancemen work 12 hours per shift. On each shift, ambulancemen may take turns to have meals for 30 minutes within a designated meal break of two to three hours (“designated break”). If an ambulanceman cannot have a continuous meal break of 30 minutes due to attending service calls during the designated break, he/she may be compensated with another meal break of 30 minutes afterwards. FSD has advised that about 90% of day shift ambulancemen can have a continuous meal break of 30 minutes during the designated break. However, the Hong Kong Fire Services Department Ambulancemen’s Union has earlier relayed to me that this figure does not reflect the actual situation, which is that the meal breaks of ambulancemen are often interrupted by service calls. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of a breakdown of the following statistics on ambulance day and night shifts in various divisions under the Ambulance Command last year, and provide the statistics using tables of the same format as the table below:
  - (i) Average number of ambulances on-call per shift;
  - (ii) Total number of ambulance shifts;
  - (iii) Total number of ambulance calls (including hospital transfer calls and emergency calls);
  - (iv) Number of emergency ambulance calls;
  - (v) Average number of calls per ambulance per shift;
  - (vi) Average number of emergency calls per ambulance per shift;
  - (vii) Percentage of ambulancemen having a continuous and uninterrupted meal break of 30 minutes for their first meals during the designated break per shift;
  - (viii) Percentage of ambulancemen whose meal breaks during the designated break were interrupted but subsequently had another continuous and uninterrupted meal break of 30 minutes within the designated break per shift;
  - (ix) Daily quota for compensatory meal breaks; and
  - (x) Average number of applications for compensatory meal breaks per day;

Ambulance shift: day shift/night shift

Division under the Ambulance Command	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)
Hong Kong Division										
Kowloon East Division										
Kowloon West Division										
New Territories South Division										
New Territories North Division										
Overall										

- (2) whether it will continuously improve the meal arrangements for ambulancemen to ensure that they can have a continuous meal break of one hour during the designated break when no major incident occurs; if it will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it has assessed the impact of having meals in a hasty manner and at irregular hours or even skipping meals on the occupational safety and health of ambulancemen; if it has; of the outcome; if not, the reasons for that?

## Rehabus service for people with impaired mobility

(8) Hon CHAN Han-pan (Written reply)

The Rehabus operated by the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (“HKSR”) provides point-to-point transport service for people with impaired mobility. Recently, some members of the public have complained to me that their bookings for Rehabus service to transport their elderly family members with chronic illnesses to and from their residences and homes for the aged had been rejected repeatedly, which caused much inconvenience to them. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows the respective numbers of telephone bookings for Rehabus service which were received and rejected by HKSR in each month of the past five years;
- (2) whether it knows if those people who are unsuccessful in booking Rehabus service will be given priority when they book the service the next time; if they have priority, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) whether it knows the number of complaints about booking for Rehabus service received by HKSR in each month of the past five years; whether HKSR has followed up those complaints; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (4) whether it has monitored how HKSR will improve the situation of people with impaired mobility having difficulties in booking Rehabus service; whether the Government plans to provide additional funding for HKSR to procure more buses with a view to improving Rehabus service; if it does, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

## Impacts of mainland visitors on the daily lives of Hong Kong residents

(9) Hon YIU Si-wing (Written reply)

According to the Assessment Report on Hong Kong's Capacity to Receive Tourists released by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in December last year, shopping accounted for 76% of the spending of Individual Visit Scheme ("IVS") visitors in 2012. Some members of the public have pointed out that, in the districts along the MTR East Rail Line, quite a number of shops serving local residents have been replaced by shops targeting at mainland visitors, thus affecting the daily lives of local residents. The conflicts between Hong Kong and mainland residents are deepening, which has resulted in the recent harassment of mainland visitors by some local residents in the vicinity of Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, thus tarnishing the image of Hong Kong as a civilized metropolis. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has conducted any assessment to identify the major shopping districts frequented by those mainland visitors coming to Hong Kong to buy daily necessities or carry out parallel trading activities; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) whether it has assessed the positive and negative impacts on the economy, employment situation and people's livelihood of the districts mentioned in (1) brought about by mainlanders visiting Hong Kong for shopping; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it has compiled statistics on the current numbers of mainland visitors and Hong Kong residents engaged in parallel trading activities; whether it has formulated long-term measures to divert mainland visitors to shop in more districts and mitigate the impacts of parallel trading activities on the daily lives of Hong Kong residents; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

## Employment of non-civil service contract staff by the Security Bureau

(10) Hon Mrs Regina IP (Written reply)

Some non-civil service contract (“NCSC”) staff employed by the Security Bureau (“SB”) have relayed to me that SB has been renewing their employment yearly on one-year contracts for a period as long as nine years. Notwithstanding that their job duties include handling of sensitive information as well as the provision of engineering and technology related support, which are similar to those of civil servants of comparable ranks, their remunerations are less than the starting salaries of those civil servants by one third to 50%, resulting in low morale among them and a brain drain as well as a prolonged manpower shortage of SB. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of NCSC staff members currently employed by SB; among them, the number of staff members who have been employed for five consecutive years or more, with a breakdown by job position;
- (2) whether SB has specific plans to assist those NCSC staff who have relatively long service years and whose positions are related to long-term service needs to be appointed as civil servants; and
- (3) of the specific solutions of SB to resolve the aforesaid problems relayed by NCSC staff, including different pay for the same work, brain drain and prolonged manpower shortage?

Standards of the school premises and learning environment  
of public-sector schools

(11) Hon IP Kin-yuen (Written reply)

Regarding the standards of the school premises and learning environment of the public-sector primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, will the Government inform this Council of:

- (1) the respective standards of the school premises of public-sector primary and secondary schools in different periods (including the requirements on gross floor area, equipment, number of classrooms and space per student), the number of premises built in each period, as well as the number of premises which have been decommissioned and the reasons therefor;
- (2) the respective current numbers of public-sector primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong with school premises not meeting the latest standards for school premises; and set out the (i) names, (ii) types (government or aided), (iii) districts, (iv) addresses, (v) gross floor areas, and (vi) causes of not meeting the standards, of such schools by the year in which the construction of the school premises commenced, and use tables of the same format as the table below to set out the respective information of primary and secondary schools;

Primary schools/Secondary schools

Year in which the construction commenced	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)

- (3) the measures in place to improve the learning environment of the schools mentioned in (2), including whether priority will be accorded to redeveloping those school premises which are obsolete or grossly substandard, or whether the schools concerned will be reprovisioned;
- (4) the procedure, assessment criteria and scoring scheme adopted by the School Allocation Committee under the Education Bureau (“the Committee”) for vetting and approving applications for school sites/premises, as well as how the Committee handles those school premises which are obsolete or grossly substandard; and
- (5) the respective numbers of applications for school sites/premises which were (i) received, (ii) approved and (iii) considered but not approved by the Committee in the past five years, as well as (iv) the reasons for

granting approval to the successful cases and details of such approvals, setting out such information by school type and school sponsoring body?

## The work of Information Co-ordinator

(12) Hon WONG Yuk-man (Written reply)

It has recently been reported by the media that the Information Coordinator (“the Coordinator”) of the Chief Executive’s Office has published an article in a newspaper under a pen-name, criticizing some Members of this Council by name for their stance on the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill 2012. Subsequently, in response to enquiries by the media, the Coordinator did not deny his authorship of the article and said that he strongly concurred with the viewpoints therein. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the Coordinator’s specific duties in formulating public relations strategies regarding the aforesaid Bill; and
- (2) of the specific indicators adopted by the Chief Executive’s Office for evaluating the Coordinator’s performance?



## The Hong Kong Marathon

(13) Hon MA Fung-kwok (Written reply)

It has been reported that some participants of the Hong Kong Marathon pointed out that members of the public had been unable to cheer the participants of the races on both sides of the race routes because they had had difficulties in accessing the routes, most sections of which being on expressways. In addition, as a result of the short duration of road closure approved by the authorities, the starting times for the races were set at an hour far too early and the quota for participants in the races could not be increased to meet the demand. These participants opined that in future, the authorities should consider extending the duration of road closure for the races, and allowing more sections of the race routes to traverse the city centre. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective numbers of road closure applications from sports organizations for holding sports events which were received, approved and rejected by the authorities last year; the mechanism and considerations which the authorities currently adopt for vetting and approving such applications; whether they will take measures to support, as far as possible, the organizers in holding those events for which road closure has been approved; if they will, of the details; and
- (2) whether the organizer of the Hong Kong Marathon, when making preparation for the event of this year, had made any request to the authorities for implementing road closure for a duration longer than those of previous years, or for more sections of the race routes traversing the city centre; if it had, of the authorities' responses to such requests and their justifications?

## Cemeteries and columbarium facilities

(14) Dr Hon Helena WONG (Written reply)

I have learnt that some residents affected by unauthorized private columbaria held a meeting with officials of the Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) in October last year. As the authorities had removed the illegal graves on the slope north of Diamond Hill Urn Cemetery and delivered the human remains and cremains to Sandy Ridge Cemetery for burial, those residents requested the Government to remove the urns at the unauthorized columbarium built on illegally occupied government land by Gig Lok Temple in Tuen Mun. The Lands Department stated that assistance of FHB was needed for temporary deposition of such urns at public columbaria while FHB indicated that it had to seek legal advice on the matter. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether FHB has sought legal advice on the aforesaid matter; if so, of the advice obtained; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (2) of the legal basis for removing the illegal graves in the vicinity of Diamond Hill Urn Cemetery and delivering the human remains and cremains to Sandy Ridge Cemetery for burial?

Handling of job applications from persons  
with conviction records by disciplined services

(15) Hon TAM Yiu-chung (Written reply)

According to section 2(1) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 297) (“ROO”), where an individual has been convicted for the first time of an offence in respect of which he was not sentenced to imprisonment exceeding three months or to a fine exceeding \$10,000, and has not been convicted of an offence again within three years, the conviction record may generally be withheld in applying for jobs. I have learnt that an applicant for a post in the rank-and-file grades of disciplined services, who has a conviction record that may be withheld under ROO, was requested by the recruiting department to submit a confirmation of no criminal conviction provided by the Hong Kong Police Force as supplementary information after passing the recruitment examination. As a result, the department was aware of his conviction record and his application was subsequently rejected. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of persons with conviction records which may be withheld under ROO recruited as government employees in the past three years; among them, of the number of persons employed by the disciplined services and the number of such persons employed in the rank-and-file grades; and
- (2) whether it will remove the requirement for persons applying for posts in the rank-and-file grades of disciplined services to submit confirmation of no criminal conviction to the recruiting departments as supplementary information after passing the recruitment examinations; if it will not, of the reasons for that?

The US dollar loan-to-deposit ratio of banks in Hong Kong

(16) Hon NG Leung-sing (Written reply)

According to the statistics published by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in January this year, the US dollar loan-to-deposit ratio of banks in Hong Kong rose continuously from about 30% at the end of 2009 to about 85% at the end of 2013. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council if it has assessed:

- (1) the causes of the aforesaid upward trend and whether this trend will continue in the next few years;
- (2) whether there is a mismatch between the supply of and demand for US dollars in the current financial system; if so, the causes of that; and
- (3) the impact of a high US dollar loan-to-deposit ratio on the status of Hong Kong as an international financial centre?

Government officials or departments publishing articles in pen-names

(17) Hon James TIEN (Written reply)

It has been reported that concealing his official capacity, the Information Co-ordinator recently published an article in a newspaper in a pen-name, in which he criticized certain persons and political parties whose stances were different from that of the Government. In response to media enquiries, the Office of the Chief Executive indicated that in interpreting and explaining government policies, officials would expound in their official capacity. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether any government officials (including the Chief Executive, politically appointed officials and civil servants) or departments have published articles in newspapers or magazines in pen-names in the past three years; if so, provide the details in the table below; if it will not provide such information, of the reasons for that;

Date	Post title	Pen-name	Name of newspaper/ magazine	Article title

- (2) whether it has assessed the implications of government officials or departments publishing articles in pen-names; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) whether there is currently any code governing the publication of articles in newspapers or magazines by officials or departments in pen-names; if so, of the details; if not, whether it will formulate such a code;
- (4) under what circumstances government officials are not required to disclose their official capacity when publishing articles in newspapers or magazines; and
- (5) why the Office of the Chief Executive did not reply to the media directly as to whether the Information Coordinator had actually published the aforesaid article?

## Lodging arrangements for foreign domestic helpers

(18) Hon Dennis KWOK (Written reply)

The Standard Employment Contract (“SEC”) for foreign domestic helpers (“FDHs”) drawn up by the Government stipulates that FDHs shall work and reside in the residences at the employers’ residential addresses written on such contracts. However, it has been reported earlier that some employers have failed to provide FDHs with suitable accommodation, e.g. some FDHs having to sleep on the floor in the kitchen or bathroom or sleep beneath a table, and quite a number of FDHs having to rent accommodation elsewhere. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of complaints received by the authorities in the past three years about alleged breaches of SEC by employers; among such complaints, of the number of cases which were related to the lodging arrangements for FDHs and the number of substantiated ones in those cases; and
- (2) whether the authorities will review the policy concerning SEC and its implementation; if they will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Assisting owners of old buildings with no owners' incorporation  
in carrying out building repair works

(19) Hon Christopher CHUNG (Written reply)

Earlier, some property owners living in old and dilapidated buildings sought my assistance, saying they had recently received statutory orders (“Orders”) issued by the Buildings Department (“BD”) and the Fire Services Department, requiring them to carry out specified works on repairs and enhancement of fire protection measures for their buildings. However, despite the assistance provided by the Home Affairs Department and a number of owners’ meetings having been convened, no owners’ corporation (“OC”) had been formed for the buildings concerned to co-ordinate the works and collect funds for such works. These owners are worried that they may be prosecuted for not complying with the Orders. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the specific measures taken to assist the aforesaid owners in forming OCs before the expiry of the time limits set for the works concerned; the measures taken to assist individual owners of such buildings in complying with the Orders in the event that OCs cannot be formed all along;
- (2) given that at present, BD will make advance payments and carry out necessary repair works on behalf of the owners only in those cases of emergency, owners’ default of an Order or serious nuisance on hygiene, whether the authorities will examine establishing a mechanism whereby individual owners can apply to BD for the department to carry out the works for their buildings as set out in the relevant Orders and afterwards recover the costs from the various owners; and
- (3) whether, in the past five years, the authorities took mandatory building management measures under sections 40B or 40C of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) for those buildings with serious management problems which posed a danger or risk of danger to their occupiers or owners; if so, of the details of such cases, including how the authorities determined if “there is a danger or risk of danger” to the occupiers or owners?

Learning Chinese as a second language  
by ethnic minority students

(20) Hon Claudia MO (Written reply)

The Policy Address of this year states that from the 2014-2015 school year onwards, the Government will implement a “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” (“Learning Framework”) for ethnic minority (“EM”) students in primary and secondary schools. However, the authorities are yet to make public the details of the Learning Framework. Regarding learning Chinese as a second language by EM students, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the authorities’ specific policy objectives, monitoring mechanism and effectiveness evaluation indicators in respect of learning Chinese as a second language by EM students; the differences between the Learning Framework and the “Chinese language as the second language” curriculum, which the Chief Executive undertook in his election manifesto to develop; the specific justifications of the authorities for adopting the former rather than the latter for assisting EM students in learning Chinese language;
- (2) how it will formulate the Learning Framework; whether it will invite the community at large and professionals to participate in the relevant work;
- (3) whether it has drawn up a timetable for a regular review on the effectiveness of the Learning Framework and its enhancement;
- (4) given that Cantonese is the main form of spoken Chinese used in listening and speaking by students in mainstream schools, whereas modern Chinese is the standard written form for writing and reading, and there are many differences between the two forms, of the measures put in place by the authorities to ensure that EM students can overcome the barriers arising from such differences when they learn Chinese as a second language;
- (5) whether it has conducted any study on setting up specialized schools providing courses on Chinese as the second language for EM students to take after school, so that they only need to take subjects other than Chinese language in the mainstream schools; if it has, of the outcome of the study; if not, the reasons for that;
- (6) whether it will consider setting up a research centre for teaching and learning Chinese as a second language, in which experts, academics and frontline teachers who are acquainted with the subject of EM education conduct joint studies and assess the effectiveness of different teaching modes by adopting an evidence-based approach; and



- (7) as some members of the education sector have pointed out that the Chinese Language curriculum of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (“HKDSEE”) is too difficult for EM students, while the level of the General Certificate of Secondary Education (Chinese) Examination is so low that it is not conducive to EM students pursuing further education or employment locally, whether the authorities will make reference to the previous practice of the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination, in which English language examination papers of two levels were set, and provide additionally an examination paper with a slightly lower level for the Chinese language subject in the HKDSEE?

## Support for Hong Kong athletes participating in mega sports events

(21) Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN (Written reply)

Last month, an athlete representing Hong Kong to participate in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games (“OWG”) held in Sochi, Russia said that he had requested the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (“SFOC”) to arrange for a team doctor to accompany him, but the request was turned down. The incident has received extensive media coverage. It has been reported that no medical official was included in the Hong Kong delegations to the OWG in 2002, 2006 and 2010. Regarding the composition and expenditure of Hong Kong delegations participating in mega international sports events, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows if SFOC took the initiative to ask the Hong Kong Skating Union as well as the coach and the athlete concerned whether they needed the company of a team doctor; if it did, when it made the enquiry; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) whether it knows, in the previous four OWGs, (i) the reasons for SFOC not arranging for any accompanying medical official to provide support for the athletes representing Hong Kong, and (ii) if SFOC received any requests for the company of a team doctor from the national sports associations, coaches or athletes concerned; if it did, of the reasons for SFOC not acceding to such requests;
- (3) of the amounts of funding provided by the authorities to support the Hong Kong delegations to the previous four OWGs, the amounts of various expenditure items (including air tickets, meals, accommodation, local transportation, uniforms and related medical and health assessments) of each of the delegations, and whether the authorities know the itineraries of various members of each of the delegations in the host cities;
- (4) given that when the authorities granted funding for the 2014 OWG to SFOC, one medical official was specifically included in the proposed 13-member Hong Kong delegation, whether they know the reasons for SFOC not arranging for any accompanying medical official in the end; whether the authorities will take follow-up actions in respect of this situation; if they will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (5) whether the authorities will, in the light of the aforesaid incident, request SFOC to conduct a comprehensive review of the mechanism for determining the compositions of Hong Kong delegations to mega international events as well as the operation of such a mechanism, so as to ensure that participating athletes are provided with comprehensive support and that public funds are properly used; if they will, of the details of the review; if not, the reasons for that?

## Handling of confiscated ivory by the Government

(22) Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT (Written reply)

At its meeting in January this year, the Endangered Species Advisory Committee agreed in principle to the proposal of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (“AFCD”) to dispose of the confiscated ivory in the government stockpile by incineration. AFCD has indicated that apart from retaining a small amount of ivory for uses permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, it will dispose of the ivory in batches starting from the first half of this year and all the ivory is expected to be disposed of within one to two years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the specific method and procedure for the incineration of the ivory, as well as the date of and the disposal quantity for each incineration operation;
- (2) whether it has plans to, prior to the disposal of the ivory, employ genetic analysis technology to identify the grades, elephant species and places of origin of such ivory, and publish the results of the identification tests, so that Hong Kong will set an example for Mainland China and the Southeast Asian region in combating illegal ivory trade; if it has such plans, of the work schedule; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) whether AFCD had conducted studies on the most appropriate method for ivory disposal before proposing to dispose of the ivory by incineration; if it had, of the results; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (4) whether it has plans to make (i) the disposal of smuggled ivory all by incineration and (ii) the conduct of identification tests on the ivory prior to disposal, the standard procedure for handling confiscated ivory; if it has such plans, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?