

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1949/13-14
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE

Panel on Security

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 13 May 2014, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon YIU Si-wing
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, JP
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP

Members absent : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

Public Officers attending : Item IV

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Mr Simon PEH Yun-lu, SBS, IDSM
Commissioner

Mr Ryan WONG Sai-chiu, IDS
Head of Operations

Item V

The Administration

Mr John LEE Ka-chiu, PDSM, PMSM, JP
Under Secretary for Security

Mrs Erika HUI LAM Yin-ming, JP
Commissioner for Narcotics

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG Man-yee
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics) 1

Mr Albert CHAN Kin-hung
Chief Superintendent (Narcotics Bureau)
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr Lot CHAN Sze-tao
Chief Pharmacist
Department of Health

Dr POON Nai-leung
Senior Chemist
Government Laboratory

Item VI

The Administration

Mr LAI Tung-kwok, SBS, IDSM, JP
Secretary for Security

Ms Maggie WONG Siu-chu, JP
Deputy Secretary for Security 3

Ms Amy WONG Pui-man
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security C

Item VII

The Administration

Mr John LEE Ka-chiu, PDSM, PMSM, JP
Under Secretary for Security

Miss Bella MUI Bun-ngar
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security B

Mr LI Kin-yat, FSMSM
Assistant Director (Headquarters)
Fire Services Department

Mr SO King-yiu
Divisional Commander (Air)
Fire Services Department

Item VIII

The Administration

Mr John LEE Ka-chiu, PDSM, PMSM, JP
Under Secretary for Security

Mrs Millie NG KIANG Mei-nei
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E

Ms Winnie CHIU Wai-yin
Regional Commander (Marine)
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr James Mather
Superintendent (Support) (Marine Regional HQ)
(Acting)
Hong Kong Police Force

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in attendance : Mr Bonny LOO
Assistant Legal Adviser 3

Mr Raymond LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Miss Lulu YEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1404/13-14)

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2014 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1406/13-14(01), CB(2)1463/13-14(01),
CB(2)1474/13-14(01) and (02))

2. Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting -

- (a) referral from Legislative Council Members' meeting with Yau Tsim Mong District Council members on 9 January 2014;
- (b) referral from Public Complaints Office on the Police's guidelines for handling abusive behaviour; and

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- (c) letter dated 5 May 2014 from Hon WONG Yuk-man regarding the Police's use of pepper spray against Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung at a public meeting on 4 May 2014 and the Panel clerk's letter dated 8 May 2014 to Hon WONG Yuk-man.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1453/13-14(01) and (02))

3. Members agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 3 June 2014 at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Implementation of the Unified Screening Mechanism;
- (b) Police's efforts in engaging the district community in crime prevention; and
- (c) Creation of a Chief Superintendent of Police post for the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau.

4. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the subject of weapons training for police officers, in particular training on the circumstances under which a police officer could use his handgun, be discussed by the Panel. The Chairman said that the subject would be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

5. The Chairman informed members that a visit to better understand the operations of the Government Flying Service ("GFS") would be held on 23 June 2014. The Deputy Chairman suggested that GFS be requested to provide information during the visit on two fixed-wing aircrafts procured by GFS which were awaiting delivery.

IV. Measures against cross-boundary corruption

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1453/13-14(03) and (04))

6. Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption ("C/ICAC") briefed members on the paper provided by the Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC") regarding its fight against cross-boundary corruption.

Action

7. Members noted the background brief entitled "Anti-corruption work against cross-boundary corruption" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

Chairmanship of the Ethics Development Advisory Committee of ICAC ("EDAC")

8. Mr WONG Yuk-man considered that the credibility of ICAC had been undermined by the allegations relating to a former Commissioner of ICAC and recent reports about the investigation of Mr SONG Lin, former Chairman of EDAC, by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China ("CCDI").

9. Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about recent reports regarding the investigation of Mr SONG Lin by CCDI and asked about the criteria as well as mechanism for appointment of the Chairman of EDAC. She considered that there should be a mechanism for ICAC to take actions in response to recent media reports about Mr SONG Lin.

10. C/ICAC said that EDAC was established in around 1995 and served as a channel for ICAC to contact member companies of six local chambers of commerce, especially small and medium enterprises, for promoting their awareness of corruption prevention. It was the established mechanism of EDAC that each of the six local chambers of commerce would take turns to nominate a representative as the chairman of EDAC. He said that ICAC had recently issued a press release regarding the change in the chairmanship of EDAC. Head of Operations, ICAC ("H/Ops") said that while he would not comment on individual cases, ICAC would follow up each corruption complaint in accordance with the law.

The Mutual Case Assistance ("MCA") Scheme

11. Referring to paragraph 4 of ICAC's paper, Mr WONG Yuk-man queried the effectiveness of the MCA Scheme set up by the Guangdong Provincial People's Procuratorate and ICAC, given the difference between the legal systems of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") and the Mainland and the absence of a rendition agreement between the two sides. Ms Cyd HO asked about the effectiveness of the MCA Scheme in combating cross-boundary corruption.

Action

12. H/Ops responded that the MCA Scheme had been implemented for many years under the principles that -

- (a) MCA in cross-boundary corruption should be operated under an administrative arrangement in compliance with the Basic Law and local laws of the requested party; and
- (b) cross-boundary enforcement of the law was prohibited.

ICAC

13. Mr WONG Yuk-man, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Christopher CHEUNG sought information on the prosecution and conviction statistics relating to the MCA Scheme in 2011, 2012 and 2013. H/Ops agreed to provide the requested statistics after the meeting. He added that assistance under the MCA Scheme was only one of many factors leading to prosecution in a case. Some of the cases might still be under investigation.

ICAC

14. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked whether the MCA Scheme covered the Commission Against Corruption of Macao. H/Ops replied in the affirmative. Mr CHAN requested ICAC to provide statistics on requests for assistance, prosecution and conviction relating to MCA between ICAC and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao.

15. Ms Emily LAU said that there had been media reports about Mainland law enforcement officers crossing the boundary to take enforcement actions in Hong Kong. She asked whether there had been such incidents and whether ICAC had informed the Mainland authorities that it was unlawful for them to take enforcement actions in Hong Kong.

16. H/Ops responded that he was not aware of any case of Mainland law enforcement officers taking enforcement actions in Hong Kong. He said that the MCA Scheme had been implemented for many years and the parties involved were aware that they were not allowed to take enforcement actions in another jurisdiction.

Issues relating to a media report relating to ICAC's arrest of the top management of a Mainland-funded listed company

17. The Deputy Chairman said that according to a periodical published in May 2014, a named senior employee of a Mainland-funded listed company had, after ICAC's arrest of the top management of the company, come from the Mainland to Hong Kong to discuss the case with the personnel of ICAC, with a view to influencing ICAC's investigation work.

Action

Ms Claudia MO asked whether any senior employee from the Mainland-funded company had exerted pressure on ICAC.

18. C/ICAC and H/Ops responded that, without referring to any particular case, there had not been any person representing Mainland-funded companies involved in ICAC's investigation seeking to exert pressure or influence ICAC's investigation work.

19. Mr NG Leung-sing declared that he was employed by a Mainland-funded company. He expressed concern whether it was appropriate for ICAC to carry out investigations merely on the basis of media reports and whether it was fair to presume a person guilty before there was any prosecution and conviction. He also asked whether investors from the Mainland and other countries were treated equally by ICAC.

20. C/ICAC stressed that all corruption complaints received by ICAC were handled in accordance with the law and in confidence. Investors from any place were treated equally by ICAC.

21. Ms Emily LAU asked whether any Mainland officials or officials from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR had contacted ICAC and exerted pressure on its investigation of any case. H/Ops responded that there had not been any incident of such a nature. In the investigation of corruption complaints, there was no need for ICAC to contact any unit or authority to obtain any advice on the way forward in following up any allegation. He stressed that ICAC had always operated and would continue to operate independently.

22. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked whether any Mainland officials' discussion in Hong Kong of the case involving Mr SONG Lin, with a view to influencing ICAC's investigation, would amount to perverting the course of justice in Hong Kong.

23. H/Ops responded that it was not appropriate for him to comment on individual cases. He said that if there was any evidence indicating an attempt to pervert the course of justice, ICAC would follow up the matter.

24. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked whether ICAC could arrest persons involved in such discussion through the MCA Scheme, if the discussion was held on the Mainland. H/Ops responded that the MCA Scheme did not provide for the arrest of persons in another jurisdiction. It only provided for the rendering of mutual assistance in conducting enquiries relating to corruption-related cases.

Action

Measures adopted by ICAC to combat cross-boundary corruption related to Mainland-funded listed companies

25. Mr Christopher CHEUNG asked about the measures adopted by ICAC to combat cross-boundary corruption related to Mainland-funded listed companies, in particular those in the finance sector. He also asked whether ICAC would collaborate with the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC") to combat corruption in the finance sector.

26. C/ICAC responded that ICAC was very concerned about corruption in the sector and would examine each corruption complaint received. ICAC had been working closely with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and SFC to combat such corruption. ICAC had issued a corruption prevention guide for the business sector and would provide corruption prevention advice to companies in the sector upon request.

Handling of corruption complaints by ICAC

27. Mr NG Leung-sing said that some people had lodged corruption complaints with ICAC in a high profile manner before the media and merely on the basis of media reports. He expressed concern about the impact of such act on the image of Hong Kong as a business centre in the region. H/Ops responded that it was ICAC's practice to rely on evidence rather than media reports in pursuing corruption complaints.

28. Ms Emily LAU asked whether ICAC was reluctant to carry out investigation into corruption complaints involving Mainland-funded companies. H/Ops responded that after receiving a corruption complaint, it had always been ICAC's practice to examine whether there was sufficient information to follow up the allegations. ICAC had always been impartial in handling all corruption complaints and its work was monitored by the Operations Review Committee.

29. Ms Cyd HO asked whether ICAC would proactively carry out investigation into persons in Hong Kong who faced cross-boundary corruption charges in trials by courts of the Mainland or Macao. H/Ops responded that ICAC had since the 1990s adopted the strategy of carrying out proactive investigation into alleged corruption offences committed in Hong Kong, if there was sufficient information to follow up the allegations.

Action

30. Ms Claudia MO expressed concern about the fund-raising activities in Hong Kong of the "princelings" of the Mainland. She asked how ICAC would prevent possible corruption in such fund-raising activities.

31. H/Ops responded that when corruption complaints were received, ICAC would carry out investigation in accordance with the law, regardless of the nationality and background of the subject of complaint, and take follow-up actions if there was a breach of the laws of Hong Kong.

32. Ms Cyd HO asked whether ICAC had stopped any Mainland official who was the subject of a cross-boundary corruption investigation from leaving Hong Kong. H/Ops responded that under section 17A of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap. 201), ICAC could make an application to a magistrate to require a person who was the subject of investigation to surrender his travel document to ICAC for a period of six months, which could be further extended by three months. While there had been cases where ICAC made such applications, it was not appropriate for him to disclose information about the cases or the nationality of the persons involved.

33. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked whether ICAC had, when carrying out investigation in respect of allegations involving a former Chief Executive ("CE"), interviewed the CE concerned. Ms Claudia MO asked whether investigation in respect of the case had concluded. H/Ops responded that investigation in respect of the case was still ongoing.

V. Amendments to the schedules to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) and Control of Chemicals Ordinance (Cap. 145)
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1453/13-14(05) and (06))

34. Under Secretary for Security ("US for S") briefed members on the Administration's proposed amendments to the schedules to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) ("DDO") and the Control of Chemicals Ordinance (Cap. 145) ("CCO").

35. Members noted the background brief entitled "Amendments to the schedules to DDO and CCO " prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Action

Measures to monitor the latest trend of drug abuse and tackle the abuse of new drugs

36. Mr CHAN Kin-por welcomed the Administration's proposals to amend DDO and CCO. He sought information on the Administration's measures to monitor the latest trend of drug abuse and tackle the abuse of new drugs.

37. US for S responded that the Administration monitored the latest trend of drug abuse through analysis of information obtained under the Central Registry of Drug Abuse as well as through the exchange of intelligence with other jurisdictions and attending international conferences on drug abuse. Where necessary, legislative amendments would be introduced to bring new drugs under control.

Travellers bringing unregistered medicines into Hong Kong for own consumption

38. Mr YIU Si-wing noted that importation of unregistered medicines required import licences issued by the Department of Health ("DH"). For travellers carrying the medicines, proof of medical use of such medicines by medical practitioners would need to be produced and approval by DH would also be required. He asked how the Administration would deal with the situation where a traveller brought such medicine into Hong Kong with a certificate issued by a medical practitioner but without seeking prior approval from DH.

39. US for S responded that such a case would be dealt with having regard to the circumstances of the case and whether there was a breach of the laws of Hong Kong. Where necessary, investigations would be carried out by the Customs and Excise Department.

40. The Chairman concluded that members in general supported the Administration's introduction of legislative amendments to DDO and CCO.

Action

VI. Follow-up on the incident in the Philippines on 23 August 2010 involving a tour group from Hong Kong

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1444/13-14(01) and CB(2)1453/13-14(07))

41. The Secretary for Security briefed members on the Administration's paper on the resolution of the Manila hostage-taking incident ("the Incident"). Regarding some members' concern about two recent shooting incidents in the Philippines and the Outbound Travel Alert ("OTA") for the Philippines, he informed members that -

- (a) in one of the two recent shooting incidents in the Philippines, two Mainland residents in a car were injured and one of them had died. Information about the incident which occurred in a dim alley was limited and unclear. The other shooting incident had resulted in the death of seven pedestrians on the street, among whom one was an ethnic Chinese woman. The Administration had included the shooting incidents on its OTA webpage and included in the webpage hyperlinks to travel advisories of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as those of the Australian, Canadian and the British governments; and
- (b) the Incident had led to the issue of a Black OTA for the Philippines. When determining the OTA level for a place, it was the Administration's practice to take into account the measures taken by the place to protect travellers, the degree of threat to personal safety, whether the threat to personal safety was directed at travellers and the travel advisories issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other countries. Through its web page, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had reminded Chinese nationals in the Philippines to take precautionary measures, which included avoiding going to dim alleys or going out at late night, avoiding the storage of large quantities of cash and other valuable items at home, resolving disputes through lawful channels and avoiding confrontations with other persons.

42. Members noted the updated background brief entitled "Follow-up on the incident in the Philippines on 23 August 2010 involving a tour group from Hong Kong" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Action

Monitoring of the implementation of the improvement measures undertaken by the Philippine Government

43. Referring to the improvement measures in Annex B to the joint statement issued by HKSAR Government and the Philippine Government on the resolution of the Incident, Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether the Administration had established any mechanism to monitor the implementation of the improvement measures by the Philippine Government. S for S responded that the Philippine Government had undertaken to report the progress of implementation of the last two demands made by the victims and their families. The Administration would follow up the implementation of such measures and the Philippine Government had also invited the HKSAR Government to visit the Philippines to understand the progress of implementation.

44. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern that the Incident had taken more than three years to resolve. She asked whether a mechanism had been established for the expeditious handling of similar incidents by the HKSAR Government and the Central People's Government in future.

45. S for S responded that since reunification, the HKSAR Government and the Central People's Government had been working closely to provide expeditious assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress abroad. Both the HKSAR Government and the Central People's Government had immediately deployed special task groups to Manila after the Incident. He said that the Incident had taken time to resolve because there had been many twists and turns in the negotiation process.

Issues relating to the Incident and the resolution

46. Dr Kenneth CHAN expressed concern that the Cabinet Secretary of the Philippines had unilaterally disclosed the negotiation details after returning to his country. He queried whether it was appropriate for the Philippine side to do so. He pointed out that the compensation to victims and their families were not contributed by the Philippine Government but by the private sector.

47. S for S responded that the negotiations had been held in confidence, although the victims and their families had been constantly updated on the latest progress. The Administration had already disclosed what it could make public.

Action

48. Mr NG Leung-sing noted that the HKSAR Government had encountered various difficulties in the negotiation process. He said that the Incident could not have been resolved without the support of the Central People's Government, the efforts of the Administration and many Mainland authorities, as well as the support of certain groups in the Philippines. He considered that the Administration should convey its gratitude to all those who had contributed to the resolution of the Incident. He asked whether the Administration would review the mechanism for dealing with similar incidents. S for S responded that it was the Administration's practice to conduct a review after a major incident. The Administration had already written to convey its gratitude to all those who had rendered support and contributed to the resolution of the Incident.

49. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed concern whether the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines had taken actions in the Incident before or after notification by the HKSAR Government. S for S responded that before notification by the HKSAR Government, staff members of the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines had already arrived at the scene upon becoming aware of the Incident.

Criteria for determination of the OTA level for the Philippines

50. Dr Kenneth CHAN queried whether the revision of OTA level for the Philippines from "Black" to "Amber" was based on political rather than tourist safety considerations.

51. Mr Paul TSE considered that the determination of OTA level should be based on scientific and objective criteria.

52. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen queried why the Administration did not first observe the implementation of the improvement measures for some period of time before revising the OTA level for the Philippines to "Amber".

53. S for S stressed that the OTA level for the Philippines was determined in accordance with the established mechanism. It was revised to "Amber" after having regard to factors including the measures implemented by the Philippine government to improve tourist safety, the travel advisories of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other countries.

Action

Provision of support to victims of the Incident who were still receiving medical treatment

54. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed concern whether the Administration would provide continued support to those victims of the Incident who were still receiving medical treatment. He asked whether the Administration would establish indicators for assessment of the implementation of the 12 improvement measures to ensure tourist safety.

55. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung queried whether the medical support for victims of the Incident was adequate, as one of the victims of the Incident had to undergo an operation in Taiwan instead of Hong Kong. He also expressed concern about how the 12 improvement measures to ensure tourist safety would be implemented.

56. S for S responded that the Administration would continue to provide full support to the two victims of the Incident who were still receiving medical treatment.

[To allow sufficient time for discussion, members agreed that the meeting be extended to 7:00 pm.]

VII. Replacement of a Crash Fire Tender for the Airport Fire Contingent

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1453/13-14(08) and (09))

57. The Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure concerning personal pecuniary interest to be disclosed.

58. US for S briefed members on the Administration's proposal to replace a new Crash Fire Tender ("CFT") for the Airport Fire Contingent, as detailed in the paper provided by the Administration.

59. Members noted the background brief entitled "Replacement of a crash fire tender for the Airport Fire Contingent" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Technology employed by the new CFT

60. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether the proposed new CFT would employ the latest technology. He asked whether there would be any difficulty in procuring a CFT equipped with a Euro V engine.

Action

61. Assistant Director (Headquarters), Fire Services Department ("AD/FSD") responded that the specifications and installations of the new CFT would be of the highest international standard. As Euro V engines were generally available in the market, there should not be difficulty in the procurement of a CFT equipped with a Euro V engine.

Disposal of the old CFT

62. Ms Emily LAU asked how the existing CFT would be disposed of upon the commissioning of the new CFT. AD/FSD responded that after the commissioning of the new CFT, the Fire Services Department ("FSD") and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department would assess whether the existing CFT could be reserved as a backup vehicle and be used when the new CFT was under maintenance or repair.

63. Noting that the existing CFT would be deployed as a back-up vehicle, Ms Emily LAU asked whether there was a pressing need to procure a new CFT. AD/FSD responded that in order to fulfil international standards, a CFT was required to reach each end of the runways within two minutes and arrive at any aircraft movement area in the airport within three minutes. FSD was so far able to meet such standards. The normal serviceable life of a CFT was eight years. If a CFT was used beyond its normal serviceable life, its deteriorating functions might affect rescue operations.

64. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked whether the new CFT would be equipped with high pressure water jets which could be used for dispersing participants of Occupy Central. AD/FSD responded that such special purpose fire-fighting vehicles were of a much larger size than normal vehicles and thus would be used in the airport area only.

65. The Chairman concluded that members supported in principle the Administration's submission of its proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC").

VIII. Replacement of 18 Police Launches

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1453/13-14(10) and (11))

66. US for S briefed members on the Administration's proposal to replace 18 police launches, as detailed in the paper provided by the Administration.

Action

67. Members noted the background brief entitled "Replacement of Police launches" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat.

Criteria for replacement of police launches

68. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether all police launches were to be replaced upon expiry of their respective serviceable lifespans. He also asked whether the total non-recurrent cost of the new police launches would be amortised over their depreciation period.

69. US for S responded that besides the serviceable lifespans recommended by the ship-builders, a number of factors would be taken into account in assessing the time for the replacement of the launches such as whether the launches were well maintained and repaired, the conditions under which the launches were operated and the degree of erosion of the launches by seawater. The specifications and equipment required of new police launches were determined by the Police Regional Fleet Review Committee, having regard to latest information obtained at international conferences, exhibitions on new launches, maritime products or equipment, exchanges with the counterparts of other jurisdictions and the views of frontline marine police officers. The specifications required had also been discussed with the Government New Construction Section of the Marine Department. The total non-recurrent cost of the new police launches would be written off at the time of payment.

70. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's question about the approval process for the procurement of new police launches, US for S said that a police launch procurement proposal had to be agreed by the Regional Commander of the Police's Marine Region and the Commissioner of Police before support was sought from the Security Bureau. Support from within the Government would then be sought in accordance with the established mechanism before consultation was made with the Panel on Security, after which the proposal would be submitted to FC for approval.

Versatile Maritime Policing Response Strategy ("VMPR")

71. Noting that funding approval for the replacement of marine craft for VMPR was obtained in June 2005, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung requested the Administration to provide information on the total capital cost incurred and the capital-cost savings achieved from the implementation of VMPR. The Chairman said that the Administration should provide the requested information before the Administration's submission of its proposal to FC.

Admin

Action

72. Noting that a total of 18 police launches were proposed to be replaced, Mr MA Fung-kwok asked about the size of the Marine Police fleet and whether the replacement exercise would need to be implemented in phases to minimise impact on the operations of the Marine Police.

73. US for S responded that the Marine Police fleet currently comprised about 120 launches. As the whole fleet was designed to supplement and complement each other, and the existing 18 launches would operate for a further short period beyond the delivery of the new launches, the operations of the Marine Police would not be affected by their replacement in one go.

74. Mr MA Fung Kwok and Ms Emily LAU sought information on the benefits of the Administration's proposal.

75. US for S responded that advanced equipment or installation would be provided to the launches. These included modernised night vision, target radar and thermal detection equipment, ballistic protection for the proposed classes of vessels and improved capability in shallow water operation. These would allow the Marine Police to enhance its proficiency in detecting and responding to suspicious activities at sea and provide a more robust enforcement capability, as well as to strengthen its search and rescue capabilities. The introduction of new Mobile Response and Command Platform ("MRCP") would strengthen the command capability of the Marine Police to effectively handle on-scene command of major maritime incidents. The increased top speed of 25 knots for MRCP would enable it to arrive on-scene at a significantly earlier time. Its catamaran design would provide a more stable working environment and improved deck space for on-scene handling of injured persons. The proposed hydrofoil assisted catamarans would have a top speed of 35 knots, as compared to the top speed of about 25 to 30 knots for the existing launches to be replaced. The proposed versatile patrol units would be installed with updated firefighting equipment for a more effective initial response to vessel fires. Ms Emily LAU requested the Administration to set out such benefits in more detailed terms as far as possible in its paper for FC.

Admin

76. The Chairman concluded that members supported in principle the Administration's submission of its proposal to FC.

Action

77. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 July 2014