

**For information
on 20 January 2014**

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**2014 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of Security Bureau**

This paper elaborates on the Security Bureau's initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

New Initiatives

Targeting transnational drug trafficking activities

2. To tackle upsurging cross boundary drug trafficking activities, a dedicated team in the Customs and Excise Department will be set up to strengthen existing law enforcement action, and to foster closer liaison and intelligence exchange with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, allowing the mounting of time critical and demanding operations. This will help to combat the problem of transnational drug trafficking in a more holistic manner, as well as tackle drug trafficking activities through the Hong Kong International Airport and various land boundary control points.

Unified Screening Mechanism for non-refoulement claims

3. Our policy objective is to process non-refoulement claims (i.e. against expulsion, return or extradition to another country) under procedures that meet with the "high standards of fairness" required by the law, and at the same time preventing abuse from claimants who aim to protract their unlawful stay in Hong Kong. Pursuant to the Court of Final Appeal's ruling in relevant judicial review cases, the Administration will introduce a unified screening mechanism (USM) for non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds including alleged risks of being subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and/or persecution in one-go. The USM will be based on the established procedures of the statutory mechanism under the Immigration Ordinance (Cap.115) for screening torture claims. We are finalizing the details on its operation with relevant stakeholders, e.g. the Duty Lawyer Service.

Establishment of Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau

4. Our critical infrastructure is highly dependant upon the reliability of the information system network. It is essential to strengthen Hong Kong's overall preparedness and capability to protect the information system and respond to cyber attacks. In order to strengthen Police's ability to protect information systems of critical infrastructure and enhance their capability to prevent and combat technology crimes, the Police will upgrade the existing Technology Crime Division to a new Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau in 2014.

Implementation of a recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force

5. As a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Hong Kong is committed to implementing the international anti-money laundering (AML) and counter financing of terrorism (CFT) standards promulgated by FATF. Whilst the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau is the overall coordinator in relation to AML/CFT policies, the Security Bureau is responsible for implementing one of FATF's Recommendations in relation to the establishment, by statute, of a system to detect the physical cross-boundary transportation of currency and bearer negotiable instruments. It is estimated that the next round of mutual evaluation on Hong Kong by FATF will take place in end 2015 / early 2016. We aim to confirm the implementation plan with reference to this timetable. We will consult the Security Panel and launch a public consultation in due course.

Expediting the construction of disciplined services departmental quarters

6. The Government has been providing departmental quarters to married disciplined services personnel, subject to the availability of resources, to meet the demand of the disciplined services. The relevant departments are actively collaborating to expedite the progress of eight construction projects with a view to providing over 2 200 quarters to the six disciplined services by 2020.

Expansion of the AMS Cadet Corps

7. Established in 2011, the AMS Cadet Corps provides youngsters aged between 12 and 17 with special training and group activities which focus on general medical knowledge. Starting from the next financial year, we will expand the establishment of the Cadet Corps. The target is to increase the number of cadets from 1 000 to 3 000 in five years, in a bid to enable greater participation by young people of different social backgrounds. Through the provision of discipline training, impartation of practical skills as well as organization of various group activities, we hope to help the cadets build up self-confidence and leadership, cultivate their sense of responsibility and commitment to serve others and encourage them to serve our society.

Enhancing JPC activities

8. Through enhancement of different types of JPC activities, the Police will plan and provide a variety of physical, discipline and team building training to the youth, in order to build their self-confidence, develop their leadership skills and self discipline and promote their sense of responsibility and spirit of serving the community.

Senior Police Call

9. In view of the growing elderly population in Hong Kong, the Police sees a need to play a proactive role to reach out to the elderly with a view to promoting crime prevention messages to them and minimising their chance of becoming victims of crime. The Police will fully roll out the Senior Police Call programme in early 2014, which will provide an effective platform to enhance communication between the Police and the elderly, to develop partnership with them and to enhance messages on crime prevention and road safety.

Engaging EM Communities

10. The Police give priority in assisting the integration of ethnic minorities (EM) into the community. Different Police Districts have organised various programmes, including engaging EMs as Police Community Liaison Assistants in 14 Police Districts, to strengthen the liaison with the EM communities and promote police services and fight crime initiatives to them. Currently, there are more than 1 900 EM Junior Police Call (JPC) members. In the coming year, Police will further enhance the engagement with EM youth and encourage them to participate in JPC, with a view to increasing the number of EM JPC members to 2 500 in five years.

Introduction of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

11. The Fire Services Department (FSD) plans to introduce the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme to enable third party to participate in fire safety certification, which will facilitate business operation. Under the Scheme, licence applicants (such as food premises, etc) may continue to use FSD for services such as fire safety risk assessment and compliance inspection of fire service installations, etc. They may also choose to engage RFE for those services to meet their business needs, with a view to shortening the time required for obtaining the licence. FSD has completed trade consultations and is preparing the legislative amendments.

Reciprocal use of automated immigration clearance facilities

12. We will liaise with countries and regions with close ties with Hong Kong in tourism and economic partnership on the reciprocal use of automated immigration

clearance facilities to provide greater immigration convenience to inbound and outbound travellers.

On-going Initiatives

Anti-drug efforts

13. The Government attaches great importance to combating the problem of drug abuse. To ensure sustained effort against drugs in all domains, we adopt a “five-pronged” strategy to combat the drug problem, i.e. preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and law enforcement, international cooperation and research. Under the joint efforts of all sectors of the community, the recent situation of drug abuse, particularly among the youth, has improved, but we need to remain vigilant. We will continue to spearhead various initiatives in collaboration with different sectors. For example, we will continue to progressively extend the Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component to more schools.

14. The Narcotics Division will also continue to closely monitor the situation of drug abuse with particular focus on its growing hidden nature, and will continue to promote measures to enhance early identification of drug abusers and encourage them to seek help in a more timely manner. For example, we have enhanced the service of the “186 186” anti-drug hotline into a 24-hour service providing professional counselling service by social workers, and have continued to promote the service. We support district activities and organise lunch-time seminars to enhance parental and community awareness on early anti-drug identification and intervention skills, and parent-child communication skills. Publicity materials including anti-drug resource kits for parents, leaflets and publications on updated drug information and anti-drug messages have also been published and widely distributed.

15. In face of the challenges brought by increasingly hidden psychotropic substance abuse, we need to stay vigilant in exploring further options to facilitate early identification of drug abusers and intervention. The Action Committee Against Narcotics is conducting a public consultation exercise on the RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme¹. Upon completion of the consultation exercise, ACAN will analyse the views received and recommend the way forward for the Government to further consider. The Government has an open mind on the proposed scheme. Community consensus is a prerequisite for pursuing the scheme.

¹ “RESCUE” is the acronym for “Reasonable and Early Screening for Caring and Universal Engagement”.

Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme

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 accepted the LRC’s recommendation and have implemented the Sexual Conviction Record Check (SCRC) scheme through the Police since 1 December 2011. Under the scheme, the employers of organisations or enterprises of persons undertaking child or mentally incapacitated person (MIP)-related work can check whether their prospective employees have any criminal conviction records against a specified list of sexual offences. The purpose of the scheme is to enhance protection for children and MIPs against sexual assaults. In the two years since its implementation, the SCRC Office has processed over 72 000 applications for checking. To facilitate the employment needs of the applicants, we plan to extend the validity period of the checking result for new applications from 12 months to 18 months in 2014. To further streamline the application process and to enhance the user friendliness of the SCRC Scheme, the Police are now exploring the feasibility of adopting computerization measures.

Improvement measures for overcrowding situation and ageing facilities in penal institutions

17. We will continue to consider redevelopment projects and improvement works to address the problem of overcrowding and ageing facilities in some of the penal institutions so as to meet the custodial and rehabilitative service needs of persons in custody. Works of the partial redevelopment programme of the Tai Lam Centre for Women have already commenced in mid-2012 and will be completed in end-2016. Efforts will continue to be made to enhance other penal facilities, such as seeking funding from the Legislative Council for the upgrading of the closed-circuit television system at Stanley Prison and installation of electric locks security system at certain parts of the Tai Lam Centre for Women.

Reduction of the Frontier Closed Area

18. In response to the calls from the public and local communities, the Government announced in 2008 to substantially reduce the land area of the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) from about 2 800 hectares to about 400 hectares, allowing local residents and members of the public free access to the excised area. The first and second stages of the FCA reduction were implemented in February 2012 and June 2013 respectively, and released more than 1 450 hectares of land from the FCA. The last stage of the FCA reduction, covering the section between Ng Tung River and Lin Ma Hang, is scheduled for implementation in 2015.

Enhancing emergency rescue and ambulance services

19. We will continue to make the best use of resources and improve emergency rescue and ambulance services of FSD. FSD currently provides simple post-dispatch advice on several types of common injuries/sickness to callers of emergency ambulance services. As a further improvement, FSD plans to develop a computer system which will enable the provision of more comprehensive and suitable post-dispatch advice to callers of emergency ambulance services. We will also seek to replace fire-fighting vehicles reaching the limit of their serviceable life to maintain the department's operational efficiency and safety of vehicle users. We will consult the Panel regarding these proposals later.

Assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress abroad

20. The Government is committed to providing swift and effective assistance to Hong Kong residents who are in distress outside Hong Kong through the Outbound Travel Alert System, the 24-hour "1868" hotline system, the online "Registration of Outbound Travel Information" service, and liaison with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (OCMFA) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions overseas, etc.

21. The close communication between the Government and the OCMFA, as well as assistance rendered by the local Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions are an integral part of our emergency response system. In handling the hot-air balloon crash which occurred at Luxor, Egypt in February 2013 causing the death of nine Hong Kong residents, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the OCMFA and the local Chinese Embassy have rendered immense support to the Government in delivering practical and effective assistance to the families of the Hong Kong residents concerned in a timely manner. We will continue to build on the firm foundation in rendering assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress abroad.

Admission of talents

22. In view of Hong Kong's human capital needs, we will work with our Mainland and overseas Economic and Trade Offices and the Information Services Department to step up our promotion efforts for various talent admission schemes. We have prepared publicity materials including pamphlets and presentations to highlight features of the various schemes.