

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. ESC60/14-15
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/F/3/2

Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 5th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex
on Friday, 23 January 2015, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Hon Kenneth LEUNG (Chairman)
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

Members absent:

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Dennis KWOK
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public Officers attending:

Ms Esther LEUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1
Mr Eddie MAK Tak-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service (1)
Mrs Betty FUNG, JP	Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs
Mrs Avia LAI	Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)
Mrs Sorais LEE	Project Manager (Home Affairs Bureau)
Ms Sabrina LAW	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (West Kowloon Cultural District)
Mrs Erika HUI, JP	Commissioner for Narcotics, Security Bureau
Miss Mandy WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics) 2
Mr Richard YUEN, JP	Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health)
Mr Sidney CHAN, JP	Head (eHealth Record), Food and Health Bureau
Ms Ida LEE	Deputy Head (eHealth Record), Food and Health Bureau

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Connie SZETO

Chief Council Secretary (1)4

Staff in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT

Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr Jason KONG

Council Secretary (1)4

Ms Alice CHEUNG

Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1

Miss Yannes HO

Legislative Assistant (1)6

Ms Clara LO

Legislative Assistant (1)8

Action

The Chairman said that the Subcommittee would continue to deal with unfinished items arising from the meeting on 7 January 2015. He reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the item. He also drew members' attention to RoP 84 on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

EC(2014-15)13 Proposed retention of two supernumerary posts of one Principal Government Engineer (D3) and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Home Affairs Bureau for four years from 1 April 2015 to continue monitoring the implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District project

2. The Chairman remarked that the Administration's proposal was to retain two supernumerary posts in the Home Affairs Bureau, including one Principal Government Engineer and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC"), for four years from 1 April 2015 to continue monitoring the implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District project.

3. The Chairman advised that, in response to members' request at the meeting on 7 January 2015, the Administration had provided supplementary information on the proposal which was circulated to members on 21 January 2015 vide LC Paper No. ESC40/14-15(01).

(In the absence of a quorum, the Chairman directed that members be summoned to the meeting. A quorum was then present.)

4. The Chairman then put the item to vote. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval.

EC(2014-15)14 Proposed retention of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau for three years up to 16 February 2018 to sustain the efforts in combating drug abuse

5. The Chairman said that the Administration's proposal was to retain a supernumerary post of AOSGC (designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics)2 ("PAS(N)2")) in the Narcotics Division ("ND") of the Security Bureau for three years up to 16 February 2018 to sustain the efforts in combating drug abuse.

6. The Chairman advised that the Panel on Security ("SE Panel") had discussed the proposal at its meeting on 4 November 2014. The Panel did not object to the Administration submitting the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC"). At the Panel meeting, while some members were supportive of the proposal, some expressed opposition. There was concern about the impact on the work of ND if the post of PAS(N)2 was not extended, and some members were of the view that the Administration should review the organization structure of ND and consider making the post permanent.

Duties of the Narcotics Division and reasons for extending the duration of the supernumerary post

7. Mr POON Siu-ping expressed support for the proposal. Noting the views of some SE Panel members, he enquired why the Administration had decided to extend the supernumerary post instead of turning it permanent. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, and Mr TANG Ka-piu raised the same question. Mr LEUNG and Dr CHEUNG considered that some of the tasks of PAS(N)2 were on-going in nature, such as assisting drug treatment and rehabilitation centres ("DTRCs") in obtaining licences; supporting pilot projects on new treatment models through the Beat Drugs Fund ("BDF"); monitoring the implementation of the Enhanced Probation Scheme for young drug offenders; and coordinating and spearheading cross-sector collaboration across Government bureaux/departments, the public sector and non-government organizations ("NGOs") in combating the drug problem. Mr TANG shared that combating drug abuse was a long term task and could not be completed in three years. Noting the positive feedback of DTRCs on the work of PAS(N)2, Mr Alan LEONG considered that the present proposal to maintain the post on a supernumerary basis instead of making it

permanent reflected a lack of commitment and determination of the Government in supporting treatment and rehabilitation ("T&R") services for drug abusers.

8. Commissioner for Narcotics ("C for N") responded that she was supported by two AOSGC posts, including Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics)1 ("PAS(N)1") and PAS(N)2. The post of PAS(N)1 was initially created in February 2009 as a supernumerary post and was subsequently made permanent in February 2012. While some major areas of responsibility of ND, such as preventive education and publicity, T&R and law enforcement, were on-going by nature, both PASs were also responsible for some time-limited tasks. PAS(N)1 was currently involved in initiatives and legislative proposals in respect of anti-money laundering ("AML") and counter-terrorist financing ("CTF"). PAS(N)2 was mainly responsible for the policy and programmes concerning T&R and some of these tasks had specific timeframes, such as the Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong ("Three-year Plan") for 2015-2017, which would focus on the strategies and directions for deepening T&R services. She would also oversee an evaluation research for the Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component ("HSP(DT)") planned for the 2015-2016 school year. C for N said that after the completion of such time-limited tasks, the daily operation and monitoring duties would be taken up by existing departments (such as the Social Welfare Department) or enforcement agencies using recurrent resources. She said that the Administration would critically examine the workload of the two PASs in a couple of years' time in considering the optimal manpower arrangement in ND.

9. Mr WU Chi-wai noted that PAS(N)1 was responsible for implementing some recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF") on certain AML and CTF matters. He enquired about the reasons for this arrangement instead of focusing on anti-drug policy for which ND was responsible.

10. C for N explained that ND used to act as the coordinator in the Government for AML issues in relation to FATF, which initially had focused on handling proceeds from drug trafficking. Such coordinating role was subsequently taken up by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau ("FSTB") after the AML/CTF regulatory regime for the financial services sector had been put in place. PAS(N)1 was responsible for formulating and coordinating the strategy and measures for implementing certain FATF recommendations outside the financial services, including, among others, the establishment of a system to enable the detection of physical cross-boundary transportation of cash. In response to Mr WU's view that work relating to the AML/CTF regulatory regime should be taken up entirely by FSTB, C for N said that the relevant legislative exercise was the duty of PAS(N)1 as it

involved largely the work of law enforcement agencies.

11. Mr WU chi-wai expressed concern about overlapping duties of PAS(N)1 and PAS(N)2. In particular, he opined that there was room to consolidate PAS(N)1's task in monitoring the drug abuse trends and pattern through the Central Registry of Drug Abuse ("CRDA") and student surveys, and PAS(N)2's duty in formulating the Three-year Plan and engaging stakeholders during the process. Moreover, as FSTB had assumed the role of the Government's coordinator of the policy on the AML/CTF regulatory regime, the Administration should review the workload of PAS(N)1. Mr WU asked whether the Administration had explored the feasibility of consolidating the duties of the two PASs.

12. C for N responded that the Administration's five-pronged strategy in combating the drug problem, namely (1) preventive education and publicity, (2) T&R, (3) legislation and law enforcement, (4) external cooperation and (5) research, covered a wide range of initiatives and required the supervision of two officers at the PAS level. The Administration had been adopting an evidence-based approach in formulating anti-drug policies and the work of PAS(N)1 in relation to CRDA and the triennial territory-wide student surveys was meant to provide ND with the facts and figures to support the programmes and measures in different facets of anti-drug, including both preventive education and publicity, as well as T&R services. C for N explained that before 2009, C for N was the only directorate officer in ND and was supported by two Assistant Secretaries. In 2009, in light of the anti-drug strategy promulgated by the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse led by the then Secretary for Justice, two supernumerary PASs were created to support C for N to follow up on the recommendations of the Task Force, and the PAS(N)1 post was subsequently made permanent in 2012. Although the two PASs were not directly involved in frontline operations of government departments and NGOs, they played a key role in coordinating the initiatives across different sectors, engagement of stakeholders, monitoring the deployment of resources, and identifying gaps in services taking into account the evolving drug scene.

13. To facilitate evaluation of the performance of the two PASs and the review of the continued need of directorate support in ND in future, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung opined that the Administration should develop clear deliverables for the various tasks entrusted to the two PASs in the next three years.

14. C for N responded that the three major time-limited tasks under the portfolios of PAS(N)1 and PAS(N)2, namely formulation of the Three-year Plan, ground work for the next stage public consultation for the RESCUE (Reasonable and Early Screening for Caring and Universal Engagement) Drug

Action

Testing ("RDT") Scheme, and the legislative exercise for the AML/CTF recommendations of FATF, was expected to achieve major progress in the next three years. ND would be in a better position to review the need for directorate support for its future work nearer the time.

Admin

15. At the request of members, the Administration agreed to provide supplementary information on the details of the major tasks of PAS(N)2 in the coming three years, including the targets, implementation plan, timetable for completion, and expected deliverables in respect of each task.

16. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that the post of PAS(N)2 would lapse on 16 February 2015. He sought details about the mechanism for extending the post and the Administration's alternatives if FC's approval was not granted by that time. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for the proposal, and converting the post permanent. He asked about the impact on ND's work in case FC's approval was not granted before the post lapsed in February.

17. Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service (1) ("DSCS(1)") explained that the supernumerary post was created on a time-limited basis. The post would lapse if no extension was approved by FC by 16 February 2015. In such case, ND would need to consider any need for rearrangements for the relevant work, and this might affect continuity of the work under the portfolio of PAS(N)2. C for N said that if the extension was not granted by 16 February 2015, ND had to explore how to minimize the impact on its work. She appealed to Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members for their support to extend the post of PAS(N)2. Mr YIU Si-wing called on members to support the proposal, and urged the Administration to prepare contingency plan to ensure work continuity.

Admin

18. Mr Albert CHAN was opposed to the Administration's proposal. Noting the increasing trend of the Administration in submitting proposals to create/retain supernumerary directorate posts in recent years, he expressed concern about abuse by Government bureaux and departments in using supernumerary directorate posts to undertake on-going tasks and work, which should be implemented with existing resources of bureaux and departments. Mr CHAN said that he would write to the Audit Commission inviting it to look into this matter. He further requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the number of staffing proposals submitted to ESC and the financial implication each year in the past five years, and a breakdown on the creation of permanent posts and creation/retention of supernumerary posts.

19. DSCS(1) explained that proposals for creating permanent directorate posts and those for creating/retaining supernumerary posts were subject to the same rigorous approval procedure, which involved vetting by

Action

both ESC and FC. Whether a post should be created on a permanent or supernumerary basis depended on the nature of the tasks to be performed by the relevant post holder, and the Administration would be prudent in examining both types of proposal before submission to LegCo for approval. Having regard to the responsibilities of PAS(N)2 and functional needs of her tasks, the Civil Service Bureau supported the proposed extension of the post on a supernumerary basis. As regards allocation of resources for the work of ND, C for N pointed out that new recurrent resources amounting to some \$140 million was injected in the past few years to enhance different areas of the anti-drug work, in addition to the \$3 billion capital injection to BDF. Together, these had demonstrated the Administration's commitment to combating drug abuse. PAS(N)2 would continue to play an important role in monitoring and rationalizing the use of these resources.

20. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung held the view that the anti-drug policy and measures should focus on combating drugs at source rather than launching preventive education at schools. He pointed out that the deterioration of the drug problem among the younger population in recent years was attributed to declining costs of narcotics thus making them more affordable by young people especially students. As such, he opined that stepping up enforcement action against illicit drugs was the ultimate solution to the drug problem.

21. C for N said that the Administration recognized law enforcement as an important element in the anti-drug policy. The relevant duties were under the purview of the Police and the Customs and Excise Department. To combat drug trafficking, the law enforcement agencies had been conducting intelligence-led operations and maintaining close liaison with their counterparts in the Mainland and overseas. Strengthened operations had yielded good results. For instance, in the first three quarters of 2014, a total of 730 kilograms of narcotics were seized, representing an increase of around 40% as compared to the same period in 2013. C for N stressed that law enforcement and the other four limbs of the five-pronged strategy, such as preventive education and publicity which could help enhance community awareness especially among the young people of the evil of drugs and their ability to stay away from drugs, should complement each other.

22. Mr Martin LIAO noted that there had been a growing proportion of newly reported drug abusers among the 21-30 age group and those who were at work. While ND's preventive education work had focused on schools, he expressed concern about the adequacy of anti-drug preventive and publicity work outside the school environment, and asked how the Administration would assist drug abusers in their young adulthood.

23. C for N replied that the overall anti-drug strategy aimed to mobilize the whole community to combat drug problems. The effectiveness of ND's

Action

preventive work at schools was evidenced by the drop in the overall number of drug abusers newly reported to CRDA, in particular in the group aged below 21 years. Against this backdrop, however, ND noticed an increase in the proportion of young adults, including working adults, who were drug abusers. This might arise from the growing problem of hidden drug abuse and the longer time taken for the help network to reach some drug abusers who had left schools. To meet these new challenges, one of PAS(N)2's major tasks was to strengthen collaboration across various sectors in the community to provide T&R services that could target varying needs of drug abusers. ND had also stepped up efforts to promote awareness of the drug problem at the district level. In the past two years, a pilot project was launched through the District Fight Crime Committees which aimed at enabling parents and frontline workers to play a more active role in early identification and intervention of drug abusers to help them. ND would continue to support other drug prevention projects in the community through BDF. In response to Mr LIAO's follow-up question, C for N said that the Administration regularly evaluated the effectiveness of the anti-drug initiatives and reported the findings to the Action Committee Against Narcotics ("ACAN").

Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component

24. Noting that 71 schools had participated in HSP(DT) in the 2014-2015 school year, Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the plan for the programme in the 2015-2016 school year, including whether there would be restriction on the districts of schools joining the programme and the target number of participating schools.

25. C for N said that HSP(DT) was a school-based preventive education programme, which aimed at enhancing the resolve of students to refuse drugs and creating a drug-free campus. Following the success of a two-year trial in Tai Po district in the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, the Administration launched HSP(DT) in the 2011-2012 school year to all secondary schools over the territory. In the current school year, 71 secondary schools were implementing HSP(DT). The Administration aimed at promoting HSP(DT) to more secondary schools and had no intention of setting any quota at the moment. PAS(N)2 was responsible for HSP(DT), and would also oversee an evaluation research on the Programme to be conducted by an independent researcher in the 2015-2016 school year.

RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme

26. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen pointed out that when SE Panel discussed the present proposal, Panel members had expressed diverse views on the implementation of the RDT Scheme, which was one of the major tasks of PAS(N)2. He sought information about current progress and future plan of

the RDT Scheme, and the estimated workload of PAS(N)2 on the Scheme. He was concerned that the supernumerary post might become redundant if the results of the second stage public consultation indicated that the public did not support the RDT Scheme and that the Administration had to drop the Scheme eventually.

27. C for N said that there were several major tasks in the portfolio of PAS(N)2, including engaging relevant sectors in dialogue on how to deepen T&R services in Hong Kong, assisting DTRCs to obtain licences under the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance (Cap. 566), and promoting HSP(DT) with a view to creating a drug-free campus, etc. As regards the work on the RDT Scheme, the Administration had, on the recommendation of ACAN, undertaken to further study the Scheme. The primary objective was to identify an additional means for early identification of drug abusers. Due to the sensitivity and complexity of the RDT Scheme, the Administration would need to solicit views from stakeholders and continue to explore feasible options that would address the concerns about human rights, civil liberties, and follow-up counselling and treatment services. At present, the Administration did not have any preconceived plan or timetable to implement the RDT Scheme. In response to Mr CHAN's enquiry about the proportion of this task as to the total workload of PAS(N)2, C for N said that it was difficult to give a precise figure because the task was intertwined with other duties, but a rough guesstimate was that it should account for not more than 30% of the total.

28. Mr Alan LEONG said that the Civic Party was against the implementation of compulsory drug testing in Hong Kong, and the major reason was that there was no commitment from the Government to provide sufficient resources for T&R services. He queried under what circumstance the Administration would give up the plan of compulsory drug testing.

29. C for N replied that, since the first stage public consultation on the RDT Scheme, the Administration had been mindful of the controversies surrounding the drug testing process. However, there was a need for the Administration to engage stakeholders in exploring possible solutions to tackle the problem of hidden drug abuse. She assured members that only with wide community support for the RDT Scheme, would the Administration consider implementing the Scheme.

30. Mr TANG Ka-piu was concerned that the Administration might make a firm decision on whether to implement the RDT Scheme within the next three years. C for N reiterated that the Administration did not have a preconceived timetable in this regard.

31. Ms Cyd HO conveyed the concern of the welfare sector and social workers that compulsory drug testing might cause further deterioration in the problems of hidden drug abuse and cross-border drug abuse. She emphasized that the Administration should undertake thorough consultation with relevant stakeholders on issues related to the RDT Scheme. She cautioned that in the absence of sufficient resources on follow-up services for the RDT Scheme, the situation of hidden drug abuse might be worsened. For instance, there was a serious lack of places in the Schools for Social Development for young people who had completed their treatment in DTRCs. Noting that the drug history of over half of the newly reported drug abuse cases had increased from 1.9 years in 2008 to 5.4 years in the first three quarters of 2014, Ms HO asked if the Administration had identified the reason.

32. Regarding the problem of prolonged drug history of newly reported drug abusers, C for N said that hidden drug abusers usually had low motivation and did not seek help until serious health problems emerged. Their tendency to stay away from social activities had posed difficulties for the help network to reach them. The proposed RDT Scheme aimed to enable early identification of drug abusers for timely assistance. C for N said that while there were opposing views, some stakeholders were looking forward to an additional option to deal with the hidden drug abuse problem.

33. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that he objected to the implementation of compulsory drug testing. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen stressed that there was strong public opposition to compulsory drug testing, and urged the Administration to report details of the progress of the RDT Scheme initiative. As the Administration did not have a clear timetable for the implementation of the RDT Scheme and in view of the controversies surrounding the initiative, Mr CHAN further suggested that the Administration should remove RDT Scheme-related duties from the portfolio of PAS(N)2.

34. C for N said that after the release of the conclusions of the first stage public consultation of the RDT Scheme in July 2014, the Administration had been maintaining dialogue with stakeholders. ND was exploring ways to minimize the interference to human rights and civil liberties and developing a follow-up mechanism. PAS(N)2 would also need to explore ways to tackle a number of complicated issues, including how to give a chance of non-prosecution to the drug abusers identified under the RDT Scheme. C for N stressed that it would be undesirable to give up the study on the RDT Scheme at the current stage. In any event, the Administration would not take forward the RDT Scheme in the absence of wide community support which was necessary for smooth implementation of the Scheme.

Assistance to drug treatment and rehabilitation centres in obtaining licenses

35. Ms Cyd HO and Mr Alan LEONG expressed dissatisfaction about the slow progress in providing assistance to unlicensed DTRCs in obtaining licence as they noted that about half of the some 40 DTRCs remained unlicensed. In particular, Ms HO called on the Administration to step up its efforts in helping non-subsided DTRCs given that they faced great difficulties in upgrading their premises and facilities to meet the statutory licensing requirements. She also urged the Administration to give an undertaking that currently unlicensed centres could obtain the relevant licence in the coming three years.

36. C for N responded that in 2008, only 16 out of 40 DTRCs were licensed. Some progress had been made since then and currently 24 out of 39 DTRCs had obtained licences. PAS(N)2 and her team would continue to provide support for unlicensed DTRCs, including site search for relocation, liaison with Government departments in resolving land issues, seeking funding support for improvement works, etc. C for N said that after the \$3 billion capital injection to BDF in 2010, ND had strengthened the funding support for DTRCs in upgrading their premises and facilities. With the support of BDF, at least three redevelopment/upgrading projects for DTRCs were expected to come on stream in the coming three years.

37. As regards whether the outstanding 15 unlicensed DTRCs could obtain licences in the next three years, C for N said that since the creation of the post of PAS(N)2, seven DTRCs had successfully obtained licences. The Administration would continue to identify possible solutions for the re-provisioning/redevelopment of the 15 DTRCs. One of the major obstacles was identifying suitable sites for DTRCs which required re-provisioning. So far, over 300 sites had been examined and most of them were found unsuitable for the purpose. The Administration would continue to press ahead with the work in this respect.

38. Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about the slow progress in site search work for relocating the DTRCs. C for N reiterated that site search was a difficult and complicated process as sites identified might be unsuitable for multiple reasons, such as insurmountable geographical constraints, local objection, etc. As DTRCs usually did not possess the necessary experience in tackling problems arising from site search, assistance of PAS(N)2 and her team was essential.

Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong

39. Pointing out that PAS(N)2 would promote re-engineering of existing T&R services and the Three-year Plan would set out the relevant

Action

priorities and strategies, Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired about the details of the work in the next three years. Mr WU Chi-wai asked whether there would be major changes in the strategies for T&R services.

40. C for N responded that, based on the 2012-2014 Three-year Plan and following the capital injection to BDF as well as additional resources allocated to anti-drug work, the Administration had focused on expanding various services, supporting the development of new treatment methods and exploring means to promote better integration of various service modes. The next Three-year Plan would, taking into consideration the strengths of different service providers, focus on deepening existing services to meet new challenges arising from the changing drug abuse situation. For example, as drug abusers had low motivation in seeking help, there would be attempts to encourage their family members to assume a more proactive role. The Three-year Plan would also include recommendations on strengthening aftercare services, such as provision of peer counselling services and vocational training, to sustain the effects of T&R and minimize the chance of relapse. The Administration would also enhance services to cater for the special needs of specific groups of drug abusers such as pregnant ones.

41. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung observed an increasing proportion of drug abusers who were ethnic minorities. He queried if the Administration had plans to reach out to ethnic minorities and provide training to frontline workers to facilitate communication with them. C for N responded that some NGOs had established connections and mutual trust with ethnic minorities. Through BDF's funding support, the Administration had been supporting NGOs on counselling services targeted at ethnic minorities. The Administration would continue to strengthen the support to ethnic minorities through the network of NGOs, and provide training to frontline workers where necessary.

42. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung commented that some NGOs provided community support service but not dedicated anti-drug counselling and preventive education services to ethnic minorities at the district level. He suggested that the Administration should enhance assistance to NGOs in their work in promoting anti-drug messages and T&R services more effectively to ethnic minorities at the community level. C for N agreed to consider the suggestion in the context of the Three-year Plan.

43. Mr TANG Ka-piu queried if the Administration would conduct a territory-wide planning for provision of T&R services. C for N responded that, as the future drug scene could not be predicted, it would be difficult to forecast the demand for each type of T&R services in a quantitative manner. That said, the Administration would strive to ensure that the variety and quality of T&R services would meet future needs.

Action

(At 10:29 am, the Chairman announced that the meeting would be extended for five minutes. Members agreed.)

44. The Chairman advised that the discussion on this item would continue at the next meeting of the Subcommittee to be held on 28 January 2015 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am.

45. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:31 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 March 2015