

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1379/14-15
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 6 February 2015, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (Chairman)
Hon YIU Si-wing (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
- Member attending** : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
- Members absent** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Public Officers : Item IV
attending

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, SBS, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Director of Home Affairs (Acting)

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Item V

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Director of Home Affairs (Acting)

Miss Dora FU Ha-man, JP
Assistant Director of Home Affairs

Item VI

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jonathan McKINLEY, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Ms Linda LAW Lai-tan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport) 2

Clerk in : Ms Alice LEUNG
attendance Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Miss Josephine SO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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I. Confirmation of minutes
(LC Paper No. CB(2)635/14-15)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2014 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)687/14-15(01), CB(2)717/14-15(01),
CB(2)730/14-15(01), CB(2)751/14-15(01), CB(2)752/14-15(01),
CB(2)753/14-15(01), CB(2)778/14-15(01) & (02) and RP02/14-15)

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

- (a) Letter dated 16 January 2015 from Dr CHIANG Lai-wan on monitoring of Private Recreational Leases ("PRLs");
- (b) Referral from Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members' meeting with North District Council ("DC") members on 22 May 2014 concerning tree management including the relevant work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD");
- (c) Letter dated 22 January 2015 from the District Facilities Management Committee of Kwun Tong DC concerning the progress of the proposed construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Ngau Tau Kok;
- (d) Administration's information paper on its proposal to amend the Places of Public Entertainment (Exemption) Order (Cap. 172 sub. leg. D);
- (e) Letter dated 26 January 2015 from Dr Kenneth CHAN concerning the governance of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra ("HKCO");
- (f) Letter dated 22 January 2015 from Dr Kenneth CHAN concerning the operation of the Hong Kong Army Cadets Association Limited;

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- (g) Research report entitled "Olympic Committees, sports federations and sports development in selected places" prepared by the Research Office of the Information Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat; and
- (h) Administration's and HKCO's respective responses to the letter dated 26 January 2015 from Dr Kenneth CHAN concerning the governance of HKCO.

3. Regarding the Administration's information paper referred to in paragraph 2(d) above, the Chairman said that there was no request from members for discussion of the legislative proposal at a Panel meeting. Members noted and did not raise any question on the information paper.

4. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that it was his understanding that in preparing the research report mentioned above in paragraph 2(g), the Research Office of LegCo Secretariat had made enquiries with relevant authorities including the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC") and the latter had been very cooperative in providing the relevant information. He considered that the Panel should express gratitude to SF&OC for its assistance and suggested that a copy of the finalized research report be sent to it for reference. Members raised no objection and also agreed that the Panel should forward a copy of the research report to the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") for its reference. The Chairman advised members that the soft copy of the research report had been made available on the website of LegCo.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)637/14-15(01) and (02))

5. Members agreed to discuss the following three items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Friday, 20 March 2015, at 8:30 am -

- (a) Review of the Chinese Temples Ordinance;
- (b) Signature Projects (Central and Western District Council, Islands District Council and North District Council); and
- (c) Outcome of the public consultation on the Administration's proposals to amend the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

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6. In view of the number of items to be discussed, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the regular meeting in March 2015 be extended by one hour to end at 11:30 am.

(Post-meeting note: On the advice of the Chairman, the regular meeting originally scheduled for 20 March 2015 was subsequently rescheduled to Tuesday, 24 March 2015, from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.)

IV. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2015 Policy Address

(LC Paper No. CB(2)637/14-15(03), The 2015 Policy Address booklet and The 2015 Policy Agenda booklet)

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed Members on the new initiatives in the Chief Executive ("CE")'s 2015 Policy Address relevant to HAB's policy portfolio as well as the major ongoing initiatives undertaken by HAB, as detailed in the Administration's paper.

(Post-meeting note: A copy of SHA's speaking note was tabled at the meeting and issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)804/14-15 on 6 February 2015.)

Youth development

Commission on Youth ("CoY")

8. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan and Dr Kenneth CHAN expressed similar concern about the composition of CoY and suggested that consideration should be given to reforming its composition, with a view to enlisting more young people as CoY's members so that the Government could take on board more the views of young people in implementing its policies. SHA responded that all members of CoY were appointed by the Government, and most of the existing members were under the age of 35 on their first appointment. Members' views and suggestions on the composition of CoY would be further considered.

Youth development policy

9. The Chairman agreed that the Administration should attach importance to youth development and welcomed the Administration's implementation of various initiatives to encourage the active participation of young people in public affairs. In her view, the Administration should actively disseminate information on the government policies through public media and the Internet so that young people could have a better understanding of the rationale

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behind these policies. This would be conducive to building up consensus in the community.

10. SHA agreed that communication with young people should be strengthened. It had been listening to and receiving views from the youth through different channels, including organizing youth summits for young people to express their views on matters of their concern and to engage in direct dialogue with government officials. The next Youth Summit would be held in early March 2015.

11. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry about internship and exchange opportunities in the Mainland provided to Hong Kong youths, SHA advised that in view of the rapid pace of globalization, a broad horizon that went beyond Hong Kong was crucial for young people to thrive. For this reason, HAB would further increase the funding support to both the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland. The Government would also continue to work with other countries with a view to expanding the International Youth Exchange Programme so as to provide more chances for young people to broaden their horizon around the globe.

Youth Development Fund ("YDF")

12. Mr Tony TSE and Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed support for the proposed establishment of a \$300 million YDF to support innovative youth development activities which were not covered by existing schemes, including subsidy in the form of matching funds for non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to assist young people in starting their business. Pointing out that the high rental of office/shop space in Hong Kong had made it difficult for many young people to start and run their business in a sustainable manner, they enquired whether YDF would address this issue by identifying office or shop spaces for lease at affordable rent. Dr CHIANG suggested that to encourage landlords to let shop spaces to young entrepreneurs at low rentals, the Administration should consider granting tax deduction or rates concession to those landlords who were willing to do so. Consideration could also be given to allocating some government lands which had not yet been planned for development and putting up temporary structures on such lands for use by young people to start their business. In her view, the Administration should make reference to the experience of some countries in Europe and America to allow young people to use mobile trucks/kiosks for conducting commercial activities on the streets. To ensure the success of YDF, Dr CHIANG further suggested that the Administration should invite experienced businessmen to act as mentors to guide the young people throughout the start-up and running of their business.

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13. SHA and Under Secretary for Home Affairs responded with the following points -

- (a) the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau had been playing a coordinating role in promoting innovation and technology. The Hong Kong Science Park, which had accommodated many technology companies and local inventors, provided facilities, services and a dynamic environment that enabled technology companies to nurture ideas, innovate and develop;
- (b) the Administration had all along been encouraging the business sector and the community to render assistance to young people in starting their businesses. Many members of the community had indeed been taking forward different measures to echo the Government's work on this front. In 2014, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council ("HKADC") and a property developer jointly availed some 10 000 square feet of work spaces in a converted industrial building in Wong Chuk Hang for artists including the youth to rent at below-market rentals. There were also some 20 "co-working spaces", which offered rental discounts, for use by young entrepreneurs and technology talents;
- (c) at present, the Administration was consulting CoY on the operational details of YDF, e.g. eligibility criteria, approval procedures and allocation priority. The Administration had also been collecting views and suggestions on YDF from young entrepreneurs and NGOs which ran youth business start-up programmes. The initial views collected suggested that the Government should play the role not only in providing start-up funds, but also in working through experienced NGOs to provide various forms of support such as linking up the youths with mentors with relevant experience, provision of business information and guidance, assistance in establishing business networks. For this reason, YDF would leverage on the business and professional experience, inter-personal networks and support services possessed by these NGOs, with a view to helping young people pursue their entrepreneurship path; and
- (d) the Administration would continue to encourage and foster the business sector and the community to lease shops and work spaces at concessionary or nominal rentals to young entrepreneurs, as a fulfilment of corporate social responsibility. The Administration would give consideration to all suggestions from Members, among other views collected.

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14. In response to Mr Tony TSE's view that HAB should play a more active role in taking forward and coordinating the Government's policy and initiatives on youth development, SHA agreed with Members that one-stop service should be provided to assist young entrepreneurs to start their business.

Youth hostel

15. Noting that the four projects under the Youth Hostel Scheme ("YHS") respectively in Sheung Wan, Tai Po, Mongkok and Jordan as announced in CE's 2014 Policy Address were still in progress, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that measures should be taken to press for the early completion/implementation of the projects. Noting Dr LEE Shau-kee's recent announcement of his donation of a piece of land at Ma Tin Pok in Yuen Long to Po Leung Kuk ("PLK") for the construction of a youth hostel, Mr CHAN enquired about HAB's involvement in the project of PLK.

16. In response, SHA and Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs ("PSHA") advised that -

- (a) the aims of YHS were to unleash the potential of under-utilized sites in the hands of NGOs and provide some relief to the current shortage of housing accommodation for young people who wished to live away from home. While YHS was intended to meet the aspirations of some working youths by giving them an alternative to having their own living space for a period of time, the youth hostels were not meant to address their long-term housing needs. The young tenants should make use of the opportunity to accumulate savings to meet their aspirations for future development. They would ultimately need to make their own plans for housing over the long term;
- (b) the two projects in Sheung Wan and Tai Po had completed the technical feasibility studies and the relevant procedures (such as town planning application) were under way. As the proposed project in Sheung Wan involved a change in land use (which required the approval of the Town Planning Board) and was in close proximity to a heritage building, more time would be required to go through the statutory town planning process and to address the heritage conversation issues before funding approval could be sought from the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC") of LegCo; and
- (c) PLK had submitted its initial project plan to HAB for review. HAB would consult relevant government departments on the

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technical feasibility of the project. If the project was technically feasible and the estimation of its construction cost was reasonable, HAB would give policy support to implement the project under the framework of YHS. This meant that the Government would provide capital funding to PLK for developing the hostel at Ma Tin Pok.

17. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen sought information on the anticipated completion dates for the four YHS projects. Dr CHIANG further asked about the parameters for NGOs to operate/maintain the youth hostels. PSHA responded that the Administration planned to seek funding approval from FC in 2015-2016 for construction of the two more advance projects in Tai Po and Sheung Wan which were scheduled for completion in 2017 and 2017-2018 respectively. As for the two projects in Mongkok and Jordan, the early stage preparation was under way. Regarding the operating parameters, PSHA advised that the target tenants should be working youths who were Hong Kong permanent residents aged 18 to 30 (at the time of application). To ensure effective use of public resources, certain income and asset limits would be set. On income limits, the income level of a one-person household applicant should not exceed the 75th percentile of the monthly employment earnings of employed persons aged 18 to 30, and the household income level of a two-person household applicant should not exceed twice the level of a one-person household. As for the rental level, NGOs should charge an affordable rental for their hostels, which should not exceed 60% of the market rent of flats with similar size in the nearby areas. Such rental would cover all the on-going costs required in running, operating and maintaining the hostels.

Sports development

Development of community sports

18. Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired about the membership composition of the task force to be set up under the Sports Commission ("SC") to study issues relating to future provision of sport facilities/venues in Hong Kong. PSHA advised that the task force would be composed of representatives from SC, SF&OC, national sports associations and experts/stakeholders in the sports sector.

19. Mr MA Fung-kwok also asked whether the Administration had any plan to extend the "School Sports Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme" to cover more schools in the territory. PSHA replied that in the 2012-2013 school year, HAB, LCSD, the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") jointly launched the three-year "School Sports Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme" with a view to strengthening the promotion of

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sport in schools. The pilot scheme provided more opportunities for students to participate in sports, as well as offered a career and development platform for retired athletes. The Administration had reviewed the effectiveness of the scheme and received positive feedback from the schools, students and retired athletes concerned. It would consider expanding the scheme so that more students and retired athletes could benefit from it.

Support for elite athletes

20. Expressing concern about the career prospect for retired elite athletes, Dr Kenneth CHAN enquired about the support and assistance provided to elite athletes in career development. SHA responded that SF&OC and HKSI had implemented programmes to meet the education and career development needs of elite athletes. Starting from 2015, upon their retirement from training and competition, eligible full-time athletes would be granted a one-off award under the new Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme launched by HKSI, which would help them to pursue new careers either in sports or in other fields.

Cultural and arts development

Cultural policy

21. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that while he appreciated the reason for giving up the idea of setting up a cultural bureau to take over policy responsibilities relating to cultural and arts development in Hong Kong, he was disappointed with this latest decision of the Administration. As HAB would continue to be the policy bureau responsible for cultural policy, he asked whether the Administration had any plan to review and update the cultural policy which was formulated years ago.

22. SHA responded that the Government always upheld the principle to involve all sectors of the society to create an environment conducive to the vibrant development of culture and the arts. It was noteworthy that there were diverse views on how the cultural policy portfolio, which encompassed a wide range of policy areas including information technology, broadcasting, telecommunications, innovation and technology as well as creative industries etc., should be delivered under the current Administration's organization structure. The Administration would continue to listen to the views from various sectors, to ensure that the existing cultural policy was appropriate and in line with time.

Arts and cultural facilities

23. Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired whether the Administration had

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identified other vacant school premises for conversion into arts and cultural centres besides the project in Tai Po as announced during the policy briefing by SHA on the 2014 Policy Address. PSHA advised that HAB supported the collaboration between the Tai Po DC and HKADC to convert a vacant school building in Tai Po into an arts development centre in order to provide space for performing artists and arts groups for arts creation, rehearsals and arts promotion activities. The Administration planned to seek funding approval from PWSC and FC in 2015-2016 for the relevant works. While the Government and HKADC would continue to explore other possible opportunities to provide more arts space to support the development of local arts groups and artists, both sides were exploring the feasibility of reserving a certain portion of floor area in the future development of a site in Aberdeen to provide space for HKADC to support arts development.

Intangible Cultural Heritage ("ICH")

24. Responding to the Deputy Chairman's and Mr IP Kwok-him's enquiries about the Administration's future strategy on the preservation and promotion of ICH, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") advised that the Government had promulgated Hong Kong's first ICH inventory list in 2014. It would enhance the safeguarding measures of ICH, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of the heritage. Based on the selection criteria and assessment methods endorsed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, the Administration would select by batches from Hong Kong's ICH inventory those items which had high cultural value and required urgent preservation for drawing up Hong Kong's representative list of ICH, and would conduct public consultation on the draft list. The representative list would provide reference for the Government in setting priorities in planning the safeguarding measures for ICH. A dedicated office would be set up under LCSD to carry out the above tasks.

25. The Deputy Chairman said that the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, the Tai Hang fire dragon dance, the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community and the Tai O dragon boat water parade had been inscribed onto the third national list of ICH. With regard to the third and four items, he asked about the Administration's plans for promoting these unique local ICH items and the expenditure planned for the implementation of the plans.

26. DLCS responded that in addition to Government's financial support, the Administration would continue to encourage the participation and support of different sectors of the community with a view to achieving the objective of safeguarding local ICH. The Administration actively encouraged other organizations, including the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, to

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provide funding support to the event organizers of the four ICH items inscribed onto the third national list. On the promotion front, the dedicated office to be established under LCSD would work in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, including the Tourism Commission, on promoting the transmission of local ICH.

District administration

Role of DCs in district administration

27. Mr WONG Kwok-hing considered that the Administration should conduct a comprehensive review to consolidate experience and identify areas for improvement in district administration. In response, SHA advised that the Administration had taken forward the concept of "addressing district issues at the local level and capitalizing on local opportunities" in strengthening district administration. It had been providing support to DCs to facilitate them in playing an enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of some district facilities and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

Signature Project Scheme ("SPS")

28. Expressing concern about the slow progress with the implementation and commissioning of SPS projects proposed by individual DCs, Mr TANG Ka-piu asked whether consideration would be given to adopting alternative measures, e.g. seeking a "blanket approval" from PWSC and FC, to facilitate DCs' timely implementation of the SPS projects. Mr IP Kwok-him noted that the 18 DCs had reached consensus on their SPS proposals and had submitted a total of 27 proposals. Sharing a similar concern over the slow progress of funding approval of PWSC and FC, he called on the Administration to take actions to address the matter.

29. SHA responded that all SPS projects would be subject to a lower limit of \$30 million and an upper limit of \$100 million, and DCs were required to follow the established procedures to seek funding approval from LegCo for implementation of individual SPS projects. While appreciating Members' concern about the implementation progress of various SPS projects, the Administration would explore ways to expedite the implementation of project proposals agreed and submitted by the 18 DCs. It was the plan of the Administration to submit in batches the remaining SPS proposals to the Panel for consideration. The Administration would strive to complete the funding application process within the term of the Fifth LegCo.

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Pilot Scheme on Enhancement of District Administration Through District Management Committees

30. The Chairman and Mr IP Kwok-him enquired whether the Pilot Scheme on Enhancement of District Administration Through District Management Committees being implemented in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long would be extended to the other 16 districts. The Chairman considered that, if the pilot scheme was to be extended, DCs with additional resources would be more ready to resolve district problems. SHA responded that the Administration would closely monitor the progress and conduct an overall review upon completion of the pilot scheme in August 2015, with a view to ascertaining its effectiveness and making a recommendation on the way forward.

Support services for street sleepers

31. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that the problem of street sleeping remained prevalent in many districts, such as North Point. He asked whether the Administration had formulated any long-term plans to tackle the problem at root, and whether inter-departmental coordination was in place for the planning and implementation of policies and measures to address the problem.

32. SHA responded that -

- (a) while the problem of street sleeping was attributed to various reasons, the Administration had always been concerned about the needs of street sleepers and had devised various support services for them. For instance, during extreme weather, the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") opened community centres to provide overnight accommodation for street sleepers;
- (b) the Administration would continue to strengthen the coordination among various bureaux and departments in tackling the street sleeping problem;
- (c) Sham Shui Po was a district with a relatively large number of street sleepers causing environmental hygiene problems and complaints from local residents. Sham Shui Po DC launched a pilot scheme recently to strengthen the support services for street sleepers. The scheme had started to bear fruit; and
- (d) the Social Welfare Department had been registering the number and recording the data of street sleepers through the computerized street sleepers registry which captured street sleepers' personal data and service records.

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33. Mr TANG Ka-piu expressed worry about the occurrence of fierce social confrontation in recent time. Stressing the importance of preserving harmony in society, he enquired about the role of HAB in this respect. SHA responded that while promoting social harmony and stability had been a prime objective of the entire Government, HAD and its District Officers had all along been working hard and would continue to build a harmonious society.

Building management and maintenance

34. In response to the concern raised by Mr Tony TSE, Director of Home Affairs (Acting) ("DHA(Atg)") advised that the Administration would continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach covering legislation, enforcement, public education and publicity as well as support and assistance to property owners to prevent bid-rigging activities in the tendering of large-scale maintenance projects. In addition to the proposed introduction of a statutory licensing regime for the property management industry, the Administration was also reviewing the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) with a view to improving the legal and administrative framework for building management. Regarding the provision of better support for owners and owners' corporations ("OCs"), HAD had, through the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme, engaged professional property management companies to provide the target "three-nil" buildings with one-stop and customized professional advice and support, including assisting the owners/OCs in taking forward maintenance works and following up on tender matters.

35. DHA(Atg) further said that in the course of daily building management, owners might encounter various legal matters. To provide assistance to owners and OCs, HAD had, in collaboration with the Law Society of Hong Kong, launched the Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management to offer free legal advice. These apart, HAD encouraged parties in dispute to resolve building management disputes through enhanced communication and alternative dispute resolution arrangements, especially mediation. To assist the parties in dispute to start constructive dialogue, HAD set up in 2011 a dedicated Panel of Advisors on Building Management Disputes to render impartial and professional advice to the parties concerned on the issues in dispute. If both sides agreed, HAD might refer them to free voluntary mediation services provided by professional mediation bodies.

36. The Chairman noted that under the Operation Building Bright ("OBB"), the Urban Renewal Authority ("URA") and the Hong Kong Housing Society ("HKHS") engaged independent consultants to provide OCs or owners with an evaluation of maintenance costs as reference for assessing whether the tender prices were comparable with the market level. This apart, a new

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tendering arrangement ("NTA") was also introduced in late 2013 for the appointment of works contractors under OBB projects. Under NTA, independent professional accounting firms were engaged to handle administrative work related to tendering exercises for the appointment of building contractors. In her view, the above measures were effective in containing the risks of corruption and malpractices, in particular bid-rigging, by consultancy firms and contractors. The Chairman suggested that HAD should draw reference from URA's and HKHS' operation of OBB to identify room for improvement in addressing the problem of bid-rigging.

37. DHA(Atg) responded that HAD was liaising with URA, HKHS and relevant professional bodies with a view to capitalizing on the experience URA and HKHS gained in the implementation of OBB. If considered appropriate and feasible, it would introduce pilot scheme for preventing manipulative practices such as bid-rigging.

Renewal of PRLs

38. Noting that a number of PRLs had been renewed in 2012-2013 for a period of 15 years, Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern about the Administration's existing policy on PRLs. He considered it important for the Administration to manage the expectation of individual lessees that their lease might not continue to be renewed on the same terms and conditions upon the expiry of the renewed lease. Referring to a land lot of a considerable size in Fanling which was currently used as a golf course under a PRL, he enquired whether the Administration had any plan to resume the land lot for residential development to meet the pressing housing demand.

39. SHA responded that the Administration's policy on PRLs recognized the contribution that private sports clubs and non-profit-making organizations operating facilities on land granted under PRLs had made to the promotion of sport and the provision of recreational opportunities in Hong Kong. While renewing existing leases for a 15-year term was in line with the long established policy, it was also considered appropriate and reasonable to allow PRL lessees time to respond to possible policy changes by the Administration. During the recent lease renewal exercise, HAD had advised the PRL lessees concerned explicitly that the Administration would conduct a comprehensive review of the PRL policy and that there should be no expectation that their leases would be further renewed upon expiry, and that even if the leases were further renewed, they might not be renewed on the same terms and conditions as before. SHA added that the Administration had kicked start the review of the PRL policy. Relevant bureaux and departments responsible for land use planning, such as the Development Bureau and the Lands Department, were involved in the review. It was the aim of the Administration to complete the review within 2015.

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Administration's proposals to amend the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance ("HAGAO")

40. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern that the Administration's proposed amendments to the licensing regime under HAGAO would affect existing licensed guesthouses' room of survival and hence, the healthy development of the guesthouse industry. In his view, Heung Yee Kuk ("HYK")'s proposal of converting village houses in the New Territories into home-stay or "bed and breakfast" type accommodation was worthy of consideration. He hoped that the Administration would explore the feasibility of developing home-stay lodgings in rural areas.

41. SHA responded that HAD had established communication network with HYK. While issues relating to the proposed development of home-stay lodgings in rural areas were discussed at regular liaison meetings with HYK, the initial thinking was to identify suitable sites for pilot running so as to facilitate the Government's formulation of a more comprehensive policy on the operation of home-stay lodgings.

Integration of ethnic minorities

42. Dr Kenneth CHAN expressed concern about measures taken by the Administration to help ethnic minorities integrate into the society, especially the development of culture and sports of ethnic minorities. As cricket was a popular sport among many South Asians, he suggested that the Administration should support and promote the development of cricket in Hong Kong, thereby integrating ethnic minorities into the local community and providing them with an arena for development.

V. Review of the honorarium arrangement for District Council members

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)637/14-15(04) and (05))

43. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA briefed Members on the Administration's proposals to increase the honorarium for DC members and introduce a new provision to finance DC members' duty visits, as detailed in the Administration's paper.

New provision for duty visits

44. Dr Kenneth CHAN considered duty visits highly beneficial to DC members' work. Stressing the need to ensure prudent use of public money, he enquired whether any guiding principles/mechanism would be put in place for DCs to approve duty visits outside Hong Kong which were proposed by

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individual members. DHA(Atg) advised that all duty visits must be related to the work of DCs, formally endorsed by and conducted in the name of DCs or their committees. While the destinations for the duty visits were to be decided by DCs, individual members could put forward proposals for the consideration of DCs. The DC Secretariats would provide logistical support for the duty visits and arrange for the procurement of air tickets, accommodation and/or in-town travelling arrangements. Guidelines would be promulgated on the proper use of the public fund.

Operating Expenses Reimbursement ("OER"), Setting-up Expenses Reimbursement ("SER") and Winding-up Expenses Reimbursement ("WER")

45. Mr IP Kwok-him declared that he was a member of Central and Western DC and was returned from the District Council (First) Functional Constituency. He expressed support for the proposed 15% increase in honorarium for DC members and the introduction of a new provision, capped at a ceiling of \$10,000 per member per term, for DC members to conduct duty visits. However, in his view, improvements should be made to the rate of entitlement of the accountable SER for a re-elected/re-appointed DC member who had claimed SER in a previous term but had not changed the location of his ward office in the current term in order to provide sufficient funding for the DC member to replace obsolete office equipment (such as computers, photocopiers and air conditioners) due to normal wear and tear. In the light of the rapid increase in rental for ward offices and other operating expenses, Mr IP was also of the view that there was an urgent need to enhance DC members' OER. This was particularly the case for those members who had to rent private premises as ward offices, the rental expenses of which were much higher than those of public premises. Alternatively, the Government should provide offices to DC members. His view was echoed by the Chairman.

46. Mr Christopher CHUNG declared that he was a member of Eastern DC. In view of the difficulties faced by DC members in setting up ward offices, he suggested that the Administration should provide offices in each district, e.g. vacant shop spaces in public markets, for DC members to meet with members of the public. He also suggested that the Administration should streamline the procedures for DC members to write off obsolete equipment (such as computers) and to claim reimbursement for minor out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of duties.

47. In response, DHA(Atg) made the following points -

- (a) starting from 1 January 2014, the Government had enhanced the remuneration package for DC members, including increasing the entitlement of the accountable SER from 50% to 100% (i.e. from

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\$50,000 to \$100,000) for re-elected or re-appointed members who had claimed SER in the previous terms but had relocated ward offices. Re-elected or re-appointed DC members who had not relocated ward offices after 1 January 2014 would continue to be entitled to SER of up to \$50,000, and if necessary, might consider the option of renting office equipment (e.g. photocopiers) which might carry greater value for money. The expenditure on renting office equipment was reimbursable under OER;

- (b) OER was designed to provide maximum flexibility for DC members to deploy the funding according to their operational needs. The suggestion of creating a dedicated funding provision for reimbursement of rental expenses would remove this flexibility. The rate of the accountable OER had, indeed, been increased by 34% with effect from 1 January 2014. The provision was considered sufficient to meet the needs of most DC members;
- (c) the Government had established rules and procedures governing the replacement of equipment that had reached their normal serviceable lives. Action would be taken to explore the feasibility of further streamlining the procedures for write-off of old and obsolete equipment. Apart from the "buy back" option, the Government would also examine the possibility of allowing DC members to donate old and obsolete equipment to schools and/or qualified organizations, if they so wished;
- (d) a non-accountable monthly provision of Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance at \$5,240 was provided for DC members to cover minor expenses; and
- (e) the Administration would explore the feasibility of other options, including the suggestions of allocating vacant spaces in public markets or designating specific time slots of community halls/centres for use by DC members.

48. Mr MA Fung-kwok welcomed the present proposals to increase the honorarium of DC members and to offer every DC member a new provision to cover expenses for duty visits. Sharing a similar concern over the sufficiency of OER, he urged the Administration to further increase the rate of OER so that DC members would better cope with their rental expenses for ward offices.

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49. DHA(Atg) responded that the Administration had taken into account the rapid increase in rental for ward offices in its last review of the expense reimbursement arrangements for DC members. The 34% increase in the rate of OER was intended to address the concerns of DC members relating to increased operation expenses, in particular the rising rental of ward offices. Although the Administration could not predict the rental increase upon the renewal of tenancies of ward offices, it was estimated that the current rate of OER (i.e. around \$38,000 per month) should be sufficient to cover the expenses of most DC members, around 80%, on office rental. That said, the Administration would continue to explore the feasibility of other options, including the suggestion of allocating government offices to DC members as ward offices, to alleviate the difficulty faced by some DC members in renting offices at the prevailing market rental level.

50. The Chairman and Mr TANG Ka-piu declared that they were serving DC members, and they both were supportive of the present proposals to enhance the remuneration package for DC members. In their views, the increase in the rate of the accountable OER by 34% had enabled DC members to employ higher quality assistants to serve the public. Mr TANG hoped that the Administration could consider providing DC members with a further provision to cover the end-of-service gratuity or severance pay given to their assistants. Pointing out that Islands DC covered a wide area and the work of some Islands DC members involved a lot of travelling, Mr TANG suggested that consideration should also be given to providing these DC members with a special provision to cover the travelling expenses.

51. DHA(Atg) responded that -

- (a) OER was a lump sum provision provided for DC members to cover the expenses arising from their functions and duties. The major expenditure items included salaries for their assistants, rental for ward offices and other operating expenses (e.g. utility expenses, publicity and printing) DC members were given the flexibility of deploying their OER according to their operational needs; and
- (b) at present, an accountable WER at \$72,000 per DC term was provided to cover expenses required to wind up a ward office. The provision could be used for paying severance pay to DC members' assistants engaged with OER.

52. Mr MA Fung-kwok cast doubt on the accuracy of the figure quoted by the Administration that the current level of the OER provision was sufficient to cover the expenses of about 80% of all DC members on office rental. Mr Christopher CHUNG considered the Administration's proposal to dispose

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of obsolete equipment by way of donation impractical. In his view, the expected useful life of computer equipment and electronic equipment should at most be five years.

Conclusion

53. Summing up, the Chairman said that Panel members supported the proposed increase in the honorarium of DC members and the introduction of a new provision for DC members to conduct duty visits with effect from 1 January 2016, and did not raise objection to the Administration's submission of the proposals to FC for consideration.

VI. Progress of the Kai Tak Multi-purpose Sports Complex Project
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)637/14-15(06) and (07))

54. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA reported on the latest position with regard to the planning of the proposed Multi-purpose Sports Complex ("MPSC") at Kai Tak, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper. Members noted that the Administration had briefed the Panel on the proposed scope of MPSC at the meetings in January and February 2014, and the Panel did not raise objection to the submission of the funding proposal to PWSC and the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration.

Project implementation

55. Noting that there would be a delay in the expected date of completion for the MPSC project from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021, Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired about the reasons for the delay and whether the Administration would work out measures to compress the implementation schedule so as to expedite the delivery of the project. Expressing support for the MPSC project, Mr Tony TSE and Mr TANG Ka-piu both hoped that the Administration would strive for the early implementation of the project.

56. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2) ("DSHA(2)") responded that -

- (a) the project was originally estimated to be completed in 2019-2020. Compared with the projected timetable presented to the Panel in 2014, the Administration anticipated a slight delay of about nine months;
- (b) the delay was caused by a host of internal and external factors. Internally, given the scope and scale of the project, the Administration had a lengthy discussion on the management responsibilities for as well as the vote control of the project. The

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decision was that a relatively innovative approach should be adopted and the MPSC project be put under the vote control of HAB instead of the works departments; and

- (c) apart from setting up a technical team to advise on the engineering and architectural aspects of the project, the Administration had completed the preparation for the engagement of an operations consultant to provide expert advice on the functional requirements as well as the performance standards, business planning and financial projections of MPSC.

57. Noting that the Administration last estimated that the construction costs of the MPSC project would be about \$23 billion (in September 2013 prices), Mr TANG Ka-piu asked whether the construction cost for MPSC would vary significantly by the time the Administration sought funding from FC to kick start the construction of the project. He suggested that the Administration should procure independent quantity surveying services for the project.

58. Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) 2 ("PASHA(R&S)2") responded that -

- (a) the current cost estimate was indicative only. It was based on a rough estimation during the technical feasibility study conducted five years ago. At that time, the cost of construction was estimated to be \$18 billion in 2009 prices. When this estimate was adjusted in accordance with the Tender Price Index, the 2014 price level was about \$25 billion;
- (b) as the Administration was developing detailed functional requirements of MPSC and updating its conceptual scheme with the help of the consultants, it would work out a more accurate project cost estimate; and
- (c) the Administration planned to appoint an independent quantity surveying consultant to be responsible for estimating the project cost to ensure that the construction works would be priced at a reasonable level.

Project scope and facilities

59. Mr MA Fung-kwok asked whether the current design of the project could be further fine-tuned to better address the needs of the sports sector and the public, and whether consideration would be given to providing in the Complex or its surrounding areas venue support for conducting more types of

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sports (e.g. motor racing, cycling and water sports) and for hosting international competitions on these sports items.

60. DSHA(2) responded that the Administration was fully aware of the expectations of various sports associations and representatives of the sports sector on the proposed scope of MPSC. The project scope was based on the design for venues for staging international sports events, alongside with the outlook of making available the maximum number of facilities for the best possible operation/organization of a variety of sports events. To ensure that MPSC would be a venue equipped with world class sports facilities designed to meet the state-of-the-art standards set by international sports organizations, the Government's vision and objectives set for the project as well as the needs of the sports sector and the wider community, the operations consultant would engage all relevant stakeholders including national sports associations, the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation and other potential users so that the Administration would be able to take into account their views and needs in steering the project through the design, construction and operation phases.

61. The Chairman said that it was of paramount importance that the consultation process would involve various stakeholders including DCs and the community at large, apart from the sports sector and the performing arts sector.

62. In response to the Deputy Chairman's and Mr MA Fung-kwok's enquiries, DSHA(2) and PASHA(R&S)2 said that the MPSC project would be designed with a view to maximizing the flexible use of the venues and facilities for a variety of sports and major events. PASHA(R&S)2 added that while priority would be given to hosting sports events at the 50 000-seat main stadium, there was scope for large-scale entertainment events (such as pop concerts) and exhibitions to be held at the venue.

63. Mr Christopher CHUNG hoped that the Administration would adopt a flexible approach in the planning and design of MPSC so that the project could be sustainable and expandable in future. To bring about the maximum benefits for the community at large and to best achieve the Government's vision and objectives, he considered that the Administration should take into account the needs of the sports sector and the wider community. SHA noted the views and suggestions of Mr CHUNG.

Interface with other projects at Kai Tak

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64. Mr Tony TSE noted with concern that after the completion of the construction works, Shing Kai Road (Distributor Road D2) would bisect the site of MPSC. He considered the planning and present design of the road not ideal from MPSC's future operation point of view, and sought information on

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the background to/reasons for the construction of Shing Kai Road. DSHA(2) responded that years ago, the Administration had explored the possibility of deleting the section of Shing Kai Road cutting through the MPSC site. However, the works departments concerned advised that the road would be absolutely necessary, as it was intended to serve as an essential vehicular connection between the entire Kai Tak Development ("KTD") and other areas of East Kowloon. At Members' request, DSHA(2) undertook to provide more information on the background to and reasons for the construction of the road after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: the Administration's response was circulated to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)982/14-15 on 9 March 2015.)

65. In response to the Deputy Chairman's and Mr Tony TSE's enquiries, PASHA(R&S)2 advised that the operations consultant would study the justification for the development of a hotel of a suitable scale within MPSC for visiting athletes, support staff, officials and spectators during major events, as well as general visitors during other days. Due regard would be given to, among others, the need for constructing a hotel within MPSC while six other sites in KTD near the Cruise Terminal had been zoned for hotel development, and the possible impacts on traffic, provision of infrastructure and environment on the adjacent areas if a hotel was built in MPSC. If the proposal was to be pursued, the Administration would submit an application to the Town Planning Board for approval.

Other issues raised

66. Mr Tony TSE expressed concern about the possible pressure on the transportation network, in particular the MTRC Sha Tin-Central Link, after major events were held at the main stadium of MPSC. Noting the Administration's assumption that about 80% of spectators would access the two new MTRC stations close to the Complex, namely Kai Tak and To Kwa Wan, he cautioned that the Administration should work out the detailed crowd dispersal arrangements with the relevant departments.

67. PASHA(R&S)2 responded that the Administration recognized the importance of planning for effective crowd management and transportation arrangements at MPSC, particularly on days when major events would take place at the main stadium. It had engaged a specialist consultant to undertake a preliminary study on crowd dispersal immediately following events when the main stadium attracted an attendance of 50 000 spectators. The study assumed that around 80% of spectators would take MTR to and from MPSC, with most of the remaining spectators using other modes of public transport. The study used a computer-based simulation to map crowd dispersal paths on different variations of the MPSC's layout scheme, and analyzed the flow rate

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and pattern of crowd dispersal under each scheme. The study showed that based on the current draft layout scheme, following the completion of an event in the main stadium attracting 50 000 spectators, most spectators would have dispersed from MPSC and arrive at the two MTR stations within 30 minutes. The Administration would work with the future designer and operator of MPSC, the Police, the MTR Corporation Limited and other major public transport operators to ensure that the final design and future operation of MPSC would facilitate safe and effective crowd management and transportation arrangements at the Complex, particularly during major events.

Conclusion

68. Members noted the Administration's plans to engage the operations consultant in mid-2015 and to submit funding application to PWSC and FC for commencing the pre-construction work. Subject to approval from PWSC and FC, it aimed to start the pre-construction work in the latter part of 2015.

69. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:09 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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