

**For information on  
5 February 2016**

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

**2016 Policy Address  
Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau**

**Introduction**

The policy portfolio of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) covers a wide range of areas including mainly youth development, sport, culture and arts, and district administration. The 2016 Policy Address proposes a series of policy initiatives on these aspects. This paper presents our visions, new initiatives and major ongoing initiatives.

**Our Vision**

2. For youth development, we will continue to work closely with the Commission on Youth (CoY), the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE), community organisations and various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in fostering youth development work. We promote a culture of multi-faceted excellence and the concept of multiple pathways. We encourage young people to develop a positive approach to life and a sense of social awareness, and to pay attention to the development of Hong Kong and our country, while cultivating an international vision; we also encourage them to attach importance to both individual rights and social obligations.

3. The SAR Government has been implementing the three policy objectives of its sports policy, i.e. promoting the pleasure and benefits of sports for persons of different ages and abilities, providing support to elite athletes from various aspects, and helping to attract more major international sports events to Hong Kong.

4. On culture and the arts, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis. We support the freedom of artistic expression and creation and foster the vibrant development of our cultures. We have been actively creating an environment conducive to the diversified development of culture and the arts; providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts; devoting resources to nurturing talent and encouraging innovation; and supporting

the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures.

5. We will take forward the CE's concept of "addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities" in strengthening district administration. We have been providing support for District Councils (DCs) to facilitate them in playing an enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of livelihood related district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

### **New Initiatives**

6. Having regard to the above-mentioned vision, we will launch the following new initiatives.

#### Youth Development

7. In view of the rapid pace of globalisation, a broad horizon that goes beyond Hong Kong is crucial for young people to thrive, and we encourage young people to capture the development opportunities in the Mainland and other places outside Hong Kong. Under the Belt and Road Initiative framework, we will step up our efforts relating to facilitating "people-to-people bond". The exchange schemes under HAB, including the International Youth Exchange Programme and Summer Exchange Programme jointly organised with the CoY, have been providing opportunities of two-way exchanges for young people in Hong Kong and overseas to broaden their exposure, enrich their experience and strengthen their multi-dimensional analytical skills. We shall explore the feasibility of expanding these schemes to cover more Belt and Road countries.

8. In addition, various NGOs such as chambers of commerce, youth organisations, community groups are flexible in their operation and have experience in organising various types of exchange programmes. We believe that they can support the Belt and Road Initiative by taking part in establishing and strengthening their communication and cooperation with their counterparts in the Belt and Road countries. We shall provide resources to assist NGOs in organising exchange and other activities relating to the Belt and Road Initiative.

#### Commissioner for Sports

9. The Policy Address announced the appointment of the Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs responsible for sports policy as the

Commissioner for Sports who would be responsible for coordinating and liaising with relevant government bureaux and departments as well as sports organisations with a view to enhancing the promotion and implementation of various sports policies and initiatives. The appointment would better define the role and mandate of the Commissioner for Sports, enabling HAB to coordinate cross-bureau or cross-departmental sports initiatives in a more effective manner.

#### Enhanced Support to Retired Athletes

10. The School Sports Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme (the Scheme) has been implemented since 2011-12 school year, and received positive feedback from the retired athletes and schools. To further enhance support for retired athletes, we will set up a career programme for retired athletes, subsidise and encourage schools and national sports associations to employ retired athletes, helping them to build a solid foundation for career and future planning. This initiative could attract more young people with sporting potential to develop their interests in sports and aspire to become full-time athletes, promoting a sporting culture among the community and, at the same time, building up a stronger pool of elite athletes.

#### Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme

11. The Government plans to launch an Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme (the Pilot Scheme) this year with a view to widen the sources of funding for arts groups/organisations, promote the community's financial support and inculcate a donation culture in the community for arts and cultural development. We have earmarked \$300 million for implementing the Pilot Scheme to provide matching grants for the more established arts groups/organisations for the donations and sponsorships raised. As one of the objectives of the Pilot Scheme is to promote a donation culture in the community, HAB will organise a series of activities to promote our local arts groups to the private sector and appeal to them for support for the arts groups' fundraising efforts. The Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) will also put in place enhanced programmes to provide support to and enhance the capability of the local arts groups in raising donations and sponsorships.

#### Free Admission to Museums

12. The month-long free admission to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) museums under the "Appreciate Hong Kong" Campaign has been well received by the public. To further

promote culture and art, and knowledge and experience in history and science, and encourage more visits to the museums to widen the audience base, the Government has decided to make free admission to the permanent exhibitions of designated LCSD museums a standing practice. Specifically, the permanent exhibitions of five fee-charging LCSD museums (i.e. the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum) will offer free admission for the public. The permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Space Museum will offer free admission for full-time students. The Government proposes to amend the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132CK) accordingly to implement the above arrangements.

### Leisure and Cultural Facilities

13. In face of an ageing population, the Government endeavours to create an age-friendly environment in the community. For the leisure and cultural services, we will provide about 150 additional sets of elderly fitness equipment at selected outdoor leisure venues in 18 districts to better meet the needs of the elderly. Besides, we will provide about 1 000 priority seats for the elderly at indoor sports facilities including swimming pool complexes and sports centres.

14. To promote a water-friendly culture, we will implement a pilot scheme of angling zones in three LCSD leisure venues in 2016-17, which include Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section), Pak Shek Kok Promenade in Tai Po and Cheung Fai Road Promenade in Tsing Yi. These venues will be provided with designated angling zones and ancillary facilities so that the public may take part in angling activities in a more pleasant environment.

15. We plan to provide on a trial basis three self-service library units, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories, at locations with heavier pedestrian flow and far from existing libraries. The self-service units will provide round-the-clock services such as borrowing, return, payment and pickup of reserved library materials.

16. With a view to further promoting reading among the elderly, starting from late 2016, we will enhance by phases the reading environment and supporting facilities of public libraries such as seating and reading-aid equipment, taking into account the needs of the elderly. At the same time, we will also enrich the library collections and organise

various library activities and workshops suitable for the elderly and their carers in a bid to encourage life-long learning, thereby helping the elderly to master various skills, integrate into the community and enrich their cultural life.

### District Administration

17. The Government implemented a pilot scheme to enhance district administration in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long between April 2014 and August 2015. The scheme was well-received by local communities because the implementation was effective and it responded actively to public aspirations. We have decided to extend the scheme to all 18 districts during the current term of DCs and rename it as “District-led Actions Scheme” (DAS). We have reserved an annual recurrent funding provision of \$63 million and will create additional civil service posts and employ contract staff for implementation of the scheme. The District Management Committees and DCs of 18 districts will in early this year discuss the projects to be pursued under the DAS.

## **On-going Initiatives**

### Youth Development Policy

#### *Promoting Multi-faceted Excellence and Multiple Pathways*

18. Young people need diversified development opportunities so that they may make the most appropriate choices according to their interests and strengths when they are moving upward. We launched the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities last year to support NGOs to collaborate with secondary schools in organising life planning activities for students, teachers and parents. We shall review the progress of various activities and will launch a new round in Q2 2016. In line with the idea of multi-faceted excellence, we have also launched the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship in the last academic year, through which universities are provided with full funding support to admit secondary students with remarkable achievements in non-academic areas for undergraduate studies. The first batch of awardees of the Scholarship have been admitted to universities in September 2015 and the second batch of applications are being processed.

#### *Youth Development Fund*

19. In the Policy Address 2015, the Chief Executive proposed to

set up a \$300 million Youth Development Fund (YDF) in the form of matching funds for collaboration with NGOs to assist young people in starting their own businesses. The fund will also subsidise innovative youth development activities not covered by existing schemes. We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) regarding the operational details of YDF in mid-July 2015. Members have endorsed the proposed arrangements of the YDF. We will roll out the scheme and accept applications after the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council has approved the required funding.

### *Youth Hostel*

20. We are taking forward five projects under the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS). For the three projects in Tai Po, Yuen Long and Sheung Wan, the technical feasibility studies have been completed, and they are currently undertaking various other procedures, such as lease modification and town planning application. For the pre-construction works of the Po Leung Kuk's project in Yuen Long, we have consulted HA Panel and are going to seek endorsement from the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC). For the two projects in Mongkok and Jordan, their technical feasibility studies are underway. We will present the projects to the relevant DC in the first half of 2016. Meanwhile, we are actively liaising with other interested NGOs with a view to assisting them to roll out new YHS projects.

### *Promotion of Civic Education*

21. We will continue to work with the CPCE to promote civic education outside schools, focusing on the core civic value of "respect and inclusiveness". We seek to promote the importance of mutual respect and accommodating people with diverse cultural background, different views and perspectives so as to enhance social harmony. Meanwhile, we will also continue to promote the upholding of the rule of law.

### *Youth Square*

22. Youth Square (YS) is an important component within the youth development framework in Hong Kong and is one of our crucial platforms in promoting youth development. Its target users are youths and youth organisations. Since YS came into full operation in March 2010, its usage rates have been increasing and the usage rates of most of its major facilities are currently over 80%. The number of events held has also been increasing steadily. To support business start-ups by

young people and social enterprises, we will continue to offer rental discount for them to operate in YS.

### Sports Development

#### *Multi-purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak*

23. The Multi-purpose Sports Complex (MPSC) at Kai Tak will be the most important investment of the Government in sports infrastructure in recent decades. It will provide state-of-the-art multi-purpose sports venues that allow the hosting of major international sports events so that our athletes may have more opportunities to compete at home with athletes from other parts of the world; it will also help increase the supply of public sports facilities. We have commenced detailed preparatory work for the project, including Environmental and Traffic Impact Assessments; formulation of user requirements, business plan, financial projections and performance measurements for the future operation of the MPSC; and reviewing the project's procurement approach and conducting economic cost-benefit analysis. The project's operations consultant has been consulting the sports and other sectors for their views on the project since August last year. The operations consultant will continue engaging stakeholders to ensure the needs of all potential users will be addressed. We will engage a technical services consultant early this year to conduct technical studies, as well as to prepare detailed specifications and a preliminary design of the MPSC. We target to complete the preparatory work for the MPSC by next year.

#### *Development of Community Sports*

24. To promote the sporting culture in the community, we need to ensure there are adequate public sports facilities to meet the demand. In order to further understand the supply and management of our existing venues and the needs of different user groups, we have set up a working group to review the demand and supply of various types of sports facilities with a view to better addressing the needs on facilities by the community and the sports sector.

25. We will continue to implement the Pilot Scheme for Student Athlete Support, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation, to provide support for students from low-income families, so that they can fully realise their sporting potential.

### *“M” Mark System and Support Packages*

26. To help us achieve the policy objective of developing Hong Kong into a prime destination for hosting major international sports events, the Sports Commission continues to strengthening the “M” Mark System with a view to helping local sports organisations host international sports events that arouse the community’s interest in sport and promote the development of sports-related industries. We will continue to work with local sports organisations to bring more major sports events to Hong Kong.

### Culture and the Arts

#### *West Kowloon Cultural District*

27. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) is embarking on the design and construction of various facilities in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). In particular, the main superstructure works for Xiqu Centre is moving full steam ahead with target completion in 2017 and opening in 2018. The main superstructure works for M+ also commenced in October last year with target completion in 2018 and opening in 2019. The Park, Freespace (including the Black Box and Outdoor Stage) and Lyric Theatre Complex have entered the detailed design stage. In addition, the temporary Nursery Park was opened in July last year for public enjoyment during construction of the Park, and the Arts Pavilion was also topped out in November for completion in mid-2016.

28. To support the development of the WKCD project, the Government will seek funding from FC in phases to construct an integrated basement in the WKCD. To dovetail with the completion of the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, we will continue to strengthen our cultural software. WKCDA will continue to enrich people’s cultural life, nurture local talents and build audiences through organising a variety of quality arts and cultural programmes and broadening Hong Kong’s exchanges with other places in contemporary art, performing arts and visual culture in collaboration with arts groups, education institutions and local communities.

#### *Development of Arts Space*

29. We will continue to pursue ongoing arts space projects and explore new opportunities to provide more arts space for local artists and budding arts groups to support their engagement in artistic creation.



HAB will continue to support the collaboration between the Tai Po District Council and the HKADC to establish an arts centre by retrofitting Tai Po Government Secondary School, which will provide space for performing artists and arts groups for arts creation, rehearsals and arts promotion activities. In addition, HAB has proposed to provide arts space and arts facilities in the future development at a land sale site in Aberdeen. Upon completion of the construction of the arts space, the artist studios will be leased to visual and media artists at an affordable rent under a support scheme to be operated by the HKADC.

### *On-going Support for Local Arts Groups*

30. We will continue to strengthen support for small and medium arts groups through the support schemes implemented by HAB, HKADC and LCSD, including the continued implementation of Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme, which supports large scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/projects to enhance capacity development of promising arts groups and arts practitioners, and encourage the community and private sector to sponsor the arts. Since the launch of this Scheme in 2011, we have supported small and medium arts groups with potential by approving 21 Springboard Grant applications with matching elements and 39 direct Project Grant applications, at a total funding ceiling of \$140.75 million.

31. The HKADC will continue to implement its Grant Schemes, viz. the “Project Grant Scheme” and the “Annual Grant Scheme”<sup>1</sup>. The total budget for the above grants schemes has been increased since 2014-15 by about \$21 million or 37% when compared with the funding provision in 2013-14. HKADC has been implementing a wide range of proactive projects to provide local artists and arts groups with opportunities to pursue their creative works and showcase their talents, including participating the Performing Arts Market in Seoul to provide local artists and arts groups with a valuable opportunity to establish global network with overseas arts institutions and explore performing opportunities abroad.

32. HAB will also continue to provide funding support for the nine MPAGs. Apart from recurrent subvention which has been increased in 2012-13 and in 2014-15 respectively to support their development, we also approved a total of 19 projects under the contestable funding pilot scheme for the MPAGs involving a total funding

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<sup>1</sup> HKADC will reorganise the existing three grant schemes, viz. the “One-year/Two-year/Three-year Grant”, “Project Grant” and “Multi-project Grant” schemes into two, the “Project Grant” and the “Annual Grant” schemes.

of \$57 million to provide the MPAGs with additional resources to support initiatives that would enhance manpower training, foster innovative productions and promote cultural exchanges. We will consult the Advisory Committee on Arts Development on the way forward of the funding scheme with a view to further improving support for the MPAGs.

### *Cultural Exchange*

33. We will continue to foster cultural exchanges with the Mainland and Taiwan under the established cultural cooperation frameworks. Apart from continuing to pursue plans under the ‘The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cultural Exchange and Co-operation Development Plan 2014-2018’ (covering areas of nurturing artists through exchange programmes, establishing artistic branding through collaboration in creative new works and developing online cultural information resource network), we will also step up liaison and co-operation with the Ministry of Culture to enhance cultural cooperation between the two places and explore new opportunities for development of our arts sectors. We will also continue to promote cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan through supporting the work of the Hong Kong–Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Committee (HKTCCC). In addition, we will continue to organise ‘Hong Kong Week’ for the fifth time late this year to showcase the artistic creations of local artists and art groups and promote Hong Kong’s arts and culture to the audience in Taiwan.

34. To strengthen our cultural exchange with other places in the Asian Region, we organise the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum in alternate years to facilitate experience sharing on cultural co-operation. We have also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with a number of countries to undertake cultural cooperation and exchange activities. We will continue to enhance cultural exchange and cooperation with other countries (especially countries along the Belt and Road) through the signing of MoU and other channels in a bid to promote the cultural and art development of Hong Kong.

### *Cultural Facilities*

35. We endeavor to provide more cultural facilities in support of the cultural and art development of Hong Kong. To meet the high demand of the East Kowloon communities and the arts sector for performing arts venues, the construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre (the Centre) in Ngau Tau Kok is underway. Foundation works for the Centre commenced in January 2016 and the construction of the

main superstructure is expected to be completed in 2020.

36. The Hong Kong Museum of Art is undergoing major expansion and renovation with a view to enhancing and expanding its facilities. After renovation, the Museum will display more collections of art works, curate major international art exhibitions on world cultures ranging from classical to contemporary ones and nurture a donation culture, thereby enhancing art education.

### *Intangible Cultural Heritage*

37. We will continue to actively safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH) by means of research, preservation, promotion and transmission activities, and through encouraging public engagement. We will select items of high cultural value and urgent need for preservation from the Hong Kong ICH inventory, which covers 480 items, for drawing up the first ICH representative list for Hong Kong. We also plan to set up a resource centre for ICH at the Sam Tung Uk Museum in Tsuen Wan and organise regular thematic exhibitions on ICH.

38. The promotion of the sustainable development of Cantonese opera, a world ICH, will continue to be one of the major areas of work. Apart from nurturing new talents, supporting artistic creation, facilitating the transmission of the artistry of Cantonese opera master artists and broadening the audience base through the Cantonese Opera Development Fund's subvented programmes, we are also developing venues of different scales to meet the growing needs of Cantonese opera. In addition to the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing dedicated for Cantonese opera, the construction of the Xiqu Centre in the West Kowloon Cultural District is expected to be completed in 2017. Upon its opening, the Xiqu Centre will provide more venues for Cantonese opera performances and activities.

### District Administration - Signature Project Scheme

39. The Chief Executive announced in his 2013 Policy Address that a one-off allocation of \$100 million would be earmarked for each district to initiate one to two projects under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) which would address local needs, and have a visible and lasting impact on the community. All the SPS projects are proposed, discussed and agreed by the DCs before they are put to implementation. All of the 18 DCs have reached consensus on the proposals of a total of 27 SPS projects following consultation with local residents and organisations. Of them, funding approval from FC has been obtained for 11 projects.

Another two projects endorsed by PWSC are awaiting FC's funding approval. In addition, seven projects supported by HA Panel in May and July 2015 are awaiting the approval of the PWSC, and then FC. The related construction works will commence as soon as possible after funding approval has been obtained for these projects.

40. Looking ahead, we plan to consult the HA Panel on the remaining seven projects as soon as possible before making submissions to the PWSC and FC.

### **Advice Sought**

41. Members are invited to note the initiatives of HAB as set out above.

Home Affairs Bureau  
January 2016