

**Speaking Note of the Secretary for Home Affairs
at the Special Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council
on 6 April 2017**

Chairman,

I would like to brief Members on the key areas of our work in the coming year in the light of additional resources for home affairs.

Youth Development

2. To further promote the culture of multi-faceted excellence, the Government will inject \$200 million to expand the scale of the “Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship” (the Scholarship). Starting from the university academic year 2018/19, the annual quota for the Scholarship will be doubled to about 40. Moreover, the Government will allocate an additional \$100 million to support international youth exchange activities. We plan to launch the “Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange” to sponsor community organisations in organising international exchange programmes for more young people to join and broaden their horizons.

Sports Development

Kai Tak Sports Park

3. We reported to the Panel on Home Affairs in February 2017 the progress of the Kai Tak Sports Park project and obtained support from Members. We will seek funding approval from both the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee in the second quarter this year and hope that the construction works can commence next year and be completed in 2022 as planned.

Five-year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities

4. We plan to take forward 26 projects in the next five years to provide 54 new or improved sports and recreation facilities, involving a total cost of around \$20 billion. We will also conduct technical feasibility studies for 15 sports and recreation facility projects to prepare for their future implementation. Covering all 18 districts in Hong Kong, these projects will help encourage members of the public to exercise regularly, and can provide more venues for “national sports associations” and athletes to undergo training, thus facilitating the diversification of sports development.

Injection into the Elite Athletes Development Fund (EADF) in support of elite athletes

5. Set up in 2012 by the Government, the EADF aims to support the development of elite sports. Since the establishment of the EADF, the number of elite athletes supported by the Hong Kong Sports Institute has increased to 1 200 and our athletes have been reaching new heights in international competitions. In 2017-18, the Government will inject \$1 billion into the EADF to continue its efforts to support the development of elite sports.

Injection into the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme (HKACEP) in support of retired athletes

6. In 2007-08, a provision of \$8.5 million was allocated to the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China to implement the HKACEP. Since its establishment, the HKACEP has provided assistance and support to over 1 000 serving and retired athletes. In 2017-18, we will inject \$9 million into the HKACEP to provide athletes with support services such as consultation, scholarships, vocational training, language courses and job placement programmes.

New Intelligent Booking and Information System for Public Sports and Recreation Services in Hong Kong

7. We will develop a new intelligent system to allow convenient booking of sports and recreation facilities provided and activities organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department with a view to encouraging members of the public to exercise regularly for a healthy lifestyle.

Arts and Culture

8. The Government launched the Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme last year to widen the sources of funding of arts groups and arts organisations and to encourage community support for arts and cultural development. Matching grants approved under the first round of the Scheme will be disbursed this year.

9. Various facilities in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), including the Xiqu Centre, Art Park, Freespace and M+, will be completed in the next three years. The Government will implement the enhanced financial arrangement for the WKCD with a view to supporting the operation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority on a sustainable basis and the delivery of the remaining arts and cultural facilities, in particular a world-class Music Centre.

Community Building/District Administration

Community Involvement Programme

10. Starting from 2017-18, we will provide an additional \$100 million to make up a total annual provision of over \$460 million to the Community Involvement Programme. With the provision, the 18 District Councils can implement or sponsor more community involvement projects to meet local needs.

Building Management - Phase 3 of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme

11. The Home Affairs Department launched Phase 3 of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme in April this year. The Scheme has been well received by various districts. Under the Scheme, professional property management companies are engaged to provide a range of professional support services to owners of old buildings, including assistance to those of “three nil” buildings in forming owners’ corporations and managing their buildings in a proper manner.

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)

12. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland, the HKSAR Government is organising celebration events under the theme of “Together • Progress • Opportunity” this year. These events, both comprehensive and diversified, include a number of large-scale heritage exhibitions, cultural and arts performances, mega sports events, city dress-up projects and a series of programmes organised for the elderly, the youth, the underprivileged and ethnic minorities. Community groups and organisations are actively responding to our appeal by co-organising with us or organising on their own celebration activities for the participation of the whole community

13. Chairman, my colleagues and I will be happy to answer any questions from Members. Thank you.