

**For information
on 3 November 2017**

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**2017 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of Security Bureau**

This paper elaborates on the Security Bureau's initiatives in the 2017 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

New Initiatives

Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme

2. Fire safety enhancement of old buildings plays a pivotal role in protecting life and property. The Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) provides that the fire safety measures of composite (commercial-cum-domestic) buildings or domestic buildings completed in or before March 1987 shall be enhanced to conform to modern fire safety standards, so as to provide better protection from the risk of fire for occupants and users of, and visitors to these buildings. Since the implementation of the Ordinance, the relevant Government departments have been rendering support to owners of old buildings in respect of difficulties they encountered in carrying out the improvement works. The departments also adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases, and have introduced a series of improvised measures, including the "improvised hose reel system" and lowering of the capacity requirements for supply tanks of the fire service systems, with a view to assisting owners in overcoming technical difficulties associated with the works.

3. To further support owners of old buildings, the Government plans to devote about \$2 billion to launch the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme to subsidise owners of old composite buildings to take fire safety improvement measures as required by the Ordinance. The scheme will be administered by the Urban Renewal Authority. Subsidised buildings may be granted up to 60% of the works costs. We

hope that the scheme would encourage owners to commence and complete works as soon as possible to comply with the requirements under the Ordinance and enhance the fire safety standards of these old buildings.

Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit

4. We must continue our efforts to maintain the safety of Hong Kong. The rampant threat of terrorism around the globe and ever-changing circumstances are bringing challenges to the security landscape in the world, including Hong Kong. Although the terrorist threat level of Hong Kong is still maintained at “moderate”, we must ensure the adequacy of Hong Kong’s counter-terrorism capability and preparedness and continuously enhance them, as well as adopt comprehensive and coordinated inter-departmental counter-terrorism deployment, with a view to reducing the threat caused by terrorism and getting prepared for different emergency situations.

5. We will establish a dedicated Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit in 2018/19 to enhance the coordination work on counter-terrorism. The Unit will be led by Police and composed of members of relevant law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The Unit will serve as the counter-terrorism network and platform of LEAs to monitor the global terrorism trend and regimes on countering terrorism, review and improve counter-terrorism strategies in Hong Kong, and formulate measures and action plans in collaboration with relevant departments. We will also strengthen intelligence-sharing, and enhance our capabilities in intelligence gathering and analysis. In addition, we need to develop specialised training on counter-terrorism, specialised investigation and capability in combating terrorist activities. We will continuously improve the emergency response plans and enhance public alertness and education on emergency preparedness. We will continue to regularly review the counter-terrorism regime of Hong Kong and implement more appropriate measures if necessary to further enhance Hong Kong’s capability and preparedness on counter-terrorism.

Cross-disciplined forces training programme targeting ethnic minority youths

6. Hong Kong is a community that embraces racial harmony. The disciplined forces have always been committed to supporting the ethnic minority (EM) group and providing development opportunity for youths. We will launch a cross-disciplined forces training programme targeting EM youths to provide them with discipline, physical and team building training, to support and assist them to integrate into the community, and to cultivate positive values. The content of the programme, to be led by the Police and supported by other disciplined forces, includes organising a training camp for EM youths at the Junior Police Call Permanent Activity Centre and Integrated Youth Training Camp at Pat Heung (JPC@Pat Heung). After taking part in the camp, participants will visit the facilities of different disciplined forces, conclude their experience, and may consider joining the youth groups of the disciplined and auxiliary forces. We shall develop the programme into a regular one to draw together EM youths who aspire to serve the community, allowing them to unleash their potentials, become young leaders, and pass on the torch.

Ongoing Initiatives

Relaxing Visa Requirements for Nationals of the Belt and Road Countries

7. To foster co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and the Belt and Road countries, the HKSAR Government has relaxed visa requirements to allow Cambodian nationals to apply for visas to take up employment and study in Hong Kong in the first quarter of this year. The Government will continue to consider relaxing the requirements for employment, study and visit visas for nationals of Belt and Road countries with a view to enhancing mutual cooperation and exchange whilst maintaining effective immigration control.

The strategy of handling non-refoulement claims

8. Various measures introduced or being implemented since commencement of the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims in 2016 have shown some results –

Year	Non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants (monthly average)	New non-refoulement claims made (monthly average)
2015	318	421
2016	185 (-42%)	320 (-24%)
2017 (First three quarters)	76 (-59%)	172 (-46%)

9. As at end September 2017, 7 244 claims are pending determination by Immigration Department, a 27% decrease since the end of last year. Although the situation is improving, the Government will continue with the comprehensive review, including sustaining efforts in combating the smuggling of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants to Hong Kong and implementing other pre-arrival control measures, expediting the screening of claims and appeals, expediting the removal of rejected claimants, studying detention measures, and stepping up enforcement targeting unlawful employment and other criminal offences. We will also put forward proposals for amending the Immigration Ordinance to improve the screening procedures for non-refoulement claims and related matters.

Improving the fire safety of old industrial buildings

10. Government departments will continue to inspect industrial buildings and step up law enforcement. In addition, the Government consulted the Panel on Security on the legislative proposal for improving the fire safety of old industrial buildings in April 2017, and Panel Members generally supported the proposal. We are now finalising the details of the legislative proposal, and will introduce the Bill into the Legislative Council for scrutiny after consulting the trades.

Anti-drug efforts

11. We will continue to ensure that the anti-drug efforts can respond to the evolving drug situation. While the total number of reported drug abusers has shown a declining trend in the past few years, the problems of drug abuse among young adults, methamphetamine (commonly known as “Ice”) abuse and hidden drug abuse still call for attention.

12. We will continue with the five-pronged approach, comprising preventive education and publicity (PE&P), treatment and rehabilitation (T&R), legislation and law enforcement, external cooperation and research, in launching suitable anti-drug measures and programmes. Specifically, we will sustain the promotion of community awareness of the drug problem and early identification of hidden drug abusers, and encourage early help-seeking. We will also strengthen PE&P efforts on different target groups. For T&R, we will continue to deepen various services and facilitate collaboration among professions concerned to cater for the needs of different drug abusers. As regards legislation, with three new drugs placed under statutory control in 2017, we will maintain our vigilance to the drug trend and initiate legislative amendments in a timely manner. LEAs will continue to actively combat drug trafficking.

Preparing for the commencement of the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance

13. The Legislative Council passed the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance in June 2017, which establishes the declaration and disclosure system on the cross-boundary transportation of currency and bearer negotiable instruments, thus implementing the relevant recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force. We are making preparation, including putting in place the necessary computer system as well as public education and publicity plans, with a view to commencing the Ordinance in the second half of 2018.

Enhancing emergency rescue and ambulance services

14. We will continue to improve emergency rescue and ambulance services of the Fire Services Department (FSD), promote a fire safety culture in the community and encourage the proper use of emergency ambulance services through public education and publicity.

15. The Fire and Ambulance Services Academy, established in early 2016, is equipped with diversified simulation training facilities. In addition to providing comprehensive professional training for both new recruits and serving personnel of the FSD, it will provide short-term professional training related to fire and ambulance services for other public and private organisations. The Academy aspires to become a leading training centre in the region for fire and ambulance services.

Improving ageing penal facilities and delivering rehabilitation programmes

16. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) will continue to provide a safe custodial environment and implement rehabilitation programmes. We will continue to provide rehabilitation programmes which match the needs of persons in custody to assist with their rehabilitation. The CSD will also strengthen the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project to promote among young people the messages of staying away from crimes and drugs and supporting rehabilitation through a series of community education activities. Furthermore, the CSD will continue to seek short-term and long-term solutions to improve ageing penal facilities.

Security Bureau
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