

**Speaking Note of the Secretary for Home Affairs
at the Special Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council
on 10 April 2019**

Mr Chairman,

I would like to brief Members on the key areas of our work in 2019-20 in the light of additional resources for home affairs.

Arts and Culture

2. This term of the Government have been supporting Hong Kong's arts development financially. In order to enrich the arts and cultural life of our city and consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international cultural metropolis, the Government will, in the coming 5 years, provide an additional funding of \$176 million for the LCSD to host large-scale world-class performing arts programmes, to broadcast some mega shows in different places and to strengthen, in collaboration with District Councils (DCs), community arts activities. Moreover, following last year, in 2019-20, the Government will once again increase its regular subventions to arts groups involving about \$54 million in total. The 9 major performing arts groups will enjoy about a total of 20% increase in two years whereas the Hong Kong Arts Development Council will see an increase in recurrent subvention of over 30% during the same period.

3. In the coming 5 years, the Hong Kong Film Archive will, with the funding provision of \$20 million, restore and digitise an additional 150 carefully selected vintage films, so as to bring these long-lost old films back on stage.

4. The West Kowloon Cultural District is now entering the operational phase. Various arts and cultural facilities are successively coming on stream. The Xiqu Centre held its grand opening this January; the Art Park is opening in phases; and Freespace will be commissioned in mid-2019.

Sports

Enhanced support to “national sports associations” (NSAs)

5. The Government will allocate an additional funding of about \$100 million in total to 60 NSAs in the coming 2 years through the Sports Subvention Scheme. The LCSD is now reviewing the Scheme. Pending the outcome of the review, the Government will provide resources to meet their needs where necessary.

Injection into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund

6. The Government will inject a total of \$250 million into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund to increase scholarship awards in support of the dual-career development of athletes, and will provide more cash incentives for full-time athletes when they retire from sports.

Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme

7. The Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme, approved by the Finance Committee (FC) on 4 January 2019, will be launched this April. It is envisaged that more high level major sports events will be staged in Hong Kong.

Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities

8. The Government will continue to implement the “Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities”. □ In the past 2 legislative sessions, 10 projects have been approved by the FC, such as the Station Square at Kai Tak, and the Swimming Pool Complex and Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai. In the current legislative session, we plan to submit funding proposals for the Hoi Sham Park Extension in Kowloon City and the Improvement of Lam Wah Street Playground and Adjacent Area, Kwun Tong to the Legislative Council.

Kai Tak Sports Park

9. The design-build-operate contract for the Kai Tak Sports Park has been awarded in December 2018, and the relevant construction works are expected to be completed in 2023.

Youth Development

10. The Youth Development Commission (YDC) announced the introduction of 2 new funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund in March. Both schemes are aimed at subsidising non-governmental organisations in Hong Kong to offer more relevant entrepreneurial support and incubation services for Hong Kong young people to start their businesses in the Greater Bay Area, including Hong Kong, as well as further helping them meet their initial capital needs. The YDC has also enhanced various funding schemes for youth exchange, internship and life planning in order to improve project quality and benefit more Hong Kong young people.

11. To provide greater opportunities for young people to participate in policy discussions, the Government launched the Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth in October 2017. In the light of the encouraging response, the Scheme has been regularised and extended to cover more boards/committees, and there will be two rounds of recruitment every year. The assessment and appointment procedures under the regularised Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY) Phase I have been completed with 20 young people appointed as members. The MSSY Phase II, already open for applications in December 2018, offers 20 seats covering 10 boards/committees. A total of 1 409 eligible applications were received during the application period and interviews commenced in early March 2019. We will also invite applicants attending the interviews to authorise the Home Affairs Bureau to include their personal particulars in the Central Personality Index so that relevant bureaux and departments can access such information when considering offering an appointment. The youth (aged 18 to 35) participation rate in advisory and statutory bodies has increased from 7.8% as at the end of 2017 to 9.9% at present, which is gradually approaching the 15% target of the current-term Government.

District Administration

Review of the remuneration package for DC Members

12. The Government has completed the review of the remuneration package for DC members of the next term. The proposals include, amongst others, 5.6% increase in honorarium for DC members, 8.5% increase in Operating Expenses Reimbursement and 20% increase in Setting-up Expenses Reimbursement.

District-led Actions Scheme (DAS)

13. We have been implementing the DAS since April 2016 to tackle district problems which are long-standing, of large magnitude and complex, as well as to capitalise on local opportunities. In 2018-19, a total of 54 projects selected by DCs have been carried out in various districts. We will continue to implement the DAS this year.

Building management

14. Good building management is conducive to improving the living environment and fostering social harmony. Since last September, we have separately issued the new Codes of Practice, the Administrative Guidelines, and the Checklist on Procedural Propriety on Building Management. Moreover, in order to enhance our support for building management, we launched the Pilot Scheme on Advisory Services to Owners' Corporations, the Building Management Dispute Resolution Service and the Central Platform on Building Management last year, and will introduce the Pilot Scheme on Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management and regularise the Pilot Scheme on Advisory Services to Owners' Corporations this year. We are now actively taking forward the amendment exercise for the Building Management Ordinance.

Social Enterprises (SEs) - Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme (the ESR Programme)

15. Since its launch in 2006, the ESR Programme has acted as a catalyst for the development of SEs and provided funding for the establishment of over 200 SEs, where 80% of them continue to operate after the funding period. These SEs have directly employed more than 5 000 people, with 80% of them from socially disadvantaged groups. This shows that the ESR Programme has brought and will bring long-term benefits to society. The Government will provide an additional funding of \$150 million for the ongoing operation of the ESR Programme.

16. My colleagues and I will be happy to answer any questions from Members. Thank you.