

**For information
on 2 November 2018**

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**2018 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of Security Bureau**

Good law and order is the cornerstone of a stable society. The disciplined services of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region are firmly committed to ensuring that Hong Kong continues to be one of the safest cities in the world and that the lives and properties of the public are protected. This paper elaborates on the Security Bureau (SB)'s initiatives in the 2018 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

New Initiatives

Application of innovation and technology to enhance the law enforcement capabilities

2. The fast-changing technology nowadays has presented new opportunities to disciplined services departments in enhancing their management efficiency and improving their services to the public. On the other hand, the rapid technological development is also being coveted and manipulated by criminals, bringing new challenges to law enforcement agencies. In view of this, we must put in place integrated planning and strategy to address the opportunities and challenges in law enforcement brought by technological development. SB will, together with its disciplined services departments, including Correctional Services Department (CSD), Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), Fire Services Department (FSD), Immigration Department (ImmD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), take forward a four-pronged strategy covering “application”, “research and development” (R&D), “analysis” and “fortification” of innovation and technology to enhance the law enforcement capabilities and improve the services for the public.

3. With regard to “application”, we hope to improve the quality of service through application of technologies. CSD plans to introduce smart elements in prisons, and to study and conduct tests in specific areas of individual institutions, using innovation and technology such as video analytics, etc. to modernise correctional facilities, with a view to

enhancing the efficiency of prison management and level of security. C&ED plans to take a progressive approach to examine how to extend the application of innovation and technology including artificial intelligence and big data analysis etc., to enhance enforcement capabilities and clearance efficiencies, and to assist in the detection of contrabands. ImmD plans to implement the Next Generation Application and Investigation Easy Systems in phases starting from 2021. It will use technology to enhance core immigration services (including the processing of visa applications, birth, death and marriage registrations, right of abode applications, assistance requests from Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong, and enforcement cases related to investigation, detention, assessment and removal, etc.)

4. With respect to “R&D” and “analysis”, HKPF plans to enhance the technological support for handling digital evidence, as well as study the industry standards and security loopholes of smart devices with a view to reconstructing the digital crime scene. C&ED also has plans to strengthen the support of computer forensic examination for enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement as well as the capabilities of crime detection and investigation. HKPF will also strengthen the R&D on relevant technologies for combatting crimes and improving government security.

5. In terms of “fortification”, we are committed to ensuring the reliability of the information systems of critical infrastructure and enhancing the fire safety for buildings. HKPF will further upgrade the defence of cyber security to strengthen the protection of critical infrastructure. In addition, FSD plans to make use of big data for analyses of information on fire incidents, fire service equipment in buildings and related inspections, etc., with a view to enhancing fire safety strategies.

Implementation of “Animal Watchers” Scheme

6. The Police are committed to tackling crimes in relation to cruelty to animals, and have set up dedicated investigation teams, comprising Police officers with criminal investigation experience and skills in handling serious crimes, in the 22 Police districts with criminal investigation teams in the territory since April this year.

7. To enlist wider public support and participation in their work to fight against cruelty to animals, the Police will implement the “Animal Watchers” Scheme in the financial year 2019-20 with a view to

agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level in the four directions of education, publicity, investigation and intelligence-gathering, raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals, encouraging the public to report in a timely manner as well as provide information and clues useful for investigations. Meanwhile, the Police will co-ordinate and deepen the mutual understanding and partnership among relevant stakeholders, including relevant government departments, animal welfare organisations and animal lovers.

Amendment to Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115)

8. The Government commenced the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims (comprehensive review) in early 2016. Various measures implemented so far have shown positive results: the numbers of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants and non-refoulement claims have dropped significantly by 80% from the peak; and the number of claims pending screening by ImmD has also dropped significantly by 80% from the peak. As at the end of September 2018, 1 743 claims were pending screening by ImmD. Meanwhile, 6 453 appeals were pending decision.

9. As part of the comprehensive review, SB plans to introduce a bill to amend the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) early next year, following the experience of screening non-refoulement claims under the Unified Screening Mechanism and drawing reference to overseas laws and practices. The bill aims to improve screening procedures in the long run by preventing various means to delay or obstruct the screening process, so as to further increase overall efficiency in handling non-refoulement claims while ensuring that the procedures meet the “high standards of fairness” required.

Combatting Trafficking in Persons

10. In March 2018, a high-level inter-bureau/departmental Steering Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, was established, and the Action Plan to Tackle Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and to Enhance Protection of Foreign Domestic Helpers (FDHs) in Hong Kong (Action Plan) was promulgated. The Action Plan presents multi-faceted measures that are comprehensive, strategic and targeted, covering areas including victim identification, investigation, enforcement, prosecution, victim protection and support, prevention, and partnership with different stakeholders. Some of the initiatives set out in the Action

Plan have already been implemented, including extension of the victims identification mechanism to all 24 police districts in Hong Kong in July 2018. Dedicated teams or officers were also appointed in relevant departments to handle cases relating to TIP and exploitation of FDHs. SB will continue to support the operation of the Steering Committee and work with the Labour and Welfare Bureau to take forward the initiatives set out in the Action Plan.

Launch of the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise

11. As the Next Generation Smart Identity Card System will be implemented soon, ImmD estimates that new smart identity cards will be issued, by the end of this year, to members of the public¹ who apply for registration of persons at the five existing Registration of Persons Offices. Subsequently, a territory-wide identity card replacement exercise will be launched to replace identity cards for all existing smart identity card holders in phases at the nine newly established Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs). ImmD will adopt various facilitation measures in the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise for the needy groups, such as elderly persons and persons with disabilities (PWDs), including the provision of on-site identity card replacement service for elderly persons and PWDs residing in residential care homes, and allowing persons, who proceed to SIDCCs to have their smart identity cards replaced, to bring along persons aged 65 or above in the same trip to replace their identity cards together, so that these elderly persons need not proceed to SIDCCs separately to have their identity cards replaced when their respective age-groups are called up.

Ongoing Initiatives

Safe city

12. The law and order situation in Hong Kong has remained stable in recent years, with the overall number of crime cases last year being the lowest since 1975. The good law and order situation not only makes Hong Kong a very liveable city, but also increases our attractiveness to companies in the Mainland and overseas alike. To ensure that Hong Kong remains one of the safest cities in the world, the Government will continue to stay vigilant in closely monitoring the latest crime trends and

¹ Such as minors reaching the age of 11, youngsters reaching the age of 18, and new arrivals, etc.

taking preventive and resolute enforcement actions, especially in guarding against terrorist activities.

13. An Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit (ICTU) was set up in April 2018 to provide an inter-departmental counter-terrorism (CT) platform on top of the original CT framework to enhance the collation, coordination and analysis of CT intelligence and information, to push forward the CT drills and public education on emergency, and to strengthen the overall CT deployment of Hong Kong. Since its establishment, ICTU has been actively taking forward various tasks, including synergising the CT coordination among the departments, enhancing the CT training, and coordinating relevant departments to roll out an enhanced public education on CT and emergency response.

14. The Government attaches great importance to protecting critical infrastructures. The Critical Infrastructure Security Coordination Centre (CISCC) of the Police coordinates the relevant work, including conducting risk assessment and testing for critical infrastructures in such aspects as day-to-day security and cyber security, providing security advice and support, and encouraging the industry to formulate their standard operating procedures, contingency measures and recovery plans, etc. For the purpose of counter-terrorism (CT), ICTU and Police's CISCC would jointly examine and strengthen CT prevention and protection of critical infrastructures, including the evaluation on the threat of terrorist attacks on certain mega projects and setting up of necessary facilities. Taking the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB), which is under preparation for commissioning as an example, the Police will enhance its CT surveillance capabilities by optimizing the use of the facilities such as incorporating a recording function solely for use by the Police into the Traffic Control and Surveillance System on the HZMB Hong Kong Link Road, so as to complement the patrols and drills for enhancing the CT safety factors.

Anti-drug efforts

15. With the concerted efforts by the Government and stakeholders in the community in fighting drugs together, the number of reported drug abusers has shown a declining trend in the past few years. According to the latest figures of the Central Registry of Drug Abuse, the total number of reported drug abusers in the first half of 2018 decreased by 4% compared with the same period last year; the number of reported drug abusers aged under 21 also registered a decrease of 7%. The fight

against drugs is a long-term haul, and 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 responding to the evolving drug situation. Suitable PE&P and T&R measures will be sustained, covering promotion of community awareness of drug harms, identification of hidden drug abuse, encouragement of early help-seeking, and cross-profession collaboration in helping drug abusers with different needs. Timely legislative amendments will be proposed to bring new drugs within statutory control. Law enforcement efforts will continue.

Improving the fire safety of old buildings

16. We will continue to implement measures to facilitate old composite building owners' early compliance with the fire safety directions issued under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). The \$2-billion Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme was launched in July 2018 to subsidise owners of old composite buildings to undertake the required fire safety improvement works. In addition, FSD has introduced a series of improvised measures for technical facilitation, such as allowing the installation of fire service water tanks of a smaller capacity as well as the modification of the existing fresh water systems or rooftop fresh water tanks for supporting the fire service systems. These measures will enable owners to meet the fire safety requirements more flexibly and economically.

17. With respect to the legislative proposal for improving the fire safety of old industrial buildings, a two-month public consultation exercise was conducted from August to October 2018. We are studying the comments received during the consultation, and will introduce the Bill to the Legislative Council for scrutiny as early as practicable.

Enhancing the self-help capability and survival skills of the public in case of emergencies

18. We will continue to enhance the emergency rescue and ambulance services provided by FSD; and introduce new elements in the public education on fire prevention and ambulance service to enhance

public awareness of emergency preparedness and strengthen self-help capability and survival skills of the public in case of emergencies. FSD will also expand its public education network through different online social platforms.

Development of the new uniform group of “Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders”

19. CSD will continue to provide a safe custodial environment and implement rehabilitation programmes which match the needs of persons in custody. CSD will also continue to organise public education and publicity campaigns to promote support for and acceptance of rehabilitated persons.

20. CSD will strengthen the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project and develop the new uniform group of “Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders” (RPL) to nurture young leaders and develop them into law-abiding and responsible citizens through diversified activities and training. The RPL was formally inaugurated in July 2018 and has 30 members at present. CSD has already begun a second round of recruitment in September 2018 and will continue to recruit more young people.

Providing support for ethnic minorities

21. To support and assist the ethnic minorities (EM) in integrating into the community and cultivating positive values, HKPF together with other disciplined forces have launched a regular cross-disciplined forces training programme targeting EM youths to provide them with discipline, physical and team building training. To further support EM in integrating into the community, the disciplined forces will enhance recruitment promotion and outreaching efforts to encourage EM to join the disciplined forces.

**Security Bureau
October 2018**