

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)569/19-20
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 4 November 2019, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present :

Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH(Chairman)
Hon AU Nok-hin (Deputy Chairman)
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Members absent : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mr LAU Kong-wah, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Patrick LI Pak-chuen, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, JP
Commissioner for Sports
Home Affairs Bureau

Miss Janice TSE Siu-wa, JP
Director of Home Affairs

Mr Vincent LIU Ming-kwong, JP
Director of Leisure & Cultural Services

Ms Ida LEE Bik-sai, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Leisure Services)

Ms Elaine YEUNG Chi-lan
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Culture)

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

Staff in attendance : Miss Connie AU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mr Dennis HO
Council Secretary (2) 3

Mrs Fanny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

Action

I. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address
[LC Paper No. CB(2)24/19-20(01)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)24/19-20(01)].

(Post-meeting note: SHA's speaking note tabled at the meeting was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)146/19-20(01) on 5 November 2019.)

2. Members noted that a submission provided by the Hong Kong Unison Limited was tabled at the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The submission was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)146/19-20(02) on 5 November 2019.)

Discussion

Youth development

3. Some members including Ms YUNG Hoi-yan, Mr MA Fung-kwok and Ms Claudia MO shared the view that the Administration's paper showed that the Administration seemed to have no reflection on the recent social incidents and failed to suggest any effective measures in this regard. Mr Junius HO considered that the Administration's work in youth development was not effective in addressing the problems faced by the youth. Mr IP Kin-yuen and the Deputy Chairman enquired about the initiatives implemented by the Youth Development Commission ("YDC") in response to the recent social incidents. They also enquired how the Administration was going to enhance the operation of YDC. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Christopher CHEUNG considered that the membership of YDC should be balanced and broadly representative of the young people with different backgrounds. They suggested that grassroots young people should be represented in YDC so that the Administration could better understand their views and concerns. In addition, the system for appointment of members to YDC should be open and transparent.

Action

4. SHA responded that youth development was one of the major policy responsibilities of the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") and it would continue to do its best in addressing young people's concern. He said that YDC was a high level steering committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") to foster cross-bureau and cross-sectoral collaboration and strengthen communication with young people. He further said that CS had met with members of YDC several times in the past few months. YDC members had put forth a number of suggestions, including arranging discussions on topical issues (e.g. land supply and housing) with Secretaries of the relevant bureaux and young people, and providing dialogue platforms to listen to the views of young people. SHA said that some of the suggestions had already been implemented. SHA further said that YDC consisted of eight ex-officio members and 34 non-official members from different backgrounds. Three members of YDC were appointed through the Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth. Besides, more than half of the YDC members were aged 35 or below at the time of appointment.

5. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that although the overall ratio of youth members of advisory and statutory bodies had increased from 7.8% as at end of 2017 to 10.9% as at mid-2019, only 50 members of these bodies were appointed through the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth ("MSSY"). This was too few considering that there were over 500 government advisory committees with a total of about 5 000 seats. Mr SHIU Ka-fai said that an applicant of MSSY had told him that the selection interview was as short as two minutes. Mr SHIU considered that the applicants' enthusiasm in serving the community should be respected and more time should be allowed for them to demonstrate their abilities at the interviews.

6. SHA explained that the Administration had received about 1 200 applications in Phase III of MSSY applying for the 20 vacancies on 10 government advisory committees. All valid applicants were invited to an interview. Although the first interview might be of shorter duration, a more in-depth second interview would be conducted for applicants shortlisted-listed after the first one. Furthermore, the Government had invited all interviewees of MSSY to authorize HAB to include their personal particulars in the Central Personality Index database so that bureaux/departments might consider these candidates for appointments to various advisory committees under their purview. The Government expected that the overall ratio of youth members of advisory and statutory bodies would continue to increase through these efforts.

Action

7. SHA said that in order to help society move forward after months of protests, the Government would listen more extensively to the views of people from all walks of life with different stances and backgrounds. SHA further said that the Government would invite community leaders, professionals and academics to examine and review the society's deep-seated problems. Mr Michael TIEN was of the view that the review itself would not take Hong Kong out of the current impasse unless it was followed by appropriate concrete actions on the part of the Administration. Mr SHIU Ka-fai suggested that the Administration might enlist the assistance of social workers in reaching out to those young people who had no trust in the Government. SHA said that the Government was committed to restoring order and safety in society.

8. Mr SHIU Ka-chun expressed concern that according to media reports, a number of co-working spaces under the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth had either closed or had a low occupancy rate. He said that some users commented that there were too many restrictions imposed on them and the rental was not low. He requested the Administration to look into it.

Sports development

9. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern that the suggestions of granting tax concession to business sponsorship for sports, making arrangements for live broadcast of local sports events on a free television channel, and expanding the scope of funding for athletes in non-elite sports (e.g. rope skipping) had not been taken forward in the Policy Address. Mr CHU Hoi-dick was disappointed that the sports centre in Kam Tin near Kam Tin Clinic ("Sports Centre at Kam Tin Pat Heung"), which was proposed to be built some 20 years ago, had not yet been scheduled for construction. While there would be development in Kam Tin South, a site had also been earmarked for another sports centre. He said that the Administration should plan for the provision of sports facilities early so as to meet the needs of the community. SHA responded that the under the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities, 26 projects would be launched and technical feasibility studies for another 15 projects (including the proposed Sports Centre at Kam Tin Pat Heung) would be carried out.

10. The Deputy Chairman and Mr Holden CHOW were concerned that a number of sports events, such as the New World Harbour Race 2019 and the Nike All Hong Kong Schools Jing Ying Basketball Tournament 2019-2020 ("the Basketball Tournament"), were cancelled or postponed in recent months. The Deputy Chairman queried why certain sports events held recently (e.g. the Sun Hung Kei 10K Challenge) had been required to give

Action

notifications to the Police in accordance with the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245). He pointed out that a gathering or an assembly of persons convened or organized exclusively for recreational purpose was excluded from the meaning of "meeting" in section 2 of Cap. 245. He considered that HAB should try its best to ensure that all major sports events and inter-school competitions could be held as scheduled in the coming months. Mr Holden CHOW also expressed concern that the Hong Kong Sevens might be affected if the social situation remained unstable. He hoped that the Government could stop violence and curb disorder expeditiously.

11. The Commissioner for Sports ("C for S") responded that due to the recent social situation, four "M" Mark events in the second half of 2019 had been cancelled or postponed. However, several major sports events including the 2019 World Rowing Coastal Championships which was held in Hong Kong for the first time as well as the YONEX-SUNRISE Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2019, the Hong Kong Open 2019 (Golf) and the 2019/2020 TISSOT UCI Track Cycling World Cup Hong Kong, China, would still be held as scheduled in November and December 2019. C for S said that preparatory work of the Hong Kong Marathon, the Masters of Hong Kong (Equestrian) and the Hong Kong Sevens scheduled to be held in early 2020 were underway. As for the Basketball Tournament, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") would provide the necessary assistance to the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation if it wished to reschedule the event to a later date.

Transforming public play spaces

12. Mr Vincent CHENG and Mr Tony TSE welcomed the Administration's initiative to transform more than 170 public play spaces ("PPSs") over the next five years to make them more innovative and fun and to meet the need of the residents. They enquired about the criteria for selecting which PPSs to be modified and the timetable. They also asked whether the estimated expenditure of about \$686 million would be adequate for the transformation work. Pointing out that the inclusive playground in Tuen Mun Park was well received by the public, Mr CHENG hoped that more inclusive playgrounds could be provided in other PPSs. Mr CHU Hoi-dick suggested that fitness facilities suitable for use by adults should be provided in PPSs. The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") responded that the Administration would take into account a number of factors in deciding which PPSs to be transformed including the usage and location of the PPS concerned, the views of the district as well as the demand for such a facility from the local community. There were about 170 PPSs to be transformed, 22 had an area of over 400 square metres and

Action

the rest were below 400 square metres. DLCS said that 17 transformation projects would be launched in the first year of the programme and depending on the size of the PPS concerned, the project cost would vary from several million dollars to ten million dollars.

District administration

13. Mr LUK Chung-hung and Mr Tony TSE said that while the District-led Actions Scheme ("DAS") was conducive to addressing district issues at the local level, the proposed increase in the annual recurrent provision for DAS from \$63 million to \$80 million from 2020-2021 onwards might not be enough to enable District Management Committees ("DMCs") to tackle effectively district problems which were long-standing, of large magnitude, and complex. They suggested that the Administration should allocate more resources for DAS. Mr LUK enquired if the Administration had any plan to introduce a scheme similar to the Signature Project Scheme ("SPS") to address local needs. Mr LUK and Mr MA Fung-kwok suggested that the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") should coordinate the departments concerned in cleaning-up the bills and posters illegally affixed to or graffiti drawn on government land in various districts.

14. SHA responded that with a view to responding to the public aspirations more effectively, the annual recurrent provision for DAS would be increased to \$80 million from 2020-2021 onwards to further address long-standing problems and capitalize on opportunities in the districts. The Administration considered that district problems such as those relating to the environmental hygiene and district management could be tackled in a more flexible manner through DMCs chaired by District Officers, with the active participation of District Councils ("DCs") and the collaboration of relevant government departments. The Director of Home Affairs ("DHA") said that besides the annual allocation for DAS, a one-off allocation of \$8 billion had been earmarked in the 2018-2019 Budget for the 18 districts to carry out and speed up the implementation of works projects long desired by the districts. On the possibility of introducing a new scheme similar to SPS to enhance local engagement, SHA said that the Administration would consult the new term DC in considering the way forward.

15. The Chairman said that the ward offices of a number of DC members had been vandalized in the past few months. He said that as the current term DC was approaching the end and many DC members had almost exhausted the Setting-up Expenses Reimbursement, he wondered if the

Action

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Administration would consider providing a special allowance to those members so that they could carry out the necessary repair to their ward offices/replace the damaged equipment in the remainder of their term. SHA responded that the Administration would explore if any assistance could be provided to the DC members concerned under the established mechanism.

Building management

16. Mr Vincent CHENG said that the hygiene conditions of many "three-nil" buildings were very poor and the Administration should step-up measures to assist the owners/residents concerned in addition to regularizing the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme ("BMPASS"). He suggested that the Administration should assist owners/owners' corporations ("OCs") to apply for assistance under various building maintenance schemes such as the Operation Building Bright.

17. DHA responded that the Administration had launched a series of support measures to promote good building management in the past few years, including a two-year free pilot Building Management Dispute Resolution Service to provide an effective and efficient way to resolve building management disputes with the participation of a retired judge in the mediation process and a three-year pilot Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management ("FOLAS") to assist OCs in the conduct of general meetings. DHA further said that the Administration would enhance BMPASS and consider providing incentives for "three-nil" buildings to form OCs (e.g. offering a one-off cleaning service for the building concerned).

18. Mr MA Fung-kwok and Mr CHU Hoi-dick shared the view that HAD should assist in handling the recent conflicts among the Police, property management staff and residents in relation to the law enforcement by the Police in private housing estates. Mr CHU asked whether the District Building Management Liaison Teams ("DBMLT") of HAD would attend OC meetings held for the purpose of discussing such issues and whether HAD would consider providing guidelines setting out the relevant legal rights and obligations of frontline property management staff to facilitate them to handle similar situations in future. DHA responded that DBMLT would render assistance to OCs in holding general meetings and eligible OCs could also apply for FOLAS if necessary. She added that to her understanding, some property management professional bodies and property management companies had already discussed recent problems in relation to private housing estates management.

Action

Arts and culture

19. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that in recent months, a number of cultural and arts activities had been cancelled or rescheduled, resulting in a drop in the income of the sector. He asked whether or not the Administration would introduce measures to assist the cultural and arts sector. SHA responded that the Administration would provide hirers of facilities of civic centres under the management of LCSD with a 50% basic reduction of hire charges for a period of six months from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 to support artists and cultural organizations.

Support services for ethnic minorities

20. Mr CHU Hoi-dick said he noted that an Islamic organization had submitted an application to the District Lands Office a few years ago for the proposed use of the vacant premises of Ying Yin Catholic Primary School in Yuen Long as an Islamic school. While HAB had rendered policy support to the application, there was objection from local residents during the consultation process. Mr CHU hoped that HAD could intervene early and help resolve misunderstanding to facilitate this kind of applications from ethnic minorities ("EMs") in future. Mr CHU also expressed concern about the lack of a mosque in the New Territories ("NT").

Admin.

21. SHA responded that HAB had received a few applications from Islamic organizations for provision of venues for religious purposes in NT. In respect of applications for use of vacant government land for religious purpose, SHA explained that the role of HAB/HAD was to provide policy support and consult the district on the proposed land use where appropriate. SHA undertook to look into the case mentioned by Mr CHU and follow up as appropriate.

22. Referring to the submission from the Hong Kong Unison Limited tabled at the meeting, Ms Claudia MO considered that the Support Service Centres for EMs should be open for use by locals as well to facilitate the integration of EMs into the community. She requested the Administration to consider the views and suggestions put forward in the submission.

Staffing proposal for the Recreation and Sport Branch at HAB

23. Members noted the proposed extension of the supernumerary post of the Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport)² for three years from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023 as set out in paragraphs 16 to 18 of Annex I to the Administration's paper and raised no particular view on it.

Action

The Chairman said he noted that members did not raise objection to the submission of the staffing proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for further consideration.

II. Any other business

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:15 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
23 January 2020