# 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1186/19-20 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB2/PL/SE

# **Panel on Security**

# Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 5 May 2020, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present

: Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP (Chairman) Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon Claudia MO

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP

Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Hon IP Kin-yuen

Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP

Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP

Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Hon Alvin YEUNG

Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Hon HO Kai-ming Hon LAM Cheuk-ting

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Hon SHIU Ka-chun

Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP

Hon Tanya CHAN

Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai Hon KWONG Chun-yu Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent : Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon HUI Chi-fung

Public Officers attending

: <u>Item III</u>

Mr TANG Ping-keung, PDSM

Commissioner of Police

Mr LI Chi-hang

Director of Crime and Security

Hong Kong Police Force

Mr Almerick NG Cheuk-hang

Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Wing Headquarters

Clerk in : Miss Betty MA

**attendance** Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in attendance

: Mr Timothy TSO Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Ms Gloria TSANG Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Ms Priscilla LAU Council Secretary (2) 1

Ms Kiwi NG

Legislative Assistant (2) 1

Action

# I. Information papers issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)535/19-20(01), CB(2)566/19-20(01), CB(2)606/19-20(01), CB(2)648/19-20(01), CB(2)628/19-20(01), CB(2)678/19-20(01), CB(2)705/19-20(01), CB(2)717/19-20(01), CB(2)779/19-20(01), CB(2)793/19-20(01), CB(2)804/19-20(01), CB(2)816/19-20(01), CB(2)860/19-20(01), CB(2)878/19-20(01), CB(2)895/19-20(01), CB(2)907/19-20(01) and CB(2)908/19-20(01))

<u>Members</u> noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting:

- (a) joint letter dated 13 January 2020 from Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr Dennis KWOK, Mr Alvin YEUNG, Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr Jeremy TAM and the Administration's response dated 6 February 2020;
- (b) letter dated 21 January 2020 from Mr CHU Hoi-dick;
- (c) joint letter dated 22 January 2020 from Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr Jeremy TAM and the Administration's response dated 9 March 2020;
- (d) joint letter dated 28 February 2020 from Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr Dennis KWOK, Mr Alvin YEUNG, Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr Jeremy TAM and the Administration's response dated 9 April 2020;
- (e) letter dated 10 March 2020 from Mr SHIU Ka-chun and the Administration's response dated 23 April 2020;

- (f) memorandum from the Public Accounts Committee regarding recoverability of outstanding advances to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- (g) letter dated 19 March 2020 from Mr Dennis KWOK and the Administration's response dated 20 April 2020;
- (h) letter dated 1 April 2020 from Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the Administration's response dated 28 April 2020;
- (i) information paper provided by the Administration on the proposed amendments to the First Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) and Schedule 2 to the Control of Chemicals Ordinance (Cap. 145);
- (j) memorandum from the Panel on Public Service regarding enactment of legislation to prohibit acts of insulting public officers; and
- (k) letter dated 28 April 2020 from Mr HUI Chi-fung.

# II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)898/19-20(01) and (02))

#### Regular meeting in June 2020

- 2. <u>Members</u> agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 2 June 2020 at 2:30 pm:
  - (a) Proposed Member's Bill entitled "Criminal Jurisdiction (Amendment) Bill 2019";
  - (b) Strengthening the prevention and tackling of terrorist activities; and
  - (c) Work progress and planning of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for 2020 to 2021.

#### Local visit

3. The Chairman said that the visit to San Uk Ling Holding Centre, which had been cancelled twice due to the latest situation of Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic, would be rescheduled for the morning of 26 May 2020. Members would be informed of the arrangement in due course.

#### III. Crime situation in 2019

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)644/19-20(03) and (04))

- 4. <u>Commissioner of Police</u> ("CP") briefed members on the overall law and order situation of Hong Kong in 2019, as detailed in the paper provided by the Police. He also briefed members on the crime situation in the first quarter of 2020, as well as the crime figures relating to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" incidents. He pointed out that some people had connived, romanticized or even supported those who committed crime and used violence, which had gradually eroded the law-abiding value of the city, and in turn instigated more people to take part in illegal and violent acts over the past 10 months. Meanwhile, some people were enjoying political benefits behind.
- 5. <u>Members</u> noted an updated background brief entitled "Crime situation in Hong Kong" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat.

#### Crime situation since the "anti-extradition amendment bill" incidents

- 6. Mr Jeremy TAM expressed concern about the use of force by police officers since the "anti-extradition amendment bill" incidents in June 2019. Dr Helena WONG cited a number of incidents over the past 10 months and said that many people were dissatisfied with the use of excessive force by police officers. She asked about the ways to stop and curb Police's violence. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern about the public dissatisfaction with the Police since the "anti-extradition amendment bill" incidents.
- 7. <u>CP</u> stressed that police officers would use force only when there were protesters performing violent acts. He further said that the dissemination of fake news and fake information smearing the Police had caused part of the public in misunderstanding Police's actions.

- 8. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> expressed concern about Police's use of force towards reporters/journalists during different protests and the decline in freedom of press in Hong Kong. <u>CP</u> responded that different work focus between the Police and journalists might be the cause of misunderstandings and conflicts.
- 9. Mr Andrew WAN cited the incidents of assaults which respectively occurred in Yuen Long Station of West Rail Line of the MTR Corporation Limited on 21 July 2019 ("the 721 incident"), and in North Point on 11 August 2019 ("the 811 incident"), as well as the incident in which a Legislative Council Member was attacked by people with different political views in Admiralty on 30 June 2019 ("the 630 incident"), and expressed grave concern about Police's unfair enforcement therein. CP stressed that the Police would handle every case in a fair, just and impartial manner in accordance with the law. Specifically, if new evidence came to light in respect of the 630 incident and the 811 incident, the Police would investigate according to the new evidence.
- 10. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> expressed concern about the investigation progress of the 721 incident. <u>CP</u> explained that various violent acts were observed during the 721 incident. The Police had been investigating the incident in a serious manner, and would continue to do so. So far, 37 people were arrested and seven of them were prosecuted.
- 11. Ms Tanya CHAN asked whether the handling of the 721 incident, including the delay of 39 minutes of frontline police officers to the site, would be investigated. CP said that the Complaints Against Police Office had received 53 complaints relating to the 721 incident. A dedicated team had been set up to strictly follow up these complaints. Ms CHAN further said that a police officer had told her that a field command centre was set up in respect of the 721 incident. She sought information on the operation details of the command centre. CP said that there was a two-tier command structure, respectively in Yuen Long Station and New Territories North Regional Headquarters. As requested by Ms CHAN, CP agreed to provide in writing details of the command structure, including the commander of the Police and its operation time.

Police

12. <u>Mr LAM Cheuk-ting</u> declared that he had filed a civil claim to CP in respect of the 721 incident. He considered that CP was giving nonsense accusations at the meeting and asked whether any political figures had been arrested because of inciting others to commit crime over the past 10 months. CP said that he did not subscribe to Mr LAM's

view, adding that some people were disseminating fake information smearing the Police, putting the blame on the Government and making various excuses to justify illegal acts, which instigated the youngsters to take part in illegal and violent acts.

Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Dr Fernando CHEUNG, however, 13. considered that CP was inciting hatred. They requested CP to provide evidence to support his earlier saying of political benefits. Mr CHAN said that the protests over the past 10 months were related to "anti-extradition amendment bill" at the beginning, but later turned into dissatisfaction at Police's use of force. In return, the Police had received many benefits, including a huge amount of overtime ("OT") allowance, a substantial increase in budget and manpower resources. CP, however, pointed out that police officers did not look forward to OT allowance. It was only because Police had to handle violent incidents that OT was incurred. Mr CHAN further expressed concern on the number of dead body found between June and September 2019, and sought information on the Police's follow-up actions. CP stressed that the unnatural death and dead body found cases would be further investigated by the Police and forensic pathologist in a serious manner, the conclusion of whether a death case was 'suspicious' was not drawn solely by the Police. requested by Mr CHAN, CP agreed to provide in writing relevant figures on death cases.

Police

- 14. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern about the Police's collusion with the triads. In view of the result of a public opinion poll that 40% of the respondents gave zero mark to the Police, Mr WU and Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked whether consideration would be given to setting up an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incidents, with a view to rebuilding Police's reputation. CP stressed that he did not agree to the accusation of Police's collusion with the triads, adding that accusation without evidence support was a kind of incitement. He further considered that the Independent Police Complaints Council ("IPCC"), with its experience and expertise, was the most suitable authority to conduct the thematic study on public order events since June 2019.
- 15. Mr Alvin YEUNG expressed dissatisfaction at the Police's unlawful enforcement of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) ("the Regulation") in a shopping mall on 26 April 2020. CP responded that the Regulation was put in place to maintain social distancing among

members of the public amid the severe situation of COVID-19. As violations to the Regulation were reported, and unauthorized assembly might be involved, Police had to take enforcement actions accordingly.

- 16. Mr POON Siu-ping said that Hong Kong used to be one of the safest cities in the world. However, he was worried over the increase in crime figure and the drop in overall detection rate in 2019. While commending Police's efforts over the year, he was also concerned about the measures taken to combat youth crime and to improve the relationship between the Police and members of the public. Mr YIU Si-wing was concerned about the rise of 9.1% of violent crime and the drop of 13.8% of detection rate of violent crime in 2019. He asked about ways to strengthen detection rate and combat youth crime. Dr Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about the increase in proportion of students and youngsters arrested in 2019.
- 17. <u>CP</u> explained that the decrease in detection rate was mainly attributable to the fact that many of the culprits were suited up and masked to conceal their identity when committing offences. They would also destroy the closed circuit television system nearby, making it more difficult to conduct investigation. To tackle youth crime, <u>CP</u> considered that the Police, apart from investigating the arrested youths, would pursue those people inciting them. The parents and teachers were appealed to cultivate correct values among students and youngsters. In parallel, the Police would strengthen the law-abiding value of youths, increase the transparency of Police's work and enhance Police's professionalism while at work and in execution of duties. For juveniles arrested, the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme would be considered to provide them with appropriate counselling service.
- 18. Mr Christopher CHEUNG declared that he was the Vice Chairman of IPCC. He said that riots over the past 10 months were reversing the good law and order that Hong Kong used to maintain, and asked about the Police's measures to curb the escalating violent acts committed by some radical protesters, as well as ways to restore social order. Mr HO Kai-ming expressed concern about the increase in crime figures in 2019, as well as the deteriorating law and order situation in Hong Kong.
- 19. <u>CP</u> responded that the increase in crime reports was attributable to a rise in crimes directly related to the radical protests stemmed from the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incidents, and a surge in crimes in which criminals were taking advantage of the thinning out of crime

prevention work and resources. The gradually eroded law-abiding value might also account for the reason of increase in crime figure. He stressed that the Police would deploy more officers for anti-crime patrol, upgrade Police's equipment, strengthen stringently enforcing the law and improving the overall law-abiding awareness of the society. He also appealed to the public to condemn violence together. Mr KWOK Wai-keung called on members of the public to stop violence, restore the social order and reinstate the sense of security we used to have in Hong Kong.

- 20. Mr Tony TSE expressed regret over the increased crime figure in the second half of 2019, and sought information on Police's deployment and plan for patrol in the future, in particular the personal safety of police officers performing patrol. The Chairman hoped that the Police would strengthen its patrol duties to fight against crimes. CP said that majority of officers had returned to frontline and resumed patrol duties since March subsequent to the winding down of violent protests. To safeguard the personal safety of officers on duty, a risk-based approach had been adopted.
- 21. Mr Holden CHOW, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Mr KWOK Wai-keung and Mr CHAN Han-pan concurred to CP's view that some people were romanticizing violent acts and expressing hostile views against the Police, which instigated more people to commit crime. In view of the tense police public relations, Mr CHOW considered that the Police should upgrade its equipment to safeguard the personal safety of police officers on duty. CP admitted that attack against Police had been serious and unprecedented over the past 10 months. Hence, corrosive-resistant and cut-resistant uniforms were under study. Furthermore, the specialized crowd management vehicles were found to be effective and more of them would be procured.
- 22. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung cast doubt about the intention of some legal practitioners in inciting others to take part in illegal and violent acts, and asked whether instigating others to join assembly constituted an offence. Mr CHAN Han-pan asked about Police's handling of relevant incitement cases. CP said that whether a case would constitute an offence depended on the evidence collected, and stressed that every case would be handled in accordance with the laws. In response to Mr LEUNG's further enquiry, CP said that the boy shouting loud with foul languages at Mong Mok on 1 May 2020 had been arrested for committing offence against public order.

- 23. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the drastic increase of cases of offences against public order in 2019 when compared with 2018. She also expressed concern about the disclosure of personal data obtained from a data user without the data user's consent. Noting that many fake messages were found on the internet which might incite youths to commit crime, she asked about the measures taken by the Police to tackle the problem. CP advised that disclosure of personal data without the data user's consent and inciting others to commit crime constituted an offence. The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau had been dedicated to investigating the cases and would continue to do so, despite the challenges and difficulties encountered. With its effort, some offenders had been prosecuted.
- 24. <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u> was concerned about a lecturer of the Education University of Hong Kong ("EdUHK") disseminating misleading information smearing Police on a television programme. <u>CP</u> responded that the Communications Authority had considered the case and made a decision that the remarks made in the programme were irresponsible. Accordingly, the Police had issued a letter to EdUHK expressing their concerns.
- 25. Mr LUK Chung-hung and Ms Elizabeth QUAT requested the Police to exert all efforts to investigate the heinous case in which a man was poured with inflammable liquid and set into fire in Ma On Shan on 11 November 2019.
- 26. Ms Alice MAK expressed concern about the power of security guards at private premises, including shopping arcades and housing estates. She requested CP to clearly state relevant power and law. explained that Hong Kong law applied to all places in the territory and nowhere was above the law. If anyone contravened the law anywhere in Hong Kong, it was the statutory duty of the Police to take actions. Under section 10, section 50(3) and (4) of the Police Force Ordinance (Cap. 232), the Police had the power to enter any public or private premises, including housing estates, shopping arcades, Mass Transit Railway stations, schools, etc upon reasonable doubt that a criminal offence had occurred. The Police were very concerned about security guards being attacked and would exert all efforts to investigate every In response to Ms MAK's request of enhancing single case. communication with the security/property management industry, CP said that the Police had conducted trainings with different property management companies.

## Home-grown terrorism

- Mr LUK Chung-hung and Ms Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern 27. about the emerging "homegrown terrorism" threat that severely endangered the safety of the general public. Mr LUK asked about the Police's investigation progress in this aspect, in particular the seizure of an AR15 long-range rifle. Ms QUAT asked about the measures taken by the Police to tackle "homegrown terrorism" and strengthen law-abiding value of youths. CP advised that to his knowledge, the ammunitions were mainly ordered and delivered from overseas, while some explosives were homemade by following "weapon making handbooks" on the internet. The Police and the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") had strengthened relevant operation and spot-check. Besides, the Police would continue to enhance intelligence gathering and curb those core radicals using illegal ammunitions and explosives to commit crimes. He reiterated that members of the public should condemn violence together.
- 28. Mr KWOK Ka-ki cast doubt about the genuineness of the bombs and explosives found at various spots recently. CP said that Mr KWOK's saying was totally irresponsible, and stressed that the emerging "homegrown terrorism" was definitely threatening public safety.
- 29. <u>Dr Prsicilla LEUNG</u> was glad to learn that several cases suspected to be related to "homegrown terrorism" were smashed recently. Given the recent seizure of chemicals and explosives in various spots and the frequent use of patrol bombs over the past 10 months, <u>Mr CHAN Chun-ying</u> asked whether consideration would be given to incorporating "terrorism attack" in the list of crimes in the yearly crime statistics. He further sought information on relevant publicity work to raise public awareness on the risk of terrorism. <u>CP</u> responded that the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit under the Security Bureau ("SB") was responsible for publishing relevant pamphlets and leaflets, as well as organizing counter-terrorism drills.
- 30. <u>The Chairman</u> appreciated Police's efforts in handling and investigating recent cases concerning homemade bombs. He expressed concern about the source of raw materials, power of bombs and the purpose of placing explosives. He also asked whether frontline police officers were well-equipped to handle such dangerous situation. <u>CP</u> responded that some rioters would express their dissatisfaction with the

society and the government by causing social panic. He said that a bomb found near a secondary school last year could be more powerful than those in Boston Marathon bombings in 2013. Most of the raw materials of these explosives could be sourced in Hong Kong, despite some materials were controlled items. The Police, the Fire Services Department and C&ED would enhance relevant importation and control measures.

# Robbery, burglary and theft

- 31. Mr LUK Chung-hung and Mr POON Siu-ping expressed concern about the substantial rise of robbery and burglary cases in 2019 compared with 2018. Mr Frankie YICK expressed concern about the increase of snatching cases in 2019.
- 32. <u>CP</u> said that the increase of robbery, burglary and snatching cases in 2019 was mainly attributable to the thinning out of anti-crime patrol duties and resources to cope with public order events since the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incidents. It was also observed that some members of the public were getting less obedient to the laws. <u>CP</u> reiterated that the law-abiding value in Hong Kong had to be strengthened.

#### Serious drug offences

- 33. <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> asked about the situation of serious drug offences in 2019. <u>CP</u> responded that proactive actions against drug offences were reduced because large amount of police resources had been re-deployed to cope with the public order events stemmed from the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incidents since June 2019. Nevertheless, he stressed that the Police would not tolerate any drug offences.
- 34. Mr CHAN Chun-ying referred to paragraph 13 of the Police's paper and expressed concern on the increase in seizures of various drugs in 2019 despite a drop in the number of serious drugs cases and number of persons arrested. CP explained that while anti-drug operation on street level was reduced, Police's efforts in combating drugs at source were maintained. The Chairman expressed acknowledgement to Police's efforts in combating drug offences.

# **Deception**

- 35. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that while a slight drop of deception cases was recorded in 2019, the pecuniary loss of telephone deception had remarkably increased by 1.5 folds. He sought information on the Police's measures to combat deception cases and the details of cases, including victims' age and relevant detection rate.
- 36. <u>CP</u> responded that despite a slight drop of deception cases was observed in 2019, a remarkable increase was recorded in the first quarter of 2020. Apart from actively investigating the cases, <u>CP</u> said that enhancing relevant publicity and public education were important. The Police had also worked closely with the banking industry to prevent any potential deception cases. As regards the detection rate, <u>CP</u> agreed to provide relevant information in writing.

#### Crime committed by police officers

- 37. Mr Jeremy TAM, Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr SHIU Ka-chun sought information on the number of police officers arrested in 2019. CP responded that 24 police officers were arrested in 2019, represented a drop of about 46% as compared with 45 arrested police officers in 2018. The 24 officers were involved in 23 cases, including six cases relating to theft and deception, two cases on sexual offences, five other cases including possession of drugs, criminal intimidation, neglect of child, wounding and assault, three miscellaneous cases, five cases involving the Independent Commission Against Corruption and two cases involving C&ED.
- 38. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> expressed concern over a recent case that a Station Sergeant suspected of perverting the course of justice. <u>CP</u> said that he was disappointed and the incident was unfair to other officers who had all along dedicated to their duty. He stressed that any breach of the law by police officers would not be tolerated. The officer concerned was arrested and had been interdicted.

#### <u>Issues relating to unauthorized building works</u>

39. Mr Jeremy TAM, Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern about recent media reports over police officers, including alleged unauthorized building works ("UBWs") at the premises of CP and other officers, and a high-ranking officer was found living in a

Police

flat under the government land licence. Mr TAM asked whether the officers concerned would be suspended from duties for investigation. Ms Claudia MO expressed concern about the spouse of that high-ranking officer using a reporter's photo as the profile picture on a social media platform.

- 40. CP clarified that the report on UBWs on his previous rented flat was deviated from facts. He explained that he had rented a unit in Kowloon Tong in 2016 and subsequently received notification from the Buildings Department ("BD") in 2017 that there were UBWs on the rooftop of the unit which must be removed. He immediately informed the owner of the removal order and requested the owner to handle. Nevertheless, the owner had not complied with the order. He hence moved out from the unit in June 2019. In response to Mr KWONG Chun-yu's follow up enquiry as to whether CP would make apologies to the public on his inappropriate handling of the matter, CP said that with the benefit of hindsight, he could have handled it in a more appropriate As regards other cases reported by the media, CP noted that the Lands Department and the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data were investigating respective cases. The Police were also looking into its internal guidelines and the Civil Service Regulations accordingly. response to Mr CHU Hoi-dick's follow up enquiry, CP clarified that he did not notice the UBWs on the rooftop before receiving BD's notification.
- 41. Mr LUK Chung-hung, Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Mr HO Kai-ming said that cases of UBWs should not be treated with different standards, in particular the apartment of a Member of the Legislative Council was also reported to be involved in UBWs. Ms Claudia MO stressed that she did not involve in any cases of UBWs.

#### Other issues

42. Noting that the Police had strengthened the enforcement actions against illegal carriage of passengers for reward by vehicles in 2019, Mr Frankie YICK asked whether consideration would be given to further enhancing relevant enforcement actions. CP responded that there were 184 enforcement actions against illegal carriage of passengers for reward in 2019, including 145 cases relating to private vehicles and 39 cases relating to light goods vehicles, which represented an increase of about 160% when compared with 2018. 119 prosecution cases were related to "Uber", and at least 30 of them had been convicted. The Police would

continue its enforcement actions including at the Hong Kong International Airport and the Peak. Mr YICK suggested the Police to keep an eye at different border control points as well.

- 43. <u>Dr Priscilla LEUNG</u> said that she supported the Police on all fronts, and asked whether consideration would be given to enacting legislation against insulting police officers. <u>CP</u> responded that SB was studying the matter concerned.
- 44. Mr Kenneth LEUNG asked about the policy and guidelines governing police officers engaging in part-time job and business operation. CP responded that approval had to be obtained from the department before an officer taking up a part-time employment, while declaration had to be made in accordance with relevant Civil Service Bureau regulations and guidelines in case of business operation. Police officers were regularly reminded to observe the guidelines stated in the Civil Service Regulations and the Police General Orders.
- 45. Mr SHIU Ka-chun pointed out that "a Vietnamese couple" was specified in paragraph 7 of the Police's paper. He was of the view that the Police should be more prudent in the use of words when drafting papers, so as to prevent any unnecessary discrimination. CP clarified that while "a Vietnamese couple" was mentioned based on the fact, the Police would be more attentive to the wording in future.
- 46. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> cited the media reports about a drug case in Yuen Long and CP's dinner with triad members in 2013, and sought CP's response on them. <u>CP</u> said that Mr KWOK's sayings were deviated from facts and clarified that the drug case was handled in a fair manner. As regards the dinner, he said that he had explained on various occasions that it was a farewell dinner co-organized by Yuen Long District Council, Yuen Long District Fight Crime Committee and Yuen Long Junior Police Call Honorary President Council.
- 47. In conclusion, <u>CP</u> appealed to the public to respect the rule of law and enhance the law-abiding value together, and stressed that the Police would exert all efforts to restore the social order and reinstate the sense of security that used to be in Hong Kong.

#### Action

48. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:44 pm.

Council Business Division 2 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 10 June 2020