

**For information  
November 2019**

**Legislative Council Panel on Security**

**2019 Policy Address  
Policy Initiatives of Security Bureau**

This paper elaborates on the Security Bureau (SB)'s major initiatives in the 2019 Policy Address and Supplement.

**New Initiatives**

**Amending the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200)**

2. The Law Reform Commission (LRC) published on 30 April 2019 the *Report on Voyeurism and Non-consensual Upskirt-Photography*, recommending the introduction of a new offence of voyeurism to deal with the act of non-consensual observation or visual recording of another person for a sexual purpose, and a new offence in respect of non-consensual upskirt-photography. Such acts are a serious violation of another person's sexual autonomy.

3. SB will consult the Legislative Council's Panel on Security on amending the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200) to introduce new offences of voyeurism, non-consensual photography of intimate parts, and the distribution of relevant imagery, to be followed by a three-month public consultation. After considering fully the views from the community, we will draw up the detailed legislative amendment proposal and introduce the Bill for consideration by the Legislative Council.

4. Meanwhile, under its review of sexual offences, LRC has already published three consultation papers on offences based on sexual autonomy, offences based on the protective principle, and miscellaneous sexual offences. SB will closely monitor the results of the overall review. We will undertake relevant preparatory work with reference to the consultation papers already published by LRC, so as to follow up expeditiously with the relevant recommendations after LRC publishes its final report.

## **Improving the fire safety of old buildings**

5. In mid-2018, the Government joined hands with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to launch the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) with an allocation of \$2 billion, subsidising owners of old composite buildings to enhance the fire safety in compliance with the requirements under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). It was anticipated that FSWS could benefit around 2 000 buildings.

6. FSWS received around 2 430 applications which met the basic eligibility criteria, involving about 2 600 buildings. Since the \$2 billion funding may not be sufficient to cover all accepted applications, about 500 applications meeting the basic eligibility criteria (involving about 600 buildings) are currently placed on the waiting list. In view of the positive and encouraging response, we propose to allocate an additional \$3.5 billion to FSWS, which is expected to benefit over 3 500 buildings additionally. Subject to funding approval of the Legislative Council (LegCo), it is expected that URA can launch the next round of applications in mid-2020.

7. As regards the legislative proposal of enhancing the fire safety in old industrial buildings, we have introduced the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Bill into LegCo last December. The Bills Committee has held five meetings and completed scrutiny of the bill. We hope the bill could be passed by LegCo as soon as practicable, enabling the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department to commence relevant inspection and enforcement work early.

## **Extending the operating hours of the Shenzhen Bay Port to 24 hours**

8. Shenzhen and Hong Kong have been enjoying very close relations and passenger flow between the two has been on persistent rises in recent years. Between 2013 and 2018, the passenger flow via the four vehicular land boundary control points between Shenzhen and Hong Kong had increased by 23%, and the increase reached 36% for the Shenzhen Bay Port alone. With the implementation of the blueprint for the development of the Greater Bay Area of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, it is expected that the cross-boundary passenger flow between Hong Kong and Shenzhen will increase further in the long run.

9. To cope with the passenger and logistics flows between the two places, and to meet the service demand for cross-boundary travel during small hours, the Shenzhen and Hong Kong governments after discussion agree that there is a need to provide 24-hour clearance service at additional control points and hence plan to extend the operating hours of the Shenzhen Bay Port to 24-hour by phases from mid-2020, first for private cars, then goods vehicles and full implementation by the end of the year. The detailed timetable and implementation arrangements will be announced in due course.

### **Ongoing Initiatives**

#### **Application of innovation and technology to enhance the law enforcement capabilities**

10. SB continues to take forward, together with its disciplined services departments, a four-pronged strategy covering “application”, “research and development”, “analysis” and “fortification” of innovation and technology to enhance the law enforcement capabilities and improve the services for the public.

11. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is actively taking forward the development of “Smart Prison” by conducting trials, which include the installation of “Video Analytic Monitoring System” in 4 dormitories of Pik Uk Prison, the installation of “Health Signs Monitoring System” in the centre hospital of Lo Wu Correctional Institution and the installation of “Passage Surveillance System” at Lo Wu Correctional Institution. In addition, CSD plans to extend the trial of “Health Signs Monitoring System” and “Video Analytic Monitoring System” to other institutions<sup>1</sup>. It is also CSD’s plan to roll out other trial projects, including “Robotic Monitoring System” and “Persons in custody Self-service Kiosk” etc., with a view to further enhancing the efficiency of penal management and operation, as well as the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes, through combining various operational and information technology systems. FSD will adopt new technology to improve firefighting, rescue and emergency ambulance services. At the same time, in conjunction with the promotion of adopting smart technology in fire service equipment in buildings, big data will also be

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<sup>1</sup> Including the installation of “Health Signs Monitoring System” in 2 halls and the centre hospital of Stanley Prison, the centre hospital of Tai Lam Centre for Women and sickbay and geriatric ward of Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre, and the installation of “Video Analytic Monitoring System” in 22 dormitories, 6 observation cells and the centre hospital of Pik Uk Prison.

used in consolidating and analysing information on, among others, fire incidents and related inspections, in order to facilitate the formulation of fire safety strategies and enhance the regulatory efficiency of fire protection.

12. The Customs and Excise Department is taking a progressive approach to examine how to extend the application of innovation and technology, including artificial intelligence, to enhance enforcement capabilities and clearance efficiencies, and to assist in the detection of contrabands. The Immigration Department (ImmD) plans to implement the Next Generation Application and Investigation Easy Systems in phases starting from 2021. It will make use of technology to enhance various core services of ImmD (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.).

### **Anti-drug efforts**

13. Under sustained anti-drug efforts, 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 2019 decreased by 14% (from 4 197 to 3 612) as compared to the same period last year. However, increased cannabis abuse, the relatively high proportion (48%) of young adults aged 21-35 among the newly reported drug abusers, and hidden drug abuse still call for attention. We will continue to respond to the drug trends through preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and law enforcement, external cooperation and research. Measures cover enhancing awareness of drug harms, promoting early identification of hidden drug abuse, encouraging early help-seeking, and facilitating cross-profession collaboration in addressing different drug abusers' treatment and rehabilitation needs. Inclusion of new drugs under statutory control will be proposed timely.

### **Amendment to Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115)**

14. The Government has in the past three years implemented various initiatives to handle non-refoulement claims, which have achieved positive results. The number of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants

and new non-refoulement claims received last year significantly dropped by about 80% from the peak. ImmD has also largely completed the screening of pending claims once accumulated to over 11 000. Despite the positive progress made, a number of challenges remain. As at end September 2019, about 13 000 claimants remained in Hong Kong for various reasons, which include about 4 000 pending determination of their appeal, with the remaining being engaged in judicial review or criminal proceedings, or awaiting repatriation, etc.

15. There has been call on the Government to strengthen the legal framework to more effectively address the challenges brought by non-refoulement claimants. In this connection, the Government will propose amendments to the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) to improve the screening procedures and plug existing loopholes, with a view to effectively preventing the number of claims and processing time from building up again; as well as to strengthen ImmD's authorities in respect of enforcement, removal and detention. We aim to introduce the amendment bill into the LegCo within the first half of the current legislative session.

### **Provision of Departmental Quarters for the Disciplined Services**

16. Construction works of five departmental quarters (DQs)<sup>2</sup> for the disciplined services at Tin Wan, Aberdeen; Pak Shing Kok, Tseung Kwan O; Fan Garden, Fanling; Sheung Fung Street, Tsz Wan Shan; and Po Lam Road, Tseung Kwan O Area 123 have been expedited. It is expected that construction works will be completed and flat intake will begin gradually from around the fourth quarter of 2019 to end-2022.

17. SB will continue to examine the possibility of redeveloping existing DQ sites and identify more sites for construction of DQs in accordance with the established mechanism, so as to further alleviate the demand for DQs in the disciplined services.

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**Security Bureau**  
**October 2019**

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<sup>2</sup> There are three recently completed DQs for the disciplined services which are located at Heng Lam Street, Kowloon; Yau Yue Wan Village Road, Tseung Kwan O; and Tseung Kwan O Road, Kwun Tong.