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**Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee**

**Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex**  
**on Wednesday, 8 September 2021 at 8:30 am**

**Members present:**

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBM, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon YIU Si-wing, SBS (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, GBS, MH, JP  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

**Member absent:**

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, GBS, JP  
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

**Public Officers attending:**

Mr Raistlin LAU Chun, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service 1
Mr Vincent MAK Shing-cheung	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 2
Mr Johnny CHAN Chi-ho	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 2
Mr Michael LEUNG Chung-lap	Project Manager (East) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr Harry MA Hon-ngai	Assistant Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Administration)
Mr George MAK Kin-ming	Chief Engineer (E5) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr Tommy WONG Chi-wai	Senior Engineer (15(E)) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms Gracie FOO Siu-wai	Director of Administration and Development Department of Justice
Dr James DING Kwok-wing	Commissioner Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office Department of Justice
Mr Winson SO Yun-ming	Senior Government Counsel Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office Department of Justice

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Connie SZETO Chief Council Secretary (1)4

**Staff in attendance:**

Mr Patrick CHOI	Council Secretary (1)4
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Ms Sharon CHAN	Legislative Assistant (1)4

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The Chairman drew members' attention to the information paper ECI(2021-22)11, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002 and the changes to the directorate establishment in relation to the two items on the agenda. She then reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interest relating to the items under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the items. She also drew members' attention to RoP 84 on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

**EC(2021-22)18      Proposed creation of two supernumerary posts of one Government Engineer (D2) and one Chief Engineer (D1) in the Civil Engineering and Development Department with immediate effect upon approval of the Finance Committee up to 31 March 2026 to lead the Kai Tak Office for the co-ordination and implementation of on-going and upcoming projects in and around the Kai Tak Development**

2. The Chairman remarked that the establishment proposal was to create two supernumerary posts of one Government Engineer (D2) (designated as Head (Kai Tak Office) ("H(KTO)")) and one Chief Engineer (D1) (designated as CE/Kowloon 3) in the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD") with immediate effect upon approval of the Finance Committee ("FC") up to 31 March 2026 to lead the Kai Tak Office ("KTO") for the co-ordination and implementation of on-going and upcoming projects in and around the Kai Tak Development ("KTD").

3. The Chairman remarked that at its meeting on 30 April 2019, the Panel on Development was consulted on the Administration's original proposal of creating the two supernumerary posts for a period of about nine years. At its meeting on 26 June 2019, the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") agreed to recommend the proposal to FC for approval. After reviewing the original proposal, the Administration reduced the duration of the two proposed supernumerary posts to less than five years. The salient points of the discussion of the Panel were highlighted at the meeting of ESC on 26 June 2019.

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Discussion

*Manpower needs for taking forward the Kai Tak Development projects*

4. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed support for the establishment proposal. Referring to the completion of a number of projects in KTD, he asked why the Administration did not put forward the proposal for creation of the two supernumerary posts during the commencement of the KTD initiative. Noting that there were comments that the relevant works of CEDD had remained unaffected after the expiry of the two posts on 1 April 2019, he queried whether it was necessary to create the posts.

5. Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 2 ("DS(W)2") explained that the two supernumerary posts were created early back in 2010, and the duration of the posts proposed to be created had later been extended to 31 March 2019. CEDD reviewed the operational needs of KTO in 2019 and decided to seek approval from the Legislative Council ("LegCo") for the posts to be re-created. At its meeting on 26 June 2019, ESC expressed support for the establishment proposal. However, as the proposal had not been considered by FC in 2019-2020, the duties of the two posts had to be shared out by officers of the East Development Office and KTO. It was expected that, over the next few years, there would be some substantial increases in the workloads in relation to co-ordination and implementation of works projects in and around KTD given that a number of infrastructure projects of KTD progressed into key design and construction phases. As such, CEDD was of the view that the arrangement of sharing out the relevant work with the existing manpower was not sustainable, and it was imperative to re-create the proposed posts to address the manpower needs at the directorate level.

6. Pointing out that KTD entailed efforts on planning and co-ordination in a number of areas of works including commerce, housing, tourism and transportation etc., Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concern about whether it was appropriate for the post of H(KTO) to be taken up by a Government Engineer.

7. DS(W)2 said that when the post of H(KTO) was created under CEDD in 2010, KTD was still in the planning stage, with focus on project planning, architectural design and urban design. As such, a Government Architect was appointed to take up the post. As KTD progressed from planning stage to implementation phase, coupled with the establishment of the Energizing Kowloon East Office ("EKEO") under the Development Bureau in 2012 of which the major focus was on the overall planning and co-ordination of various Energizing Kowloon East initiatives including KTD, the major

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responsibilities of H(KTO) had shifted to co-ordination and implementation of infrastructure projects in and around KTD. As such, a Government Engineer had been appointed to take up the post of H(KTO) since 2012.

8. Mr Holden CHOW expressed concern about the demand for manpower in the building industry given that a number of major infrastructure projects including KTD were currently being taken forward in Hong Kong. He asked whether the duties of H(KTO) included human resources planning to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of project personnel and labourers for the building industry for the timely completion of KTD and other local development projects.

9. DS(W)2 said that the Construction Industry Council had always maintained a close watch on the demand and supply condition in the market of the building industry of different types of labourers, and it would adjust the admission quota of relevant training programmes so as to match the supply of labourers with market demands. The Administration would continue to liaise closely with the Construction Industry Council to ensure an adequate supply of manpower resources for the building projects being taken forward in Hong Kong. He added that having reviewed its overall internal manpower situation, CEDD had sought funding approval from LegCo for additional directorate manpower to cope with the increasing workload in recent years.

*Transport network and hotel site of the Kai Tak Development*

10. Pointing out that the chaos in relation to the transport facilities of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal ("KTCT") since its commissioning in 2013 had attracted criticisms, Mr YIU Si-wing asked if measures had been taken by KTO during the tenure of H(KTO) to increase the supply of car parking spaces for private cars around the cruise terminal, facilitate coaches to transport cruise passengers to and from the cruise terminal, and improve the transport network between the cruise terminal and the surrounding areas. He also asked if the Administration had any plans regarding the future overall transport planning for KTD.

11. The Chairman pointed out that, according to the operator of KTCT, cruise passengers mainly travelled in family units. As those travellers carried many luggage, they preferred to drive to KTCT for embarkment. She was of the view that, compared to overseas cities that were keen on developing "Park & Cruise" for cruise passengers travelling in such a pattern, the development of the cruise industry in Hong Kong had been hampered by the shortage of land and the absence of a dedicated department for coordination. She asked whether there were long-term parking spaces for private cars around KTCT to facilitate cruise passengers travelling in such a

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pattern.

12. Regarding the arrangements at KTCT for private cars and coaches, Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 2 ("PAS(W)2") advised that there were approximately 120 parking spaces for private cars and an ample number of pick-up/drop-off points for coaches at KTCT. Meanwhile, there were approximately 270 parking spaces at Sung Wong Toi Road Temporary Car Park, of which about 10% could be used for parking coaches. Furthermore, the Administration had planned to provide about 20 additional coach parking spaces at the Kai Tak Runway Park near KTCT. The Kai Tak Tourism Node development project would provide parking spaces for coaches and not less than 100 public parking spaces for private cars. A number of departments were also working together to explore the feasibility of increasing the supply of parking spaces in the new developments in KTD and other redevelopment projects in the adjacent areas to meet the demand for parking spaces around KTCT.

13. Regarding the overall transport planning for KTD, PAS(W)2 advised that MTR's Kai Tak Station and Sung Wong Toi Station servicing the area were now in service. Furthermore, it was envisaged that the D3 Road (Metro Park Section) connecting the former runway tip and the former north apron, expected to commission next year, would provide a more direct route option for road users travelling from the former runway to the above two MTR stations, San Po Kong area and To Kwa Wan area. Over the longer run, it was expected that the traffic load of KTD would be relieved when the Central Kowloon Route and Trunk Road T2, which were both under construction, and the Cha Kwo Ling Tunnel project ("T2 project") were commissioned in 2026, as some of the traffic currently using KTD and nearby roads to access Kowloon East and Kowloon West could then be diverted to the above-mentioned expressways.

14. Given the unresolved problem of inadequate transport support at KTCT, couple with competitions from cruise terminals in neighbouring areas such as Shekou and Nansha, which had comprehensive arrangements for cross-border transportation, Mr YIU Si-wing reiterated the concerns of some members of the industry. He requested the Administration to, prior to FC's discussion on the relevant item, provide information about the future traffic flow, provision of parking spaces as well as cross-boundary transport arrangements for KTCT and surrounding area with relevant implementation timetable. DS(W)2 agreed to provide the relevant supplementary information after the meeting.

*(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide ESC112/20-21(01) on 27 September 2021.)*

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15. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether the Administration would consider rezoning the three remaining hotel sites in KTD for other uses given the continued keen demand for housing and commercial sites in Hong Kong.

16. Chief Engineer (E5), CEDD responded that the three commercial sites adjacent to KTCT were currently available for hotel development. However, in light of the latest economic and market conditions, studies were being conducted by the Development Bureau on the feasibility of rezoning the site for residential use, but a final decision had yet to be made though. On the other hand, the Administration would require the developer of the Kai Tak Tourism Node site adjacent to KTCT to allocate a certain percentage of the floor area for hotel use.

*Progress of the Kai Tak Development*

17. Mr POON Siu-ping expressed support for the establishment proposal in principle. He pointed out that the infrastructure projects under KTO would have a bearing on the development of the neighbouring communities including Kwun Tong, Kowloon Bay and the Kowloon City, yet the progress of the projects had been slow. He asked how the proposed posts could ensure the timely implementation of the projects, and whether the Administration had any plan for creation of additional non-directorate posts for KTO to render support to the proposed posts for smooth completion of the relevant projects.

18. Mr Martin LIAO was concerned that certain specific works and targets of the KTD projects (such as KTD – stages 3B and 5A infrastructure works at the former north apron area) formulated by the Administration in 2019 as set out in its discussion paper and follow-up paper (LC Paper CB(1)1085/18-19(01)) were not completed according to schedule. As pointed out by the Government, most of the facilities provided by KTD were inter-related, and any delay in one project would have significant impacts on others. In this connection, he asked about the management measures to be introduced by the proposed posts to co-ordinate the work of the relevant projects in order to reduce any such delays, as well as the measures in place in the event of delays in any specific works projects having significant impacts on other projects.

19. Project Manager (East) CEDD ("PM(E), CEDD) remarked that one of the duties of H(KTO) was to ensure that the projects under construction were on schedule in accordance with the estimated completion date as set out in Annex 2 of the Administration's discussion paper and to co-ordinate matters relating to the construction of various projects.

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20. DS(W)2 and PM(E), CEDD further explained that the progress of some KTD projects were delayed by the social events and the epidemic. Nevertheless, the Administration had endeavoured to catch up with the progress. Take the KTD – stages 3B and 5A infrastructure works at the former north apron area mentioned by Mr Martin LIAO as an example, the key component project (i.e., the pedestrian footbridge connecting Rhythm Garden and MTR's Kai Tak Station) had been completed. The Administration had also expedited the progress of other delayed projects with a view to catching up with the original schedule.

21. On the co-ordination of projects that were interrelated to each other, PM(E), CEDD and Chief Engineer (E5), CEDD added that the engineering teams of each individual project and the relevant contractors would maintain close liaison through regular meetings and work together throughout the design and construction phases to co-ordinate the progress and construction arrangements of the projects. Efforts would also be made to catch up with the work progress in the event of project delays.

22. Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the work of PM(E) and Deputy Project Manager (East) of CEDD (including duties regarding supervision of other works projects) had been adversely affected since they had to share out the duties of the supernumerary post of H(KTO) which lapsed on 1 April 2019.

23. PM(E), CEDD remarked that at present he and the Deputy Project Manager (East) of CEDD were sharing out H(KTO)'s work. Among them, the workload of T2 project connecting West Kowloon and Tiu Keng Leng, the construction work for which commenced in 2019, was now at its peak, and complex tunnelling boring works under the project would commence towards the end of the year. Senior Engineer (15(E)), CEDD added that the underwater tunnel section was approximately 40 metres below sea level and the works had to be carried out at up to approximately five times the atmospheric pressure. Under unforeseen situations, the engineering team might even have to replace parts for the tunnel boring machine in harsh conditions. As such, the relevant tunnel boring works was highly risky.

24. In response to the Chairman's follow-up question regarding the boring machine being used in the T2 project, Senior Engineer (15(E)), CEDD said that the tunneling works of the T2 project was similar to that of the tunneling works of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok tunnel. With the use of new construction techniques for the T2 project, labourers working at underwater level were now working in an environment under the same atmospheric pressure at the ground level, which enhanced protection for the safety and health of the workers.



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Voting on the item

25. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. All the members present voted in favour of the proposal. The Chairman declared that ESC agreed to recommend the item to FC for approval. Mr YIU Si-wing requested that the item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

*(Post-meeting note: Mr YIU Si-wing's decision to withdraw his request for separate voting was circulated to members on 30 September 2021 vide LC Paper No. ESC113/20-21.)*

**EC(2021-22)19      Proposed creation of two supernumerary posts of one Deputy Principal Government Counsel (DL2) and one Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1) in the Department of Justice for five years with immediate effect upon approval of the Finance Committee to take forward the new policy initiatives under "Vision 2030 for Rule of Law", and to cope with the increased workload arising from new and existing projects**

26. The Deputy Chairman remarked that the establishment proposal was to create two supernumerary posts of one Deputy Principal Government Counsel (DL2) and one Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1) in the Department of Justice ("DoJ") for five years with immediate effect upon approval of FC to take forward the new policy initiatives under "Vision 2030 for Rule of Law" ("Vision 2030"), and to cope with the increased workload arising from new and existing projects.

27. The Deputy Chairman remarked that the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services discussed the proposal at its meeting on 1 March 2021 and the Panel did not support the proposal. Members were of the views that promoting the development of rule of law in Hong Kong should be a core mission of DoJ, and DoJ should have sufficient manpower to take forward measures for promoting the rule of law without the need of creating new posts with the use of public money. Members opined that the Administration should give more specific illustrations on the initiatives to be carried out by the proposed posts, and detailed information should be provided on the initiatives proposed by the Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office ("IDAR Office") as well as the relevant manpower arrangements. The supplementary information paper provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper CB(4)1256/20-21

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on 14 July 2021. The Administration requested the Panel to consider afresh the proposal. The Panel considered the proposal by circulation of paper and supported submission of the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration.

Discussions

*Organization structure and manpower arrangement*

28. Mr CHAN Chun-ying expressed support for the establishment proposal. He noted from the Administration's paper that the two supernumerary posts proposed to be created under the IDAR Office would be supported by contract staff on project and/or time-limited basis as needed; depending on the nature of the project/tasks and the background and experience required, DoJ would arrange internal deployment of non-directorate counsel and other supporting staff in DoJ to assist where necessary. He asked about the number of counsel and supporting staff available for and the duration of such deployment, and whether consideration had been given by DoJ for decision to be made by holders of the proposed posts on whether employment of contract or temporary staff for giving support was necessary subsequent to the examination of the future workload of the Rule of Law Unit. Furthermore, noting that the Deputy Principal Government Counsel was mainly responsible for planning, developing and adopting strategy to take forward various projects and initiatives to promote the rule of law and facilitate access to justice, whereas the Assistant Principal Government Counsel was mainly responsible for managing, maneuvering and assisting in taking forward those projects and initiatives, he asked why, instead of having a direct line of commands, the two posts were both directly under the Commissioner of the IDAR Office.

29. Director of Administration and Development, DoJ responded that the duties of two supernumerary directorate posts proposed to be created covered a deep and a wide range of areas (i.e., the five major duties set out in Enclosure 4 to EC(2021-22)19) with heavy workload. In addition to the two posts proposed to be created, DoJ had deployed 6 non-directorate personnel (including Senior Government Counsel and Government Counsel) to the Rule of Law Unit under the IDAR Office to assist in handling related duties. Furthermore, DoJ had engaged a consultant on a time-limited contract basis through the Job Creation Programme under the Anti-Epidemic Fund to handle a stupendous amount of complex work at the early stage of Vision 2030. Where necessary, the executive officers at the IDAR Office would provide support to the Rule of Law Unit. The incumbents of the two supernumerary directorate posts proposed to be created would, upon assumption of office, review the work and manpower arrangement of the Rule of Law Unit.

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30. On the division of work between the two supernumerary directorate posts, Commissioner, IDAR Office said that the Deputy Principal Government Counsel was mainly responsible for the planning of various major duties of the Rule of Law Unit, whereas the Assistant Principal Government Counsel was mainly responsible for execution; the duties of the two posts were complementary to each other, and both of them would be subject to the comprehensive oversight and supervision of the Commissioner of IDAR Office. Take the initiative regarding the establishment of the Rule of Law Database as an example, the Assistant Principal Government Counsel would be responsible for requesting data from different organizations for analysis, whereas the Deputy Principal Government Counsel would be responsible for planning and analyzing the use of various data to evaluate the practice of the rule of law and how such data was compatible with rule of law indicators. The Commissioner of IDAR Office would be responsible for the supervision and co-ordination of the planning and execution of the project.

31. The Deputy Chairman pointed out that the IDAR Office were currently under the support of Senior Government Counsel and Government Counsel, and he queried why, instead of creating the two supernumerary directorate posts, the current manpower of the IDAR Office could not be deployed to handle the duties of the Rule of Law Unit. Furthermore, given that Vision 2030 would span over ten years, he asked when the tenure of the two supernumerary directorate posts lapsed after five years, whether the posts would be extended or converted to permanent posts.

32. Commissioner, IDAR Office explained that at present, the IDAR Office was supported by permanent posts of one directorate grade Principal Government Counsel (i.e., the Commissioner of IDAR Office), two Senior Government Counsels and one Government Counsel. The workload of the Senior Government Counsels and Government Counsel were already extremely heavy, and DoJ was no longer able to cope with the massive workloads arising from the various new initiatives under Vision 2030 through manpower deployment from the existing human resources on a long term basis. Specifically, directorate grade Government Counsels with extensive legal knowledge, experience and foresight were needed to direct and monitor complex and difficult legal studies and to represent the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") to maintain regular contact and collaboration with key stakeholders on the Mainland and in overseas countries; as such, there was a pressing need to create the proposed two supernumerary directorate posts. Director of Administration and Development, DoJ added that prior to the expiry of the five-year tenure of the two supernumerary directorate posts, DoJ would carry out a comprehensive review on the progress of the various policy measures being

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taken forward, whereby consideration would be given to whether it would be necessary for retention of the posts or conversion to permanent posts as appropriate on a need basis.

*Major duties and responsibilities*

33. Noting that the two proposed supernumerary directorate posts would be responsible for preparing responses of the HKSAR Government/DoJ, and refute any false, distorted or misleading comments on the practice of rule of law in Hong Kong with cogent evidence and objective data, Mr Holden CHOW asked, in addition to written responses, whether DoJ would consider appointing a spokesman (or having the Secretary for Justice as a spokesman) to give instant responses and arguments to improve local and international perception on the development of rule of law in Hong Kong.

34. Commissioner, IDAR Office took note of Mr Holden CHOW's views, and remarked that DoJ would respond to and refute any false, distorted or misleading comments in the best way it could depending on the actual circumstances, including elucidation by the Secretary for Justice, clarifications by representatives attending individual seminars/meetings, issuing press releases, and response from the Secretary for Justice on her official blog etc.

35. Mr Christopher CHEUNG welcomed DoJ's efforts on promotion of the rule of law at different levels. Expressing concerns that some members of the public had found the judgements handed down by the court on individual cases (in particular those on major social incidents) incomprehensible or dissatisfactory in recent years, and pointing out that it would be detrimental to efforts on promotion of the rule of law if the judiciary system were perceived by members of the public as being unjust, he asked whether the two proposed supernumerary directorate posts would develop specific strategies and work plans for promotion of the rule of law to the community, how they would strengthen members of the public, in particular youngsters' knowledge on, and their awareness of, the rule of law, and whether they would review the effectiveness of the promotion efforts on a regular basis and make improvements.

36. Commissioner, IDAR Office advised that the major responsibilities of the two proposed supernumerary directorate posts included enhancing public education initiatives targeted at teachers, students and members of the public with a view to strengthening their understanding and practice of the rule of law. The relevant activities and initiatives included training sessions relating to the rule of law for teachers, rule of law education activities and talks for primary and secondary students, production of short videos such as Studio DoJ to introduce to members of the public legal knowledge in

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different areas. DoJ was planning to organize exhibitions in different areas to foster a proper understanding on the rule of law in different strata of the community. DoJ would evaluate the effectiveness of individual initiatives on a regular basis and report the relevant progress to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services in a timely manner.

37. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan suggested that the government should establish a database on cases relating to the social incidents and violent incidents that had taken place in recent years, with a view to strengthening public understanding and practice of Hong Kong National Security Law and the Basic Law. She suggested that the Administration should consider working with the Judiciary for establishing the database. Furthermore, referring to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs") of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations ("UN Agenda") and the ten specific targets under Goal 16 of SDGs which aimed at promoting the rule of law at national and international levels to ensure access to justice for all, she asked about the priority accorded to implementing the 10 specific targets under Goal 16 and the implementation timetable, as well as the criteria adopted in according the relevant priority.

38. Commissioner, IDAR Office took note of Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's suggestion on strengthening public education and establishment of a database. Regarding UN Agenda, Commissioner, IDAR Office advised that the 17 SDGs were interrelated, whereas the rule of law was an important pillar for successful implementation of those goals. DoJ would consider the matter in a holistic manner with a view to promoting the rule of law and carrying out education initiatives through Vision 2030 (including capacity building activities held in Hong Kong and overseas to promote the rule of law) and advancing global sustainable development for Hong Kong, with emphasis on continuous and active participation at the international level and contribution to the activities of the UN Agenda for implementation of the various targets by 2030.

39. In response to Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's question relating to the Plan for Comprehensive Deepening Reform and Opening Up of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone, Commissioner, IDAR Office said that the IDAR Office was responsible for promotion of co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and Qianhai as well as the entire Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("Greater Bay Area ") on legal and dispute resolution service, whereas the Rule of Law Unit would be responsible for advising on and formulating strategies for various areas relating to promotion of the rule of law.

40. Noting that one of the targets of Vision 2030 was to adopt a fresh way to assist the governments of various territories to evaluate and improve the

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rule of law standard domestically, the Deputy Chairman asked how the two proposed supernumerary directorate posts would achieve this target.

41. Commissioner, IDAR Office said that efforts had been made by DoJ to promote the rule of law to the community at different levels through a variety of means. For example, in addition to hosting seminars, attempts had been made by the authorities to pass on legal knowledge to primary and secondary students through drama, to promote the rule of law to members of the public using and collating e-resources, and to build up dedicated rule of law database for collection of objective data for the purpose of conducting studies and analyses on the practice of the rule of law, which differed from the method adopted by several international rule of law ranking bodies where data were collected through subjective questionnaires. The two proposed supernumerary directorate posts would continue to explore the use of fresh ways for promotion of and education on the rule of law. In response to the enquiries made by the Deputy Chairman, Commissioner, IDAR Office reiterated that as far as efforts on facilitating the legal profession of Hong Kong to blend into the development of the Greater Bay Area was concern, the two proposed supernumerary directorate posts would be responsible for advising on and formulating strategies for various areas relating to promotion of the rule of law.

Voting on the item

42. There being no further questions from members, the Deputy Chairman put the item to vote. All the members present were in favour of the proposal. The Deputy Chairman declared that the Subcommittee agreed to recommend the item to FC for approval. No member requested that the item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:40 am.