

立法會
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by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of policy briefing
held on Monday, 11 October 2021, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)
Hon YIU Si-wing, SBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
- Members absent** : Hon WONG Kwok-kin, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
- Member attending** : Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Item II
Mr Caspar TSUI Ying-wai, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Miss Helen TANG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Ms Kinnie WONG Kit-yee
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

Ms Ida LEE Bik-sai, JP
Acting Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Ms Elaine YEUNG Chi-lan, BBS
Acting Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Clerk in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Chief Council Secretary (4) 7

Staff in attendance : Mr Raymond SZETO
Senior Council Secretary (4) 6

Miss Vivian YUEN
Legislative Assistant (4) 8

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I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

II. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address

[LC Paper No. CB(4)1612/20-21(01)]

2. 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(4)1612/20-21(01)].

(Post-meeting note: SHA's speaking note was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1646/20-21(01) on 12 October 2021.)

Discussion

Sports

3. Mr Vincent CHENG urged the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") to strengthen collaboration with the Education Bureau ("EDB") in promoting sports development in schools. He also requested the Administration to expedite the implementation of the Five Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities ("the Five-Year Plan") to alleviate the shortage problem of sports venues in the territory.

4. SHA agreed that the promotion of sports in schools was conducive to the identification and nurturing of young athletes, who might then unleash their potential and strive for excellence. SHA said that HAB would work closely with EDB to implement initiatives to further promote sports development in schools and encourage participation in sports by students and young people on- and off-campus. He added that the Administration was actively implementing the Five-Year Plan. Among the 26 projects, 20 had obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council.

5. Mr Tony TSE and Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the Administration's preparations for the hosting of the 15th National Games in 2025 and the timeframe of the Government's work in this regard. Mr YIU said that the tourism industry would be pleased to take part in providing the necessary support services.

6. SHA said that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("SAR") Government would spare no effort to work closely with the relevant ministries of the Central Government, and the governments of the Guangdong Province and Macao SAR to organize the 15th National Games, which would be "simple, safe and wonderful", and the preparatory work should not entail excessive efforts to increase the provision of sports facilities in Hong Kong. That said, SHA advised that the Kai Tak Sports Park, scheduled for completion in the second half of 2023, would provide multi-purpose sports facilities to support the co-hosting of the 15th National

Games in 2025. SHA added that the preparatory work for the 15th National Games, including working meetings with the parties concerned, would commence soon.

Youth development

7. Mr KWOK Wai-keung pointed out that the mental well-being of Hong Kong's youth had been negatively impacted by fake news inciting hatred and stirring up discord. He enquired about the progress of the Administration's work in combatting fake news. He also pointed out that the Mainland's academic curriculum had already included topics on online morals, and urged the Administration to follow suit.

8. SHA said that as announced in the 2021 Policy Address, the Administration would study and examine whether legislation should be amended or enacted to tackle the spreading of fake news and hate speech on social media and insulting public officers. The Administration would make reference to overseas experiences in its study.

9. Noting that the Administration planned to establish an Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovative and Entrepreneurial Bases ("the Alliance") in GBA, Mr YIU Si-wing and Mr SHIU Ka-fai enquired how the Administration would support Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs in GBA and what measures would be taken to encourage employment of Hong Kong young people to work in GBA. In view of the aging population in Hong Kong and the resurgence of Hong Kong's post-epidemic economy, they also enquired whether the Administration would take measures to attract talents from the Mainland to work in Hong Kong.

10. SHA said that the Alliance, which served as a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform, aimed at supporting Hong Kong's youth entrepreneurs in GBA. To this end, organizations from Guangdong and Hong Kong with strength and proven track record, such as innovative and entrepreneurial bases, universities, non-government organizations, scientific research institutes, professional bodies, venture funds, etc. would be invited to join the Alliance. SHA pointed out that different Mainland cities had their own specialized strengths in specific industries (e.g. aerospace industry in Xi'an), which could bring about new career development opportunities. In this connection, the Administration would continue to explore suitable entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for Hong Kong youths in GBA and other locations in the Mainland.

11. On attracting talents from the Mainland and bolstering the manpower situation in Hong Kong, SHA advised that this subject matter was within the purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau. He understood that some industries in Hong Kong were indeed facing a manpower shortfall. To this end, the Administration was

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working with different sectors to identify the extent of shortages for both non-skilled workers and high-end talents, and had rolled out a host of initiatives to attract and retain talents from the Mainland and overseas through the 2021 Policy Address. The Administration was confident that with the vast opportunities arising from the integrated development with the rest of GBA, Hong Kong would remain an appealing location for talents to settle and work.

Culture and arts

12. Mr MA Fung-kwok noted that the Administration had been implementing the "safety bubble" ("bubble") arrangement to facilitate major sports events, and enquired whether there was any plan to expand its usage to cultural events, so as to facilitate performances and cultural exchanges with overseas arts and culture groups in Hong Kong.

13. SHA explained that in light of the prevailing policy goal of resuming normal traveler clearance between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Administration had to consider carefully whether the "bubble" arrangement could be applied safely in cultural events, since there would be more interactions between overseas visitors and local residents in these events than sports events, thereby posing a greater risk to public health. Nevertheless, the Administration would continue its efforts to facilitate cultural events with overseas performers and artists as far as practicable.

14. Mr SHIU Ka-fai enquired whether further measures were needed to boost the visitor counts of local museums and other cultural venues. SHA said that the cultural venues of Hong Kong, including libraries, were actually popular amongst local citizens and young children. As the COVID-19 epidemic situation abated, the number of visitors to these venues had been rising. Meanwhile, the Administration were formulating plans to promote these cultural venues to solicit more visitors from the Mainland and overseas.

15. Mr MA Fung-kwok sought clarifications on the rumour that the Administration had engaged a British company on curating the revamped permanent exhibition on Hong Kong history (i.e. The Hong Kong Story exhibition) in the Hong Kong Museum of History ("HKMH"). Considering that a local company should be a more suitable choice, Mr MA hoped that in choosing the collaborating organization to conduct curatorial work for the Activity Centre for the Promotion of Chinese History and Culture ("the Activity Centre"), the Administration should carefully examine whether a foreign organization should be engaged to write Hong Kong's history. Mr YIU Si-wing also expressed concerns about the curatorial arrangement for the Activity Centre.

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16. The Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and Deputy Director for Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture)/the Acting Director for Leisure and Cultural Services clarified that the British company had been engaged by way of open tender to provide professional support services for the revamping of the Hong Kong Story exhibition. There was no question of this British company providing or influencing any of the content of the revamped Hong Kong Story exhibition. They pointed out that the curatorial work related to the revamped Hong Kong Story in HKMH, including all content, storyline and illustrations, was exclusively handled by the professional curators of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") supported by a group of local expert advisors. The British company was merely providing supporting design and technical services for the exhibition. SHA advised that the professional curatorial staff of LCSD would be wholly in charge of curating the exhibits related to Chinese history and culture at the Activity Centre and other relevant cultural venues.

17. Noting that the Administration had tasked the overseas Economic and Trade Offices and Mainland Offices with an important role of promoting the cultural industries of Hong Kong, Mr MA Fung-kwok suggested the Administration change their names to "Economic, Trade and Cultural Affairs Offices" (經濟、貿易及文化辦事處) to signify their responsibilities in this regard. SHA said that Mr MA's suggestion was noted. He further said that the Administration was committed to strengthening manpower and resources support for establishing Hong Kong as a hub for arts and cultural exchanges between GBA and overseas.

Development of tso/tong lands

18. Mr Kenneth LAU declared that he owned part of tso/tong lands. He expressed support for the Administration's initiatives to unlock the development potential of tso/tong lands so long as the tradition of tsos/tongs was respected and the ownership rights of tso/tong members were well protected. Mr LAU said that the Heung Yee Kuk New Territories ("HYK") would continue to work with the Administration in sorting out the complicated situation arising from the requirement that the sale of tso/tong lands required the unanimous support of the relevant tso/tong members, the identities of which might be very difficult to trace owing to migrations and the passage of time. Mr LAU further said that HYK was of the view that the Administration should conduct public consultation to listen to the views of all stakeholders concerned, and to work with HYK on devising appropriate measures to handle the relevant issues. He also suggested that the Administration should consider re-registrations by indigenous inhabitants to compile a register of inhabitants with ownership of tso/tong lands.

19. Mr Tony TSE recalled that the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") and HYK had set up a working group on New Territories tso/tong matters in 2018 to examine

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matters relating to the appointment of managers by tsos/tongs and their handling of tso/tong land. He enquired about the work progress and whether the Administration had finished collecting the relevant information about tso/tong land, such as their locations and areas.

20. SHA said that referencing historical statistics provided by HYK, the Administration estimated that there was over 2 000 hectares of tso/tong land scattered in the New Territories. SHA further said that the Administration would carefully examine the current status of tso/tong land, including the ownership status, exact locations and potentials for development. To this end, HAB would continue to collaborate with HYK and the Development Bureau, with a view to unlocking the development potential of tso/tong land while respecting the tradition of tsos/tongs and protecting the legitimate interests of tso/tong members.

Proposed re-organization of the Government

21. Mr Vincent CHENG expressed support for establishing a Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau ("CSTB"). He, however, expressed worry that the policy areas, spanning across the culture, sports and tourism sectors, might be overburdening for one policy bureau. He urged the Administration to thoroughly consult the relevant sectors to devise the most appropriate arrangements before finalizing the Government re-organization plan.

22. SHA agreed that the relevant sectors should be thoroughly consulted on the re-organization of the Government. He explained that in proposing CSTB, the Administration's plan was to centralize policy planning for the cultural sector, which included the creative industries that were currently under the purview of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. The proposed CSTB would also examine emerging industries related to the cultural sector, such as antique exchange. SHA added that to provide dedicated leadership to implement the relevant initiatives, the Administration was considering the creation of the post of the Commissioner for Culture.

23. Noting that the Government was also considering the establishment of the Youth and District Affairs Bureau ("YDAB"), the Chairman enquired whether YDAB might overlap with CSTB as youth matters could be related to sports development (e.g. promotion of sports in schools). The Chairman said that for many Hong Kong citizens, HAB was an important initial contact point for a variety of district matters. He asked why the Government did not propose to set up, instead, a youth and district matters division and have it subsumed under HAB. Mr Tony TSE also enquired about the Government's workplan to strengthen district administration in future.

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24. SHA said the proposed naming of YDAB was to signify that the Administration attached great importance to youth matters and district affairs. SHA advised that the Administration would strive to provide a one-stop platform for enquiries and follow-up on district matters with a view to simplifying procedures and eliminating bureaucratic red-tapes. SHA further said that the Administration would ensure proactive handling of district issues with a forward-thinking approach to nip problems in the bud. SHA, however, pointed out this was only a preliminary proposal and the Administration would welcome suggestions from members.

Role of District Councils ("DCs") in district administration

25. In light of recent developments where DCs were generally paralyzed due to the resignation/disqualification of a substantial number of DC members, the Chairman expressed concern about the implementation of the projects that had already been approved by DCs, including those under the Community Involvement Programme and District Minor Works Programme.

26. SHA advised that the Administration was reviewing the situation and the operation of DCs, and would present relevant proposals for the Panel's deliberation in due course. He added that meanwhile, HAD would ensure that provision of government funding for relevant district services and activities would continue.

Other issue

27. Mr SHIU Ka-fai expressed concern about wandering wild boars which were reportedly causing injuries to passing-by pedestrians. SHA responded that the management of wild boars was outside of the purview of HAB. Nevertheless, he would relay Mr SHIU's concern to the responsible Government department.

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III. Any other business

28. The Chairman said that this was the last regular meeting of the Panel in the sixth-term Legislative Council. He expressed gratitude for the active participation of members and the support rendered by the Administration to the Panel's work.

29. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:43 pm.