

Summary of Minutes of the 65th Meeting of the Kwai Tsing District Council held on 13 May 2010

The 65th meeting of the Kwai Tsing District Council (K&T DC) was held on 13 May 2010. The major issues discussed are summarised as follows:

Confirmation of minutes of the 64th meeting of K&T DC held on 11 March 2010

2. The above minutes of the meeting were confirmed without amendments.

Introduction of Papers

Proposal on Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012

(Proposed by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau)
(K&T DC Paper No. 31/2010)

3. Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs briefed members of the proposal. Most of the views received during the consultation period supported the proposal. The public generally agreed that the constitution should progress. Democratic elements of the elections for the CE and the LegCo in 2012 had been enhanced by increasing the participation of District Council members in the Election Committee and the LegCo, so as to pave the way for a steady and smooth transition to universal suffrage. As for the cancellation of the appointment system in District Councils, the government adopted an open and positive attitude in listening to all the views.

4. Some members criticised the government for lacking a long-term policy for constitutional development and giving no explanation of the general and democratic elections in 2020. They were also dissatisfied with and would not support the proposal which did not make any progress. Some of the members suggested cancellation of functional constituencies. Some other members expressed positive views on the proposal. The proposed package conformed to the principal of gradual and orderly progress, and was suggested in light of the actual situation in Hong Kong. They agreed that progress could be made for constitutional development if the proposal gained support. Veto of the proposal would only result in stalemate in constitutional development. Some of them affirmed that the appointed members did contribute a lot to the harmony of the community and the well-being of residents. In response, Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs reiterated that there was a universal suffrage timetable which had been decided by the National's People Congress, which was dual universal suffrage in 2017 and 2020. He also complimented the appointed members and functional constituencies for their contributions and promised to give consideration to the members' views on the issues.

Motion: "K&T DC supports the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012 suggested by the Government, which

are to enhance the democratic elements of the Chief Executive and Legislative Council elections by the participation of elected District Council members who represent broad public opinion, leaping a great step towards the universal suffrage for the two elections in 2017 and 2020.”

(Proposed by: Mr. LEE Chi-keung, Alan, MH, Ms. TAM Wai-chun, MH, Mr. WONG Yiu-chung, Mr. LUI Ko-wai, Ms. POON Siu-ping, Nancy, MH, Mr. LAW King-shing, Miss. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice, Mr. LEUNG Wai-man, Mr. POON Chi-shing, Ms. LAM Chui-ling, Mr. LO Wai-lan, Mr. LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis, Ms. LAI Fan-fong

Seconded by: Mr. POON Fat-lam, BBS, MH, Mr. FONG Ping, Mr. SO Hoi-pan, Edinson, BBS, JP, Mr. YUNG Wing-ki, Samuel, MH, Dr. TANG Shuk-ming, Winnie, JP)

(K&T DC Paper No. 31a/2010)

Revised Motion: “K&T DC strongly opposes the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012 suggested by the Government, and urges the Government to implement dual universal suffrage for the elections of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council in 2012. Even if the dual universal suffrage may not be implemented, the Government should guarantee that the two elections are genuine general elections and promise the complete cancellation of functional constituencies in LegCo in 2020, so as to pave the way for implementation of universal suffrage for the CE in 2017 and for the LegCo in 2020.”

(Proposed by: Mr. LEUNG Kwok-wah and Mr. WAN Shiu-kin, Andrew; seconded by: Mr. TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy, Mr. NG Kim-sing, Hon. LEE Wing-tat and Mr. HUI Kei-cheung)

6. The above revised motion was vetoed by a vote of 15 in favour, 20 against and 0 abstentions.

7. The above motion was endorsed by a vote of 20 in favour, 15 against and 0 abstentions.

Meeting the Head of Department

Director of Civil Engineering and Development’s visit to K&T DC

(K&T DC Paper No. 30/2010)

8. Representatives of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) briefed members of the paper. A member stated that some hikers had criticised the long and narrow stairs on the slope for spoiling the natural landscape, and she was also concerned with the nuisances caused by the project to nearby residents. Another member asked how the department went in line with the environmentally responsible purchasing policy of the government. Two members thanked the department for assisting the projects in Kwai Tsing in the past years and for the demolition of Kwai Chung Incineration Plant. In reply, representative of CEDD said that the department

had encouraged the contractors to adopt the 3R method, i.e. to reduce, reuse and recycle, and assured that they would take into account different views before working out their plans.

Introduction f Papers (cont'd)

Work Plan of Independent Commission Against Corruption Regional Office (New Territories South West) in 2010/11

(Proposed by ICAC Regional Office (NTSW))
(K&T DC Paper No. 32/2010)

9. Representative of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) briefed members of the paper. A member raised concern about the unreasonable low consultation fees of some renovation projects of buildings and suggested setting up of a task force to give assistance to the Incorporated Owners. Representative of ICAC said that a task force as well as a hotline on anti-corruption education in respect of building management had been established. Guidelines on corruption prevention were also issued and promotion activities organized.

Discussion Items

Endorsement of the fund increase application of Kwai Tsing District Football Association Co. Ltd.

(K&T DC Paper No. 41/2010)

10. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Endorsement of the proposals and funding arrangement of Kwai Tsing District Diversified Community Activity and the “Guidelines on the Use of Kwai Tsing District Diversified Community Activity Funds”

(Proposed by Kwai Tsing District Office)
(K&T DC Paper No. 33/2010 (Revision))

11. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Long term housing policy of the Government

(Proposed by Mr. WONG Bing-kuen)
(K&T DC Papers No. 34, 34a and 34b/2010)

12. A member suggested discussing other items first as representatives of the Hospital Authority had not arrived yet. Members were agreed on the suggestion unanimously.

Information Papers

Work Plan of Kwai Tsing District Office in 2010/11

(Proposed by Kwai Tsing District Office)
(K&T DC Paper No. 36/2010)

13. Members noted the above paper.

Report of the Kwai Tsing District Management Committee meeting held on 16 April 2010

(Proposed by Kwai Tsing District Office)
(K&T DC Paper No. 37/2010)

14. Members noted the above paper.

Briefing on public order situation in February and March 2010

(Proposed by the Hong Kong Police Force)
(K&T DC Paper No. 38/2010)

15. Members noted the above paper.

Report Items

Reports of the K&TDC Committees

(K&T DC Paper No. 39/2010)

16. Members noted the above paper.

Report of the K&TDC Silver Jubilee Anniversary Activity Working Group

(K&T DC Paper No. 40/2010)

17. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items (cont'd)

The violent attack by a mental patient in Kwai Shing East Estate

(a) Review on the care given to mental patients by the government

(Proposed by Mr. LEE Chi-keung, Alan, MH)
(K&T DC Papers No. 42a and 42f /2010)

18. A member criticized the government for reducing hospital beds and employing inadequate community nurses to take care of the mental patients and the discharged mental patients and requested a review on their follow-up care policy.

(b) To resolve as soon as possible “the public housing living situation of mental patients”

(Proposed by Ms. LAI Fan-fong, Mr. LEUNG Wai-man)
(K&T DC Paper No. 42b/2010)

19. A member urged the government to continue providing psychological counselling for residents, to assist residents in local transfer and to enhance the protection gears of security guards. She also suggested centralised housing of the discharged mental patients.

(c) The government support to the mental patients and the discharged mental patients
(Proposed by Miss. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice, Ms. HUI Kin-kan, Mr. LEUNG Tsz-wing,
Dennis)
(K&T DC Papers No. 42c, 42e and 42g/2010)

20. Vice Chairman was strongly dissatisfied with the Food and Health Bureau and the Labour and Welfare Bureau for not sending representatives to attend the meeting and that was irresponsible. The bureau officials should have listened to the views of residents and DC members and explained the long-term policy on the ex-mentally ill. She urged the government to increase resources to enhance the treatment for the mental patients and step up the support to the ex-mentally ill and their care-takers. She questioned how the government could help the ex-mentally ill to reintegrate into the society under such an incomprehensive follow-up system.

(d) Review on the current community rehabilitation policy of the Hospital Authority
(Proposed by Ms. LEUNG Yuk-fung)
(K&T DC Papers No. 42d and 42h/2010)

21. A member said that residents living in Kwai Shing West Estate had expressed worries about their personal safety as the two estates were very near. She criticized the government for taking no heed of the issue and therefore creating violent “time bombs” in the community. Another member said that the policy of reintegration of the ex-mentally ill into the society was not suitable in Hong Kong due to high density of population. He also blamed the negligence, mismanagement and resources mismatch of the government. Members in general criticized the government for inadequate follow-up and support to the ex-mentally ill and for inadequate communication among departments as well as inadequate manpower and resources. They strongly urged the government to have a comprehensive review on the current policy. Some other members requested the government to review the drug formulary since some cheap drugs would cause significant side effects. Most of the members asked for a long-term policy on mental patients and an inter-departmental task force to deal with the issue.

22. Representative of the Welfare Department (WD) assured that further psychological counselling would be provided for residents. He mentioned that a lot of difficulties had been encountered while they were identifying suitable sites for half-way houses and sheltered workshops which helped the ex-mentally ill to reintegrate into the society. Representatives of the Hospital Authority (HA) pointed out that most of the violence cases had not been caused by psychiatric patients who only had a higher disposition to violence. They agreed that communication among departments should be strengthened and therefore regular meetings would be arranged for information exchange. They explained that recruitment and training of manpower took time and said that they would keep recruiting staff so as to lower the medical staff-to-patient ratio. Representative of the Housing Department (HD) promised to meet with the security guard company for follow-up on the issues of training and other protection measures.

Provisional Motion: “K&T DC strongly requests the Government to review the current psychiatric and rehabilitation policy and give more concern to the service facilities for the ex-mentally ill integrating into the society for protection of residents’ safety and prevention of further tragedies.”

(Proposed by: Ms. LAI Fan-fong, Mr. LEUNG Wai-man, Mr. POON Chi-shing, Mr. LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis, Ms. HUI Kin-kan, Ms. LAM Chui-ling, Mr. LAW King-shing, Mr. LUI Ko-wai, Ms. POON Siu-ping, Nancy, MH, Ms. TAM Wai-chun, MH, Mr. LEE Chi-keung, Alan, MH, Mr. WONG Yiu-chung and Miss MAK Mei-kuen, Alice; seconded by: Dr. TANG Shu-ming, Winnie, JP, Mr. YUNG Wing-ki, Samuel, MH, JP, Mr. FONG Ping, Ms. LO Wai-lan, Mr. POON Fat-lam, BBS, MH and Mr. SO Hoi-pan, Edinson, BBS, JP)

23. The Council endorsed the above provisional motion unanimously.

Any Other Business

24. There being no other business. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

25. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 8 July 2010.

Kwai Tsing District Council Secretariat
July 2010