

Progress Report of the 23rd Meeting of the Kowloon City District Council

Purpose

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 23rd meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 14 July 2011.

Meeting with the Commissioner of Police

2. The Commissioner of Police gave a briefing on some of the work priorities of the Hong Kong Police Force in 2011/12 and Members raised the following proposals / opinions for his consideration:

- (a) To stop the protestors from marching, the police used force unnecessarily during the demonstration. Some Members opined that the tramway along the parade route should be sealed off and pepper spray should only be applied after careful consideration of the situation. However, some held opposite views and believed that protestors should express their opinions and safeguard their rights in a legitimate and rational way and thus, police enforcement action was necessary in some cases in order to maintain social stability.
- (b) In view of the success of the “Crime Prevention for Elderly Citizens” and “Youth Care Net” in lowering crime rate, it was suggested that the police should consider extending the projects to the 18 districts in Hong Kong.
- (c) To deter offenders of traffic laws and alleviate the congestion of school areas in Kowloon Tong, additional traffic police should be deployed to carry out inspection when classes began and ended. Members also suggested that inspection at places mostly visited by mainlanders under the Individual Visit Scheme should be strengthened so as to ensure smooth traffic flow around the areas.
- (d) To set the hearts of citizens at ease, the police should step up patrolling duties in the streets and strengthen the inspection of the old buildings targeted for redevelopment to prevent deterioration of public order in the district.
- (e) To handle effectively the complaints of residents disturbed by debt collecting companies and cases of frauds and nuisances involving

companies acquiring flats in old buildings, the establishment of a task force should be considered.

- (f) It was important to cut off the source of dangerous drugs and to educate students to resist the temptation of drugs.
- (g) The Police Force should reflect to the Authority the need to plug the loophole of laws governing brothels with more than one woman with a view to stopping the increase in the number of vice establishments in the district.
- (h) To stop members of crime syndicates committing crimes in Hong Kong, the police had to work in conjunction with the Immigration Department.
- (i) To prevent the recurrence of forced entry cases of mental patients into schools, a security assessment should be conducted for schools in Kowloon City and proposals regarding improvement of security measures should be introduced.

3. In reply, the Commissioner of Police stressed that the first and foremost task of the police was to uphold social order and guarantee public safety. While it was necessary to take care of the need of the people in the parade, it was also important to maintain a smooth flow of traffic from north to south on Hong Kong Island and to leave a passage for vehicles providing emergency services. He disagreed with Member's views that tram service along the parade route should be suspended on the days of protests as this would negatively affect shop tenants, pedestrians and drivers. As to the suggestion of promoting the "Crime Prevention for Elderly Citizens" and "Youth Care Net" in the 18 districts of Hong Kong, he promised to consider its feasibility. Regarding the views about assigning more police officers to handle traffic violations and carry out patrols in streets and redevelopment areas, he said the police would look into the possibility of classifying some of the 999 calls as cases not requiring response so as to spare officers to go patrol. However, he stressed that when handling traffic offences, flexibility should be exercised according to circumstances. Besides, private buildings should step up security measures. In matter of debt collecting companies causing nuisances to residents, he pointed out that the police had put in place a three-tier system for the cases on the basis of their nature and severity. They would also launch investigation into complaints involving acquisition of properties by illegal means. As regards prostitution, he explained that under current legislation, operating brothels with more than one woman was not against law. Yet the police would examine if vice establishments operating at sub-divided units contravened laws from the aspects of building structure and fire safety. The Commissioner shared the view that it was essential to eliminate the supply of

dangerous drugs. And upon the completion of the pilot scheme of recruiting non-Chinese into the force, the police would consider the creation of a new grade to tackle the problem. For the problem of mainlanders committing crime in Hong Kong, he said an interdepartmental committee had been formed to monitor closely the crime trend since the introduction of the Individual Visit Scheme as well as the visa service. The committee would reflect to the Public Security Bureau on the mainland should any problems be detected. Lastly, he promised to continue to combat Internet crime and study with other departments the initiatives to prevent mental patients with propensity to violence from threatening the safety of the public.

Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030

4. Members noted the contents of the consultation paper presented by the representative of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) and were generally in support of the Option 2, that is, the construction of the third runway. As inflation would cause a big rise in the construction cost, Members even advised that works should begin as soon as possible. In addition, the AAHK should make forward-looking planning and develop hardware of the airport instantly. Only by conducting comprehensive environmental assessment and consultation work could support from the public be garnered. Lastly, Members hoped that the AAHK could implement greening plans on the road leading to the airport with a view to enhancing the tourists' impression of Hong Kong.

5. The representative thanked Members for their advice but pointed out that, to avoid wasting public money, the AAHK hoped that a consensus on the construction of the third runway could be reached during the consultation period and the environmental assessment would then be commenced having regard to the consultation results. As for the problem of plane noises, most of the old aircrafts would be replaced by new models creating less noise when the third runway was completed. By then, planes flying at night would not have to use the south runway near people's residence and the problem would by then be alleviated. Lastly, he added that the Airport Authority could not formulate a plan beyond 20 years because all projects were developed on the basis of concrete data. However, the plan would be reviewed every five years to bring in amendments in the light of the actual situation.

Concern about Bad TV Reception of Free TV Stations in Hung Hom District

6. Members reflected that residents of some buildings at old districts in

Kowloon City along Kai Tak Road, Tak Ku Ling Road and Sa Po Road and those in Hung Hom complained about the poor reception of the analogue television system. They hoped that the quality of the television signals received by the analogue television system in Kowloon City district could be upgraded or improved.

7. In response, the representative of the Office of the Telecommunications Authority explained that some of the buildings were blocked by the erections nearby. Thus, the users could only receive television signals reflected by the surrounding buildings and consequently, “shadows” and “snowflakes” appeared on television screens. To get better reception, the households might ask the contractors to adjust the position of antennas. As for the proposal of installing additional television receptors on the street, he answered that this was not feasible in analogue broadcasting. To allow households to enjoy free television service in the long run, the Government actively developed digital television broadcasting with a view to providing high quality television links and new entertainment channels. And he welcomed the public to seek their advice at 2961 6333 when encountering problems in television reception.

Kowloon City District Office
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