

**Minutes of the First Meeting of  
the District Facilities and Works Committee 2024-25 of  
the Seventh Term of the Central and Western District Council  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**Date:** 1 February 2024 (Thursday)  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Venue:** Central and Western District Council Conference Room  
14/F, Harbour Building  
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

**Present:**

Chairman:

Mr YIP Wing-shing, SBS, BBS, MH, JP

Vice-chairman:

Mr IP Yik-nam, JP

Members:

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy

Mr NG Yin

Mr LUI Hung-pan

Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney, MH

Ms JIN Ling, MH

Mr SHIH Jan Noel

Mr WU Man-hin

Dr ZHANG Zong

Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan

Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene, SBS, BBS, JP

Dr FUNG Kar-leung

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy

Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing

Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH

Ms CHIU Wah-kuen, MH

Mr LAU Tin-ching

Mr LAW Kam-fai

**Absence with Apologies:**

Mr QIU Song-qing, MH

**In Attendance:**

Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP	District Officer (Central & Western)
Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Central and Western District Office
Mr MOK Chi-kin, Jiv	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Central and Western District Office
Mr WONG Ka-chun, Tommy	Executive Officer (District Management)1, Central and Western District Office
Ms LEE Suk-han	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LO Man-nin, Patty	District Leisure Manager (Central and Western), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms BOW Lok-sin, Rosaline	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Central & Western, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Suk-ha	Senior Librarian (Central & Western), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LI Yiu-kwan	Librarian (City Hall Public Library) Lending, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

**Secretary:**

Mr HO Kai-yin	Executive Assistant (District Council)7, Central and Western District Office
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## **Opening Remarks**

The Chairman said that as the quorum was reached, he announced that the first meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC) under the seventh term of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) (2024-2025) would begin officially. He then welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He further pointed out that in order to identify the attendees, staff of the Secretariat would check the staff ID cards of persons entering the conference room and obtain their business cards. Members' assistants and media staff who entered the conference room for media reporting would also need to register their real names and mobile phone numbers for record purposes. He reminded Members to make appropriate declarations of interest as required.

## **Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

(9:03 am)

2. The Chairman announced that since Members did not have any comments on the agenda of the meeting, the agenda was adopted.

## **Item 2: Chairman's Report**

(9:03 am – 9:07 am)

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a Notification of Absence from Meetings submitted by Mr QIU Song-qing prior to the meeting, indicating that he had left Hong Kong to attend the third meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) 12th Zhaoqing Municipal Committee as a member of Zhaoqing Municipal Committee, and had therefore required to seek the consent of the DFWC for his absence from the meeting. The Chairman advised that in accordance with Order 64 of the C&WDC Standing Orders (the Standing Orders), it was recommended that the DFWC accept Mr QIU Song-qing's application for absence from the meeting. As Members did not raise any comment, the Chairman announced that the DFWC accepted Mr QIU Song-qing's application for absence from the meeting.

4. The Chairman also drew Members' attention to the following matters relating to the meeting. He pointed out that it was stipulated in the Performance Monitoring Guidelines for Members of the District Councils that the annual attendance rate of a DC Member at meetings of DC committees should not be lower than 80%. If a DC Member was unable to attend a meeting, he or she must submit an application in writing to the Secretary in the form of a sample Notice of Absence from Meetings set out in Appendix 4 to the Standing Orders before the meeting was held. The meeting would only agree to an application for absence due to sickness, attendance at a meeting/an activity on behalf of his/her District Council or other reasons considered reasonable (e.g. confinement, paternal care, fulfilment of civic obligations required by the law, serious illness or injury, attendance at a meeting/an activity organised by the Legislative Council or an advisory body/organisation appointed by the State/the Government). Furthermore, the Chairman added that according to Order 81 of the Standing Orders, the minutes of meetings of a committee must record the discussion in a clear and concise manner as far as practicable and on an anonymous basis unless otherwise concluded by the committee in exceptional cases (for example, by motion or ballot). The minutes and audio record of meetings should be uploaded to the website of the DC except for the closed-door meetings. According to Order 38(1) of the Standing Orders, without prejudice to the functions of DCs under section 4A of the District Councils Ordinance, any member of the DC committees and government departments who wished to raise an item or present a paper on an item for discussion at a meeting would be required to submit the paper with a notice in writing to the Secretary ten clear working days before the meeting. According to Order 38 (3) of the Standing Orders, attendees should not discuss any item that had not been or was not approved by the chairman of a meeting for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the aforementioned matters.

**Item 3: List of Government Representatives in Attendance at District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC) under the Seventh Term of Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**  
**(C&W DFWC Paper No. 1/2024)**

(9:07 am – 9:11 am)

5. The Chairman said that the paper, submitted by the Secretariat, informed Members of the list of government representatives in attendance at the meetings. The Chairman added that the representatives of government departments on the list would attend the DFWC meetings, provide relevant consultation papers and present information papers, etc.

6. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the terms of reference of the DFWC as follows: To facilitate the construction and development of district facilities (including sports grounds, sports centres, parks and playgrounds, recreational areas, swimming pools and beaches, country parks, hiking trails, cultural and entertainment facilities, museums, libraries, public spaces, waterfront promenades, community halls/centres etc.) and works (including “District Minor Works Programme”, works or works projects, etc.) so as to meet the needs and expectations of the people in the district: (1) to be consulted by the Government on affairs concerning the development, planning, supply and demand, operation, usage, and management etc. of the facilities in the district; (2) to be consulted by the Government on the planning and implementation of works or works projects (including those in the planning stage and/or under construction) in the district; (3) to collect the views of the people in the district for district matters related to district facilities and works as requested by the Chairman of the DC, and to submit to the Government a summary of the views collected and the suggested corresponding measures; (4) to provide steer for its working group(s) and to endorse conclusions made by the concerned working group(s); and (5) to report the work of the Committee regularly to the DC and to undertake assignments as commissioned by the Chairman of the DC.

**Item 4: Leisure and Cultural Services Department Report on the Usage of the Public Libraries in the Central and Western District**  
**(C&W DFWC Paper No. 2/2024)**

(9:11 am – 9:12 am)

7. The Chairman said that the paper was submitted by the LCSD, and invited Members to note the paper.

**Item 5: Report on the Management of Sports and Recreation Facilities in the Central and Western District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**  
**(C&W DFWC Paper No. 3/2024)**

(9:12 am – 9:23 am)

8. The Chairman said that the paper was submitted by the LCSD. He invited Members to note the paper and enquired whether they had any comments or questions.

9. Members' comments and questions regarding the paper are consolidated and summarised as follows:

- (i) Some residents pointed out that it was difficult to book recreation and sports facilities in the district using the “SmartPLAY” system of the department.
- (ii) Some members of the public had complained about the frequent escalator malfunctions at the Smithfield Sports Centre and the persistent shortage of toilet paper in the toilets there.
- (iii) Some members of the public had pointed out that the renovation on the fifth floor of the Shek Tong Tsui Sports Centre had been ongoing for a long time, preventing them from booking the facility for use. In addition, the toilets at the sports centre were often damaged and required repairs.
- (iv) Members' attention was drawn to an emerging sport called “Pickleball”, which was gaining popularity. It was suggested that the department should promote the sport to the public and enable them to play it during off-peak hours at recreational and sports venues with low utilisation rates
- (v) A Member enquired about the utilisation of arenas in sports centres as basketball courts.
- (vi) A Member enquired about the progress of the toilet renovation and improvement works at Belcher Bay Park.

- (vii) It was noted that renovation works of the LCSD premises had been gradually completed, with facilities being improved. In particular, the improvements to toilets at Belcher Bay Park had been complimented on by some members of the public.

10. In response to the questions and comments put forth by Members, the representative of the LCSD replied as follows:

- (i) Since the launch of “SmartPLAY” on 9 November 2023, the LCSD had been closely monitoring the operation of the system and making appropriate follow-up actions to ensure that users could make reservations for recreational and sports venues more smoothly. Members could advise members of the public to contact the department directly to express their opinions so that the department could follow up on them.
- (ii) The LCSD would follow up on the escalator malfunction at the Smithfield Sports Centre and the shortage of toilet paper in the toilets there.

*[Post-meeting follow-up: According to records, the escalator connecting the fifth and the sixth floors of the Smithfield Sports Centre broke down on 28 December 2023. After inspection, the maintenance department swiftly ordered the required parts. It was reopened to the public on 11 January 2024 after replacement works were completed. In addition, the provision of toilet paper at the sports centre had been suspended in early January 2024. The supply of toilet paper resumed on 12 January after follow-up between LCSD and the relevant department.]*

- (iii) Maintenance works for the arena on the sixth floor of Shek Tong Tsui Sports Centre had been completed and had been reopened to the public. The improvement works on the fifth floor had also been substantially completed, with the installation and inspection of venue facilities currently underway. The facilities concerned were expected to reopen for public use in the first

quarter of this year. The LCSD would also closely monitor the use of toilet facilities at the sports centre and would promptly follow up with the relevant engineering departments on maintenance matters if any repairs were needed.

- (iv) The LCSD maintained an open attitude towards various emerging sports activities. The department would consider whether to accept applications in respect of such activities on the basis of safety and whether the activities would cause damage to the venues or inconvenience to other users. The main venues of LCSD-managed sports centres were generally available for booking for designated purposes, such as basketball, volleyball, and badminton. However, as the venues of the sports centres varied in terms of size, actual environment, provision of access roads, the usage of facilities, etc., applicants should seek the advice and approval of the venue management before making reservations for the facilities for activities other than the intended use. Applications would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
  
- (v) In the information paper on the utilisation of sports and recreation facilities in the Central and Western District (Annex I to C&W DFWC Paper No. 3/2024), the overall utilisation rates for the arena were calculated by using the badminton court as a reference unit for calculation. It meant that a badminton court would be used as reference for the calculation of utilisation rates for different ball games or other non-designated uses. For instance, every time a basketball court was rented, it would be counted as equivalent to four badminton courts being rented.

*[Post-meeting follow-up: Information regarding the utilisation of arenas of sports centres in the Central and Western District as basketball courts in November 2023 and December 2023 is provided as follows:*



*Sports Centre Arena [rented for basketball]*

<i>Name of Venue</i>	<i>Utilisation rate (%)</i>					
	<i>November 2023</i>			<i>December 2023</i>		
	<i>Peak hours</i>	<i>Non-peak hours*</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Peak hours</i>	<i>Non-peak hours*</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Hong Kong Park Sports Centre</i>	27	16	21	23	17	20
<i>Smithfield Sports Centre</i>	59	20	39	44	19	31
<i>Shek Tong Tsui Sports Centre</i>	<i>Closed for refurbishment</i>			28	19	24
<i>Sheung Wan Sports Centre</i>	37	16	27	35	14	26
<i>Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre</i>	56	27	41	52	26	41

- (vi) The refurbishment and improvement works for the toilet facilities at Belcher Bay Park had been completed on 31 January 2024 and the toilets had been reopened for the use of visitors. The remaining minor improvement works for the exterior canopies of the toilets still needed to be followed up. The LCSD anticipated that all the works would be completed shortly.

**Item 6: Any Other Business**

(9:23 am – 9:54 am)

11. The Chairman asked Members if they had any other matters for discussion.
12. A Member enquired whether they could express their personal opinions on the Chief Executive's announcement to launch a public consultation on the Basic Law Article 23 legislation starting from 30 January 2024.
13. The Chairman agreed. Subsequently, Members spoke one after another, with all of them supporting the Government in completing the Basic Law Article 23 legislation. A majority of the members mentioned that it was the constitutional duty of the HKSAR

Government to complete the legislative work. The main points of their comments are summarised as follows:

- (i) As DC members, they should fully cooperate with the Government in explaining to the public the original intent and spirit of the legislation, so as to dispel doubts and work together to safeguard national security. After the Hong Kong version of “colour revolution” in 2019, all Hong Kong people understood national security risks were substantial. Coupled with the increasingly dangerous and complex international geopolitical situation, the HKSAR Government should complete the legislation as soon as possible to effectively safeguard national security, ensure that citizens live and work in peace and contentment, and maintain steady social and economic development.
- (ii) It was believed that patriots with affection for the country and Hong Kong and all DC members would primarily support the related legislative work. If Members had any opinions on the legislative work, including supportive opinions, they should submit them in writing to the Government before 28 February 2024.
- (iii) It was believed that the legislative content of Basic Law Article 23 was very clear and the legislative work necessary. Recent prosecution cases related to the Hong Kong National Security Law (HKNSL) demonstrated that foreign forces had already infiltrated Hong Kong and that a very small number of people in Hong Kong were colluding with foreign forces with the intent to subvert the country and disrupt Hong Kong. Therefore, relevant legislative work was required urgently to protect the country and ensure that Hong Kong could maintain stability and prosperity.
- (iv) It was pointed out that many hostile foreign forces were still eyeing Hong Kong, so the relevant legislative work was necessary and should be enacted as soon as possible. It was further pointed out that western countries had their own national security laws too, so enacting legislation to safeguard

national security was nothing unique to Hong Kong

- (v) It was considered that the legislative work for Article 23 of the Basic Law should have been completed more than 20 years ago. It was also noted that Hong Kong had been hijacked by populism for a long time, resulting in a legal vacuum which had been exploited by some people with malicious intent for years, hindering the development of Hong Kong. It was hoped that the society would learn lessons from history, so that the relevant legislative work could be completed as soon as possible this year to fill the existing legal vacuum. This would make the legal system of Hong Kong more robust, so that the international community could have more confidence in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong could continue to develop steadily.
- (vi) It was pointed out that the legislative work for Article 23 of the Basic Law had undergone consultation over twenty years ago. However, at that time, it had been politicised and demonised by some people with ulterior motives and the constitutional duty to protect the safety of the country and Hong Kong people had been smeared. It was hoped that Members would actively express their opinions during the consultation period while the Government would step up its publicity efforts. It was believed that every DC member and every Hong Kong citizen had the responsibility to promote and present the true and good picture of the legislation of Basic Law Article 23. Hong Kong would only be safe when national security could be maintained.
- (vii) It was believed that Basic Law Article 23 legislation would be an important institutional safeguard for a new start of Hong Kong. Most of the western countries had laws related to national security too. The legislation, compared to that of 2003, was more comprehensive and necessary, and the provisions could complement the HKNSL. The completion of the legislation would be an important safeguard for Hong Kong's economic prosperity, since people would choose to invest in a secure environment. It would also be a crucial safeguard for Hong Kong's political stability. Since the return of Hong Kong to our motherland, some anti-China politicians in

the West had disrupted the governance of the HKSAR Government, attempting to undermine Hong Kong's political stability. With the completion of the legislation, it was hoped that anti-China forces would gradually subside, and the political stability of Hong Kong could be strengthened. Completing the legislative work for Basic Law Article 23 was also vital for the development of the society of Hong Kong. In the past, the opposition had tried to tear the society of Hong Kong apart and had been employing the filibustering tactics in the legislature, resulting in the stagnation of social development and slowing down the pace of Hong Kong's integration into the development of the Greater Bay Area and the overall development of the motherland. It was believed that after the completion of the relevant legislative work, Hong Kong's integration into the development of the motherland would accelerate, and social development would enter a new chapter. The legislative content this time was comprehensive and in line with the current situation of Hong Kong. After the enactment of the legislation, the rights and personal safety of Hong Kong citizens would be protected. It would also help promote the unity of opinions in the society of Hong Kong.

- (viii) It was considered that the purpose of Basic Law Article 23 legislation was to punish the very few individuals who posed a threat to national security and to protect the interests of the vast majority of law-abiding citizens and various organisations. As long as one abided by the law, there was no need to worry about the impact of the legislation on one's daily life and work. In response to comments that the consultation period for this legislation was only one month, which was relatively short, some Members pointed out that the relevant legislation had already been delayed for 27 years, so citizens had been familiar with the issue. There had been enough time for people to understand and digest the matter. Only by legislating as soon as possible could Hong Kong move forward without burden and pursue economic development without worries. It was pointed out that the legislation for Basic Law Article 23 could effectively connect with the HKNSL, which, as a national law, had already been integrated into the legal system of the

HKSAR after its implementation. The legislation for Basic Law Article 23 was to implement the provisions of the Basic Law and, while safeguarding national security, also needed to implement the Decision of the National People's Congress on 28 May 2020 regarding the Hong Kong National Security Law and some related requirements of the Hong Kong National Security Law. It served to complete a comprehensive legal system and truly fill in all the loopholes. This would be the final and most important link in safeguarding national security. The legislative content should be comprehensive, effective, and able to regulate future behaviours that threaten national security. It was hoped that the HKSAR Government could better explain and clarify to the public and address the current or future national security risks in an effective manner, so that people could concentrate on contributing to the economic development of Hong Kong and the livelihood and well-being of citizens.

- (ix) It was expressed that the Association of Hong Kong Professionals hoped that their views on the legislative work could be relayed. It was pointed out that professionals in various sectors believed that only by improving national security laws could threats to national security be effectively addressed and prevented, thus safeguarding Hong Kong's economic prosperity and the well-being of Hong Kong people. Professionals from different sectors all hoped that the HKSAR Government could actively engage in dialogue and communication with professional associations, the business sector, academia, and the general public during the legislative consultation process, listen to different viewpoints, and fully consider the interests and concerns of various parties. They believed that an open and transparent consultation process could enhance social consensus and facilitate the expeditious completion of the legislative work. At the same time, different professionals could also directly engage with and listen to the opinions of citizens through the Legislative Council and District Councils. Through various contacts and networks, they could enhance explanations to the public and help to alleviate concerns and provide support for the smooth enactment of the legislation, so that the steady and successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems"

could be ensured.

- (x) It was believed that the security of Hong Kong and its residents was dependent on the security of the whole nation. The sooner legislation was enacted, the fewer risks there would be. Basic Law Article 23 could effectively complement and connect with the HKNSL, enabling the prevention of any actions that might threaten national security in the future and avoiding the recurrence of a situation like that during the 2019 “black-clad violence” period, in which the HKSAR Government lacked effective legal measures to cope with the situation. Prompt legislation of Basic Law Article 23 could strengthen the rule of law in the HKSAR Government. Only with a robust rule of law system could the rights and freedom of Hong Kong citizens be more effectively safeguarded, allowing them to focus on economic development and livelihood. A robust rule of law could also enhance the confidence of local and overseas businesses, provide them with a safe business environment, promote economic development, and consolidate Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre.
- (xi) It was hoped that Basic Law Article 23 legislation could be completed as soon as possible, after which Hong Kong could concentrate on the development of the economy and improvements on citizens’ livelihood. The legislation concerned was aimed at protecting Hong Kong, preventing the very few individuals who posed a threat to national security and safeguarding the interests of businesses, the public and Hong Kong as a whole.
- (xii) It was stated that the completion of legislation to safeguard national security was currently the most important task and the most effective way to protect the citizens of Hong Kong. Since the enactment of the HKNSL, stability had been restored in the society of Hong Kong. The legislative work for Article 23 of the Basic Law aimed to regulate behaviours that had the potential to endanger national security but were not covered by the HKNSL. Therefore, the sooner the legislation was enacted, the sooner the gaps could

be filled, and the protection for Hong Kong citizens could be enhanced. In addition, it was believed that the content of the legislation was comprehensive and allowed for effective enactment. For instance, the provisions related to foreign interference was in line with the needs of the current international community. Therefore, it was imperative that the legislative work be completed as soon as possible.

(xiii) It was pointed out that the legislative work for Basic Law Article 23 had been delayed for 26 years and should therefore be completed as soon as possible to plug deficiencies in national security. It was recognised that the international situation had been turbulent, with external anti-China forces continuing to exert pressure on Hong Kong and the country. After the 2019 “black-clad violence” incident, it had become clear to the public that there were indeed national security concerns in Hong Kong. Although the society might appear calm after the enactment of the HKNSL, there were still underlying currents. Legislation for Basic Law Article 23 was the final piece of the jigsaw puzzle in safeguarding national security. The sooner it was enacted, the sooner Hong Kong could be free from worries and risks. It was pointed out that capital and talent tended to flow to places with secure and stable environments. Without a secure and stable environment, it would be hard for Hong Kong to focus on the development of economy and improvements on people’s livelihood. It was hoped that the relevant legislative work could be completed as soon as possible, allowing Hong Kong to move forward without burden and embark on a new journey of economic development in the coming year.

(xiv) It was expressed that a stable social environment was a prerequisite for the development of the economy. Furthermore, it was believed that the future of the financial economy would develop in the direction of the big data. Therefore, it was paramount to ensure the security of data transactions. In addition, citizens needed to live and work in peace and contentment before they could invest with confidence and focus on the improvement of livelihood.

(xv) It was highlighted that in 2019, Hong Kong had experienced a variation of the colour revolution, and the District Councils had been hijacked by the opposition and turned into a circus propagating reactionary political demands. The disturbances made people realise the seriousness of national security risks. It was believed that the rule of law was the greatest guarantee for a conducive business environment. Given the grave situation of the existing geopolitical risks, there was concern that Hong Kong might become a battlefield under the manipulation of foreign forces and lose its stability and spirit of rule of law that were conducive to business development. It was pointed out that the Central and Western District had always been the administrative and commercial centre of Hong Kong, in which headquarters of many local, mainland, and multinational financial institutions were situated. Many residents of the Central and Western District were vigilant about the risks to national security that could disrupt the hard-earned excellent business environment. The legislation for Basic Law Article 23 was beneficial for strengthening the rule of law system in the HKSAR and served as the foundation for the confidence of local and international investors. It was strongly believed that with robust enforcement of Basic Law Article 23, Hong Kong's safe, convenient, and efficient business environment could be further developed and become a key driving force in integrating into the overall development of the country.

(xvi) It was pointed out that after the "black-clad violence" in 2019, Hong Kong citizens were eager for social stability to be restored. With the implementation of the HKNSL, citizens came to realise that only when national security was upheld could individual rights remain unharmed. Article 23 of the Basic Law, along with the HKNSL and other legislation, could collectively construct a comprehensive legal framework that fully safeguards national security. It was necessary to enact legislation on Basic Law Article 23. Comprehensive legislation that safeguarded national security was required before effective sanctions could be imposed on the very small number of individuals who posed threats to national security, so that



the freedom and rights of the majority of Hong Kong people could be protected, and Hong Kong could once again focus on developing its economy and improving people's livelihood.

(xvii) It was hoped that the Government could provide more information so that Members could explain to residents that their freedom would not be affected by the legislation of Basic Law Article 23. Members were reminded that they should be cautious in dealing with people with malicious intent, and even be aware of what these people were doing and inform the Government in a timely manner. As the financial centre of Hong Kong, the Central and Western District attracted many foreigners and overseas business forces for business activities and political exchanges. Therefore, great responsibility was placed on Members of the C&WDC. It was hoped that the Government could provide more information so that Members could better understand the provisions of the relevant legislation and the impact on different people in a timely manner. It would also allow Members to promote the necessity of legislation to foreign countries and explain how it could make Hong Kong a better place.

(xviii) It was pointed out that national security was an essential cornerstone for the stable and prosperous development of society and the economy. In fact, the HKSAR Government also had a constitutional duty to complete the unfinished task that had been delayed for 27 years. Therefore, Basic Law Article 23 legislation was an urgent task that needed to be accomplished. With the consensus reached in society following the implementation of the HKNSL, it was currently an opportune time to proceed with the legislation of Basic Law Article 23. In the face of a complex international environment and a sluggish economy, it was believed that after legislation enactment, a favourable business environment would be created, attracting diverse investments, which was currently the most critical task for Hong Kong. It was believed that the DCs should play a constructive role in the consultation process by actively soliciting public opinions during the consultation period, listening to the voices of different people and relaying their opinions to the

Government. Members could serve as a bridge for communication between the public and the Government in respect of the consultation and help in the related publicity and educational activities.

- (xix) It was pointed out that Hong Kong was facing increasing risks both domestically and internationally, leading to the emergence of new security challenges. There was a need to be vigilant against anti-China disruptors and foreign forces who might return under deceptive disguises. Only by expeditiously completing the legislation of Basic Law Article 23 to address the security vulnerabilities could Hong Kong fully focus on economic development and the improvements on people's livelihood. It was well-known that the formulation of laws to safeguard national security was an international practice not unique to Hong Kong. Looking around the world, countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Australia and other countries all had relevant laws to safeguard national security. Hong Kong had learned a painful lesson from the 2019 "black-clad violence" incident. The Hong Kong version of the colour revolution made the public realise the importance of national security. Coupled with increasingly complex geopolitical issues, the legislation of Article 23 of the Basic Law was urgently required. It was firmly believed that after the legislation of Basic Law Article 23, it would be possible to punish the very few individuals who posed threats to national security and provide better protection for investors and ordinary citizens. This would create a more favourable environment for Hong Kong to attract businesses, funds, and talents to Hong Kong. It was believed that the Government would step up publicity efforts on the legislation in the near future that targeted the general public, businesses, and investors. DC Members would certainly assist in explaining the legislation to the public, with an aim to promoting social unity and expediting the fulfilment of constitutional duties by the Government, so that "One Country, Two Systems" could be implemented in a stable manner and Hong Kong could enjoy prosperity and stability in the long run.

**Item 7: Date of the Next Meeting**

(9:54 am)

14. The Chairman announced that the next meeting of DFWC would be held on 21 March 2024 and the paper submission deadline would be on 6 March 2024.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.

The minutes were confirmed on 21 March 2024

Chairman: Mr YIP Wing-shing, SBS, BBS, MH, JP

Secretary: Mr HO Kai-yin

Central and Western District Council Secretariat

March 2024