

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 2 September 2019 (Monday)
Time : 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS

Vice-Chairman

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP

Members

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr WONG Man-hon
Mr HO Chun-fai
Mr HO Siu-kei
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Ms YU Lai-fan
Ms LEE Kwai-chun
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP
Mr KWONG Koon-wan
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Ms FU Hiu-lam, Sammi

Attendance by Invitation

Ms LI Mei-sheung, Michelle, JP	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHIU Chung-yan, Charlson	Senior Staff Officer (HQ), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Fung-yee, Susanna	Chief Librarian (Management)3, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHEUNG Yuk-shan, Linda	Chief Executive Officer (Planning)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Dr LEE Chi-on, Clement	Senior School Development Officer (Islands)1, Education Bureau

In Attendance

Mr LI Ping-wai, Anthony, JP	District Officer (Islands), Islands District Office
Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms LEUNG Tin-yee, Christy	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Mr MOK Sui-hung	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Mr CHAN Yat-kin, Kaiser	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office
Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred	Chief Engineer/Lantau 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard	Acting District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Ms IP Siu-ming	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands), Social Welfare Department
Miss LEE Sin-man	Senior Housing Manager/HKI2, Housing Department
Mr LING Ka-fai	District Lands Officer/Islands, Lands Department
Mr KWOK Chi-hang	Administrative Assistant/Lands, Lands Department
Mr SHEUNG Chun-kit, Jacky	Acting Deputy District Commander (Lantau), New Territories South Regional Headquarters Lantau District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LAU Cheng-fung	District Commander (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWOK Sze-wai	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEONG Seong-iam	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHOW Pui-sze, Alice	Chief Transport Officer/Boundary, Transport Department
Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms HO Sau-fan, Fanny	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAU Chun-wing, Tomy	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms Dora CHENG	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Islands District Office
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## Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of the government departments to the meeting and introduced the following representatives of the government departments who attended the meeting:

- (a) Mr SHEUNG Chun-kit, Jacky, Acting Deputy District Commander (Lantau), New Territories South Regional Headquarters Lantau District of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) who stood in for Ms TAM Nga-ching, Monita;
- (b) Ms KWOK Sze-wai, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District) of HKPF;
- (c) Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard, Acting District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands of the Planning Department (PlanD) who stood in for Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna;
- (d) Miss LEE Sin-man, Senior Housing Manager/HKI2 of the Housing Department who stood in for Mrs CHEUNG LO Pik-yuk, Helen; and
- (e) Ms LEUNG Tin-yee, Christy, Assistant District Officer (Islands)<sup>2</sup> of the Islands District Office (IsDO).

### I. Visit of the Director of Leisure & Cultural Services to Islands District Council

2. The Chairman welcomed Ms LI Mei-sheung, Michelle, JP, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to meet and exchange with Members. He was also pleased to welcome Mr CHIU Chung-yan, Charlson, Senior Staff Officer (HQ), Ms HO Sau-fan, Fanny, Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Ms LEE Fung-yee, Susanna, Chief Librarian (Management)<sup>3</sup>, Ms CHEUNG Yuk-shan, Linda, Chief Executive Officer (Planning)<sup>2</sup> and Mr CHAU Chun-wing, Tomy, District Leisure Manager (Islands).

3. Ms Michelle LI said that she was pleased to have the opportunity to visit Islands District Council (IDC) and then outlined the main duties of LCSD in Islands District with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

4. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He gave his appreciation to LCSD, which he admired for proactively organising and the continued commitment to organise a wide range of cultural and arts activities. Regarding the construction of a sports centre in Tung Chung Area 107 stated in the Policy Address, he hoped that the department could honour its undertakings and complete the works soon.
- (b) Resident intake of Mun Tung Estate had begun since the end of last year. If the flats were all occupied, the population there would be over 12 000. According to the data relating to children published by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2007, the percentage of families with

children aged 0-17 was 13.8% and the estimate was that there would be around 1 600 children aged 0-17 in Mun Tung Estate. Except two “saddle mates”, there were no other recreational facilities in Mun Tung Estate at present. He urged the department to consider the motion he raised at the District Council (DC) meeting on 24 June and convert a bicycle parking area left derelict next to Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch in Mun Tung Estate for over 20 years into a children’s playground, which gained the support of 16 Members that day. He hoped that the department would implement the project.

- (c) There was no leisure park in Mun Tung Estate at present. Even if LCSD organised cultural and recreational activities, there would be no appropriate venue available. He proposed provision of a leisure park to the left of the bus stop in Mun Tung Estate using the allocation of district minor works (DMW) and resources of LCSD.

5. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Members had enquired of PlanD about the planning progress of Tung Chung Town Park from time to time. However, no concrete progress had been made although the proposal had been raised for quite a while. He understood that it took time to relocate the cemetery therein but hoped that the department could provide a progress schedule for reference as residents of Tung Chung had been longing for a town park.
- (b) As mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK, Mun Tung Estate lacked venues for holding carnivals. A church organisation once asked for his help for applying to respective government departments for venues for organising an activity but no standard venue was available in Mun Tung Estate. The activity was eventually held but at a venue other than the planned one. He hoped that activity venues could be provided in Mun Tung Estate to bring convenience to the residents.

6. Ms YU Lai-fan expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She thanked LCSD for conducting improvement works to the cultural and recreational facilities and venues in Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, Mui Wo and Tung Chung, etc. in Islands District. Residents of Lamma Island were impressed by the cultural and recreational facilities as well as ancillary facilities in Area 9, and hoped that the same would be provided on Lamma Island. There were many foreign residents on Lamma Island. Some complained to her that there were only a soccer pitch and a basketball court on the island but they were always used by residents for organising training courses for children and teenagers. As such, other teenagers could not use the venues. She proposed provision of a multi-purpose sports ground on Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island. As there was abundant land under the purview of the Lands Department

(LandsD), she hoped that DLCS would consider optimising land use by allocating land for sports ground purpose.

- (b) The number of typhoons was on the increase in recent years and the sea and wave condition was unpredictable. A large amount of sand was washed ashore. As there was no skid-steer loader at Hung Shing Yeh Beach, Lamma Island, workers had to remove sand manually, which was inefficient. As many foreign tourists or residents in the area went swimming there, she hoped that the department could improve the facilities and beautify the environment of Hung Shing Yeh Beach on a par with Tung Wan and Mui Wo where skid-steer loaders could be used.

7. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She said that the activities organised by LCSD in Discovery Bay were well received. The Tai Chi and dancing courses were fully enrolled soon after registration was open. Discovery Bay was a private development. At present, people played Tai Chi outside Wing On Department Store but the space was too small for Tai Chi Sword exercise. Discovery Bay North faced rapid development but a community hall under IsDO had a low usage rate of just around 60%. There were more users at night on weekdays and at weekends but many time slots remained empty in the morning and afternoon on weekdays. She hoped that the department could organise more Tai Chi and dancing courses in the community hall for residents of Discovery Bay North. As the community hall was more spacious and covered, the participants, especially the elderly, would not need to worry about slippery floor on rainy days.
- (b) She pointed out that the mobile library in Discovery Bay opened for two days per week at present and had the highest usage rate among the mobile libraries in Islands District. She had borrowed and reserved books at the library and noticed the high usage rate. She noted that bulk lending service was implemented at S.K.H. Wei Lun Primary School and Discovery Bay Alliance Church with hundreds and thousands of books available for circulation. The department spoke during its presentation about providing library bulk lending service in the clubhouses of housing estates which she considered as a good idea. Thematic talks were given by the librarian in Discovery Bay two years ago on online reading and reservation of library resources. She hoped that more talks and presentations could be organised.
- (c) Each year, the department organised one to two music or dancing programmes in Discovery Bay. She had maintained close liaison with LCSD in recent years and had reflected that the locals and foreigners in Discovery Bay were attracted to activities different from residents of other districts. Tripartite cooperation was suggested during the

presentation. Since many residents in Discovery Bay had a keen interest in arts, she hoped that tripartite cooperation could be achieved to maintain good relations with district organisations and study the feasibility of conducting activities.

8. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was a DC Member of rural Lantau. His constituency measured over 100 square kilometres but the population fell short of the requirement of LCSD, i.e. the population would be around 18 000 at most if all Home Ownership Scheme flats were occupied, rendering the provision of facilities in the area difficult. He hoped that a flexible approach would be taken. There were many foreigners on South Lantau and some reflected that the only site for playing rugby was the turf soccer pitch in Yim Tin Playground, Tai O. However, it was hard to get a reservation unless on Sundays which had a better chance for successful reservation. Regarding the lighting problem of Yim Tin Playground mentioned at the previous DC meetings, LCSD would work with DC to provide lighting thereat by DMW allocation so that residents could play ball games at night. The usage rate of the soccer pitch was low compared with that of pitches in the urban area but was considered high for residents of Lantau Island. Therefore, despite the population level, he hoped that changing rooms would be provided at the turf soccer pitch in Yim Tin Playground in response to the demands of residents.
- (b) There was a 5-a-side hard surface soccer pitch which was constructed by the Regional Council decades ago in South Lantau. However, the area was lacking of a multi-purpose turf soccer pitch and the usage rate was low. Taking Yim Tin Playground, Tai O as an example, residents had to spend 40 to 45 minutes to get there from Mui Wo. He hoped that a turf soccer pitch could be constructed in South Lantau. In addition, he considered the children's playground in Tong Fuk Village which was constructed 20 to 30 years ago and now left idle a mismatch of resources. Although the population of Lantau Island could not reach the standard for the provision of facilities, he hoped that the department could adopt a flexible approach to the provision of facilities including sports grounds and children's playgrounds. The department staff could contact Mui Wo, South Lantau and Tai O Rural Committees, resident representatives and him for improving the recreational and sports facilities in South Lantau.

9. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She was satisfied with the services provided by LCSD in Peng Chau, and grateful for the speedy repair of sports and facilities damaged during the passage of typhoon Mangkhut last year.

- (b) She said that the population of Peng Chau did not reach the standard required and there was not any standard beach or swimming pool at present. Some parents went swimming with their children in Tung Chung or on Hong Kong Island, etc. whereas the elderly had a dip at non-standard beaches (such as Tung Wan) from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. The sewage infrastructure in Tung Wan was unsatisfactory at present as sewage was discharged to the beach from some housing estates nearby. Since there was no standard beach in Peng Chau, the elderly and some residents had no choice but to continue to swim in Tung Wan which was very dangerous due to the shallow water depth and presence of large quantities of silt. There was a smaller non-standard beach along Peng Yu Path, Peng Chau. The beach dubbed “Little Phuket” by the community was cleaned up by residents of Peng Chau voluntarily. Although in good condition after clean-up, the beach posed potential danger to swimmers. Rocks were spotted when she swam at the beach. When ferries of Discovery Bay sailed past, huge waves crashed high ashore. In addition, the beach was secluded which posed danger to swimmers, and she once saw an elderly swimming there dangerously. Although the population level was below the requirement, she hoped that the department could understand the needs of Peng Chau residents and provide a standard beach or swimming pool for them.

10. Mr Bill TANG said that apart from provision of various facilities and a town park in Tung Chung, he requested that bazaars be held there. The Working Group on promotion of bazaar development in Islands District (Working Group on Bazaar) of IDC had been set up for years with the resources focused on Tung Chung community. For the past three years, bazaars were held at Tat Tung Road Garden for two consecutive days around the Lunar New Year (LNY). However, in the long run, it was not feasible to organise activities using DC resources or by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on a voluntary basis in view of many difficulties encountered during the process. He proposed that the department should draw on the experience in the operation of the bazaars held in Shatin Park, other large parks and the Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, and hold bazaars in Tat Tung Road Garden, Tung Chung to attract tourists. He remarked that the purpose of DC was to advocate policies and reflect demands of the district. On holding of bazaars, LCSD rented out the venue whereas DC co-ordinated the activities without pecuniary gains. To organise bazaar activities, submission of auditor’s report was required, and the Working Group on Bazaar had proposed to enlist Ms Sammi FU’s help in auditing but she refused. It was thus necessary to appoint an auditor and complicated procedures were involved. He stressed that the department had venue and facilities as well as the relevant experience on holding bazaars. He urged it to hold bazaars in Tung Chung which was a popular tourist attraction.

11. Mr HO Chun-fai was glad that DLCS visited DC to listen to Members’ views. He indicated that South Lantau was a well-known popular tourist spot with camping facilities provided by LCSD, but was surprised that no toilet was provided at Pui O Playground except two temporary mobile toilets at the soccer pitch. He asked the

department to provide more facilities such as changing rooms and toilets adjacent to the soccer pitch.

12. Mr WONG Man-hon welcomed DLCS to DC. He was impressed by the beautiful scenery and comprehensive facilities of Silver Mine Bay Beach but the ancillary facilities were not enough. There was no contractor undertaking the operation of the cooked food kiosk and he learnt that the restriction on opening hours was not conducive to business operations. As there were now very few cooked food stalls at the beach, he asked the department to allow flexibility in the opening hours to minimise the operating restriction as an incentive for public tenderers, thereby offering more choices of food for tourists.

13. Mr KWONG Koon-wan expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked Ms HO and Mr CHAU of the department for their assistance in the provision of children's play facilities at Sai Tai Road, Cheung Chau. He indicated that the lack of toilets at Kwun Yam Beach was mainly because of the outstanding sewer connection works. He urged the department to replace the existing temporary toilets soonest after the completion of sewer connection works.
- (b) At present, many children attended swimming lessons outside Cheung Chau such as Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool and Kennedy Town Swimming Pool in Hong Kong Island. Not many children learned swimming at gazetted beaches in the district as their parents considered it dangerous to swim at beaches, and relatively few coaches liked to teach swimming at beaches. After the Lamma ferry tragedy, he advocated that all children should learn to swim and suggested the department offer lots of swimming courses so that people could save themselves or wait for rescue in the event of a disaster. The department might draw reference from European countries and the United States where swimming lessons were compulsory.
- (c) He pointed out that during the swimming season, there were not enough lifeguards on duty on Cheung Chau. He was thankful to Mr CHAU of the department for his co-ordination but remarked that this was a structural problem which existed in all beaches across the territory. He indicated that in the early 90s, 18 lifeguards were deployed for Tung Wan Beach, but there were now only eight to nine lifeguards at most and the work pressure increased. He asked the department to address the shortage and overworking problems of lifeguards and ensure that lifeguards had enough rest time.

14. The Chairman said Yim Tin Playground at Tai O was previously a temporary soccer pitch and its facilities had not been improved after years of operation. Apart from poor lighting at night, there was no permanent toilet for users to change. Moreover, as Tai O had a large population, residents could hardly make booking of



soccer pitch successfully. He asked the department to provide more facilities.

15. Ms Michelle LI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She thanked the Chairman and Members for their views, support and recognition, and said that the department had all along been closely collaborating with various departments to deliver services to the public in a pragmatic manner. Regarding the sports centre in Tung Chung Area 107, the department was preparing the Project Definition Statement and would complete the technical feasibility study as soon as possible to prepare for its implementation. Regarding the proposal of provision of recreational facilities in Mun Tung Estate and the adjacent cycle parking area, the department would gear with the arrangement once if the works were put under and implemented as DMW projects.
- (b) Regarding the construction of a town park, the department hoped to formulate a practical proposal and she had inspected the planning area of the site concerned. At present, large-scale town development was planned for Tung Chung East and its vicinity which had great potential for development. The exact site for the town park should have to be considered carefully to facilitate the use by the majority of the public. The currently planned site was located at the hilltop, which was not easily accessible in addition to the dense trees, gravestones and monuments. Based on the department's observations, it would be difficult to use the site for construction of a park to cater for the needs of persons with disabilities and the general public. She considered it more suitable to build hiking trails and ancillary leisure facilities and DC could discuss further on the proposal.
- (c) Regarding the lack of venues on Lamma Island, as far as practicable, the department would consider the issue with the concept of developing multi-purpose venues.
- (d) Regarding Tung Wan Beach in Peng Chau and Kwun Yam Beach in Cheung Chau, the Drainage Services Department was carrying out sewerage works. After completion of the works and improvement of the water quality, LCSD would assess whether it was appropriate to designate Tung Wan Beach as a gazetted beach and install public toilets at Kwun Yam Beach. For enhancement of the existing beach facilities, it was necessary to co-ordinate with other departments where relevant infrastructure facilities were involved. Regarding the fast food kiosk at Silver Mine Bay Beach, the department would follow up with the leasing arrangement of the kiosk concerned.

(Post-meeting note: The tendering process for the fast food kiosk at Silver Mine Bay Beach was completed and the

signing of the contract was in progress. The contract would take effect on 1 November 2019.)

- (e) On the library, she was grateful for Ms Amy YUNG's recognition of the work of the department. The department would work in partnership with schools to provide block loan and delivery services so that students could borrow the public library collection at school library and be drawn to visit public libraries, thereby achieving a win-win situation. Moreover, the department would set up community libraries in collaboration with local groups, and encourage clubhouses of the housing estates in Ms YUNG's constituency to participate in the scheme. Department staff might also be deployed to the district to give briefing on the use of the library's electronic resources. On music and performing arts, the department would gauge the views of the community when designing activities and process applications for use of venues for non-designated use according to established mechanism.
- (f) On bazaar policy, the department had organised bazaar activities in districts such as Sham Shui Po around LNY in collaboration with NGOs and considered collaboration effective for holding of bazaars. On regular bazaars, arts fairs were organised mainly to tie in with the needs of the cultural industry and normally held at large venues instead of soccer pitches. While at present the department mainly provided event venues, it would continue to explore the bazaar operation mode and collect different opinions.
- (g) On swimming, the department was committed to promoting swimming as a sports activity and survival skill. The Hong Kong Jockey Club currently provided subsidy for junior primary students to learn swimming, whereas the department provided venues and ancillary facilities. The department agreed that children should learn to swim at an early age to take part in other water sports in the future. On the district level, the department would provide community swimming classes with DC funds and continue to monitor the needs of Islands District.
- (h) On shortage of lifeguards, the department was proactively addressing this structural problem. The department had indicated to other DCs the intention to garner support at district level for recruiting lifeguards, in particular Islands District where recruitment of lifeguards from other districts was difficult due to its remoteness. The department was more than willing to devote resources to train up local people to serve as lifeguards in the respective districts by providing swimming and lifesaving training in collaboration with the local authorities. She remarked that young people preferred indoor jobs with stable working hours, thus it was very difficult to recruit lifeguards. Lastly, she said that although she could not manage to respond to all enquiries one by

one, she noted the views of all Members and would follow up proactively to enhance the delivery of public service in a pragmatic manner. She again thanked other government departments for their assistance.

16. Ms Amy YUNG said regarding the situation of not being able to appoint an accountant mentioned by Mr Bill TANG, according to experience, she considered it necessary to request assistance from a certified public accountant at a nominal fee.

17. Ms Michelle LI said that activity organisers were required to submit an auditor's report upon completion of the activities for public inspection. The department would look into the relevant technical issues.

(Post-meeting note: The department explained to Mr TANG after the meeting that according to the conditions of venue lease, the organiser was required to submit a statement of accounts audited by qualified accountant/auditor within three months after the activity.)

18. Mr Holden CHOW added that regarding the town park, the department and his team had inspected the site to address problems. He said that no detailed planning was formulated for the work at the outset and hoped that there would be further discussion with LCSD and PlanD in the future so that he could inform the residents of the progress.

(During the discussion on Item I, Mr Holden CHOW, Mr Ken WONG and Mr WONG Man-hon arrived at the meeting at around 2:10 p.m., Mr KWONG Koon-wan arrived at around 2:20 p.m. and Mr Bill TANG arrived at around 2:30 p.m.)

## II. Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 24 June 2019

19. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by the government departments and Members, and had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

20. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendment.

## III. Question on progress of a through-train primary-cum-secondary school built in Discovery Bay (Paper IDC 77/2019)

21. The Chairman welcomed Dr LEE Chi-on, Clement, Senior School Development Officer (Islands)<sup>1</sup> of the Education Bureau (EDB) to the meeting to respond to the question. EDB had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

22. Ms Amy YUNG briefly presented the question.

23. Dr Clement LEE said the bureau had provided a written reply and he had nothing to add at the moment.

24. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She was dissatisfied with the bureau's reply. When the developer developed Discovery Bay North, the said school site was designated as one of the ancillary facilities, but almost 20 years had passed and construction had still not started. Residents of Discovery Bay had a keen demand for this school and she did not understand why the bureau did not set down the implementation timetable and mode of school operation.
- (b) With the continuous growth of population in both Discovery Bay and Tung Chung, a number of schools were gradually completed in Tung Chung but the bureau remained all talk and no action over 20 years where the said school in Discovery Bay was concerned.
- (c) She asked the bureau to provide the conclusions for its decision of not building the school for the time being with concrete figures. The bureau indicated that the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong (CDHK) had been allocated with the site but it was left vacant for years. She opined that the land could be used for other purposes such as basketball court or other recreational facilities, but discussion with the District Lands Office (DLO) or CDHK might be needed. She asked the bureau to provide the relevant information.

25. Dr Clement LEE said that he would relay the views to the relevant section and try to provide information for Members' reference.

26. Ms Amy YUNG expressed great disappointment at Dr LEE's response. She had time and again raised this issue at meetings and each time received the same response of relaying the information to colleagues. She phoned the bureau every year for follow-up action but the bureau only replied that a study was underway. It had been having deliberation without decision and decision without action. The bureau might inspect the questionnaire survey she conducted in 2016 which had made detailed analysis. Although she provided the information, the bureau said that the matter would be passed to relevant colleagues and did not take follow-up action. She considered this highly irresponsible and asked the bureau to provide a definite reply with relevant information to Members.

27. Dr Clement LEE said that an enquiry was made to the relevant section in response to Ms YUNG's question. Since the building of a new school depended on the population growth as well as the demand and supply of public school places, the bureau had been monitoring the data changes and anticipated that there was no need to build schools in Discovery Bay in the next few years.

28. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) At present, Discovery Bay had 21 000 residents with some students attending schools in other districts. Islands District was different from other districts in that residents generally spent three hours to travel to and from home by ferries or vehicles. It would be most desirable that the three hours' commute could be saved for students to get rest or study. She did not understand why the bureau did not take a proactive approach to this matter and not provide Members with any information. No information was given to counter the findings of her questionnaire survey and no other data was given. Residents reflected that they had long been waiting for completion of the school. She hoped that Dr LEE would ask the responsible staff to respond to her question and to provide data in support of the decision of not building the school.
- (b) She indicated that public money would not be required for school building. The developer had included in the land premium the relevant cost when developing Discovery Bay North. Even with the expansion of site for building the primary-cum-secondary school, it would not run up a huge bill. In 2016, she received the written reply from the former Deputy Secretary for Education Ms Bernadette Linn, who indicated that the relevant cost would be borne by the bureau. She questioned whether the letter should be posted for public inspection.

(Post-meeting note: Ms Amy YUNG amended the name of the former Deputy Secretary for Education as Ms Mable CHAN and that the reply letter was issued in 2012.)

29. The Chairman hoped that Dr Clement LEE would respond to what Ms Amy YUNG said.

30. Ms Amy YUNG hoped that the bureau would be responsible enough to respond to residents' request.

(Post-meeting note: At the request for information at the meeting, EDB provided the reply as follows:

- The school building plan of EDB in Discovery Bay Area N4a must tie in with the latest population development and the future population planning of Islands District. The long-term sustainability of the proposed school should be considered with regard to the latest demand for and supply of public school places. The bureau would continue to closely monitor the demand for and supply of school places of public sector primary and secondary schools, and project whether there would be a surplus or shortage based on the existing school places available for a review of the school building plan accordingly.

- Before confirming the schedule for school building in Discovery Bay Area N4a, EDB would proactively consider whether the site was to be leased to district organisations for temporary purposes, given that the temporary purposes and facilities (if applicable) concerned would not affect future development of the reserved school site and the site returned upon dismantling of facilities when a concrete school building plan was available.
- According to the information of LandsD, Discovery Bay Area N4a was a private lot which was designated for school use according to the lease. Any district organisations which wished to use the site for other temporary purposes had to contact the landowner, Hong Kong Resort Company Limited and obtain its prior consent. Upon receipt of an application for temporary alteration of lease restrictions by the landowner, LandsD would process the application according to the existing mechanism and launch a consultation with the relevant government departments (including EDB) and members of the public.

IV. Motion on provision of temporary market or wet market in Tung Chung

(Paper IDC 78/2019)

VII. Question on construction progress of public market in Tung Chung Area 6

(Paper IDC 81/2019)

31. The Chairman said that Items IV and VII were related and proposed the items be discussed concurrently. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal. The motion was raised by Mr Eric KWOK and seconded by Ms Josephine TSANG.

32. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the motion and question.

33. Mr Holden CHOW said that he was not against the motion of Item IV but had reservations about the proposed site for the public market in Tung Chung. A number of residents found Tung Chung Area 6 (the roundabout adjacent to MTR Tung Chung Station at present) unsuitable for construction of a public market and a commercial building in the vicinity of residential areas, and proposed constructing them at Tung Chung town centre or other appropriate locations (such as the uncovered bus stop adjacent to Tung Chung Skyrail Terminal or the vacant land behind the fire station). He had conducted a site visit to Tung Chung Area 6 with the representatives of the Development Bureau and relayed the views of residents.

34. Mr Bill TANG said that the Government granted lands to developers for construction of public markets through tendering for streamlining the procedures and

time-saving. He proposed the same approach be adopted for construction of a large-scale public market (similar to the market and cooked food stalls in Luen Wo Hui) at On Tung Street Soccer Pitch, where a number of wet and dry goods stalls would be provided to cope with the needs of residents of Yat Tung Estate. In addition, he proposed that the Government should develop temporary or permanent bazaars.

35. Ms Sammi FU expressed her views as follows:

- (a) Residents of her constituency were pleased that the construction of a public market was confirmed but had reservations about planning and site selection of the proposed market. As for planning, the residents hoped that a municipal services building could be constructed in the area but it was only stated in the Policy Address that the market would occupy two storeys of a replanned commercial building. As for site selection, Area 6 was an important public transport interchange so relocation of the interchange and development of a large-scale commercial building therein might aggravate traffic congestion. In addition, there was only a road between the proposed site of the commercial building and Tung Chung Crescent. The residents were concerned that wall effect would be created after completion of the building, thus affecting air ventilation. As Area 6 was close to Fu Tung Estate, the new public market might be in competition with the market in Fu Tung Estate. She had written to the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) to propose constructing the public market near Tung Chung Skyrail Terminal or in the vicinity of Yat Tung Estate instead.
- (b) She supported development of bazaars which would enable small vendors to make a living by selling handicrafts or local produce while the residents could purchase goods at reasonable prices, thus creating a win-win situation.

36. The Chairman asked Members to vote by a show of hands. The motion was passed with 18 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

37. Mr Eric KWOK said that construction of a municipal market in Tung Chung was announced in the 2017 Policy Agenda and 2018 Policy Address. Tung Chung residents hoped that the large-scale public market could be completed soon and some expressed their views on site selection. However, FHB still had not conducted detailed works planning. He asked the bureau to submit consultation papers as soon as possible and provide the stakeholders with information about transport planning and facilities for further discussion and studies.

38. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU said that Members supported construction of a temporary market but the bureau only stated that there would be difficulties in implementation in its written reply without indicating whether a temporary market would be constructed or not. He hoped that a site would be identified for early construction of a temporary market to respond to the demands of Members and the

public. For the development of bazaars as stated in the paper, it was a separate issue and should not be muddled together.

V. Question on enforcement actions by the Police

(Paper IDC 79/2019)

VI. Question on road blockage during marches and protests

(Paper IDC 80/2019)

39. The Chairman said that Items V and VI were related and proposed the items be discussed concurrently. He welcomed Mr SHEUNG Chun-kit, Jacky, Acting Deputy District Commander (Lantau), New Territories South Regional Headquarters Lantau District of HKPF to the meeting to respond to the questions.

40. Ms Amy YUNG and Mr WONG Man-hon briefly presented the questions respectively.

41. Mr Jacky SHEUNG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He said that tear gas was used as a less-lethal weapon by the Police in law enforcement which caused less harm than physical contact. Tear gas was used to disperse protestors using violence and keep their distance so that body contact could be avoided. In other words, if protests were conducted lawfully and peacefully, the Police would not consider using tear gas.
- (b) He reiterated that the Police did not tolerate violence. Resolute enforcement actions would be taken against offenders to bring them to justice and each case would be investigated in an impartial and professional manner. In response to the Yuen Long incident mentioned by Ms Amy YUNG, he said that the Police had arrested around 30 people and four of them were prosecuted for riot after the Department of Justice had carefully considered the evidence concerned. He said that the Police were aware of the remarks made by the United Nations and relevant coverage, and emphasised that the Police principles and guidelines for the use of tear gas and force were in line with those of their counterparts in advanced countries. The legitimacy, necessity and proportionality of use of force were also spelt out.
- (c) The Police were responsible for protecting people's lives and properties so it did not tolerate violence and would strive to bring offenders to justice. Uncooperative movements in any form affecting daily life of the public were undesirable. The Police would be extremely careful when vetting applications for large-scale activities to prevent any impacts of the marches and protests on other people. He appealed to the public to take into account the rights of the others when upholding freedom and exercising their rights, and reiterated that order restoration was crucial to Hong Kong so that the public could return to their normal life. As for



vetting, Lantau District of HKPF would conduct a comprehensive assessment for each public meeting or application for letter of no objection. The Police respected the public's freedoms of expression, speech and assembly but the applications had to be assessed to minimise the impacts on residents or other road users and to ensure that the marches or public meetings would be conducted peacefully. If there were any unlawful acts, the Police would take resolute enforcement actions. If roads were blocked maliciously, police officers, after examining the safety condition of the public and themselves, would immediately remove obstacles to re-open the roads for public use where circumstances permitted. They would also maintain close liaison with the Transport Department to provide breaking news about major trunk roads. He reiterated that the Police did not tolerate violence and would strive to bring offenders to justice. They strongly condemned those who use violence and would conduct investigation and take enforcement actions against all unlawful acts in an impartial and professional manner.

42. Mr CHAN Lin-wai said that HKPF was composed of Hong Kong people who loved Hong Kong. He had confidence in the Police and fully supported their actions. He was concerned that the recent repeated protests might lead to some police officers quitting which would bring serious consequences. Thanks to the endeavours of Hong Kong people and the Police over the years, Hong Kong had been a prosperous, stable and safe city where people lived and worked in contentment.

43. Mr Bill TANG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He hoped to take this opportunity to thank the Police for their utmost physical and mental efforts in maintaining the law and social order of Hong Kong in the past three months, even when the safety of their own and their family were under threat. Regarding the comment that the Police were civil servants paid for maintaining the order of Hong Kong, he found it shameful to make such callous remarks under the extreme condition at present.
- (b) He said that it was the last meeting of the current term of IDC and he might not serve for another term of office. He complimented all Members of IDC for handling issues through discussion and striving to fulfill their duties. He said that under the current political situation, one should reflect whether violent acts were acceptable. When watching live broadcasts on TV the day before, he saw protestors vandalising public property irrationally and wantonly. Some even collectively bullied people who questioned them and covered camera lens shooting them at a close distance with umbrellas. He opined that strict enforcement actions were only taken when violence occurred, and the use of tear gas rounds was an immediate counter-measure to violent acts of the protestors without getting pre-warnings. Therefore, it was impossible for the Police to undertake not to use tear gas rounds when

there were violent charging acts. He enquired when the people wantonly vandalised Tung Chung MTR Station and attacked the public at the Airport and Tung Chung MTR Station would be prosecuted and when those causing damage to the office of Mr Holden CHOW would be arrested. It was learnt that a mainland tourist was arrested for spraying graffiti with the words “China will prevail” (中國必勝) on the façade of the US Consulate on 18 August and sentenced to four weeks’ imprisonment on 20 August. As it took only two days for enforcement and trial, he enquired of the Police when enforcement actions would be taken against people who threw the national flag of China into the sea. He opined that double standards were applied when the Police exercised duties and urged the Police to strictly enforce the law.

44. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She understood the views of Mr Bill TANG and opined that no one in Hong Kong wished to see the current situation or violent incidents. The Police had been assisting in stopping the riots and restoring stability. She opined that the root cause of the current crisis was attributed to political factors. The political problems should be resolved at political level rather than shifted to the Police. She pointed out that the gear of the Police was very advanced, powerful and lethal. It was heard that a protestor was beaten to death on 31 August. She asked the Police to clarify on the news, hoping that no one was killed in the incident.
- (b) The public learned the latest situation every day through live TV broadcasts, including the use of tear gas rounds by the Police and bean bag rounds hitting the eye of two persons. She enquired of the Police whether the use of the weapons concerned was in compliance with the Police General Orders. As there was a large disparity in power between the gear of protestors and that of the Police, she enquired whether the Police could exercise restraint. To her understanding, some members of the public witnessed two groups of people arguing at Prince Edward MTR Station and called the law enforcement officers to scene for assistance. However, the officers did not disperse the people involved and stop the riot but left the scene after bashing people. She was not biased in favour of the Police or protestors as both sides had used force. She just hoped that social division could be avoided, and proposed that the Police should provide emotional regulation training for its officers.
- (c) Hatred had been bred between the Police and protestors, rendering it difficult to resolve the problem. The core of the problem was the Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill Movement but the Government still refused to make any concessions regarding the “five demands” raised by the public, thus leading to violent acts after every peaceful march. She was worried that the situation would persist for a long time. The pan-democratic camp demonstrated its peaceful, rational and non-violent side

on 18 August, and 1.7 million people participated in the march but no disturbance occurred that day. The Government should not deprive the peaceful, rational and non-violent group of their rights of expression simply because violence broke out after peaceful marches.

- (d) The public valued privacy, property management and national flags symbolising the national authority in general. However, she opined that the serious injuries and eye rupture caused by confrontations between the Police and protestors were also worthy of concern. She hoped that all parties could stay calm and work out a solution. She also appealed to the top management of the Government to grasp the current situation and avoid pushing Hong Kong to the brink of the cliff. Otherwise, the city would be shattered and our society would remain chaotic. She did not attribute all problems to the Police but hoped that they could take into account during law enforcement that they were more powerful than the protestors in terms of gear.
- (e) Some professional organisations pointed out that medical workers requested to enter the protest site for aid but was rejected. She enquired of the Police whether it was true. She said that social workers protecting young protestors were hit by tear gas rounds and the eye of one of them was even shot ruptured. Journalists were also attacked by tear gas rounds and tear gas. She opined that the people concerned were discharging their duties only and hoped that the Police could understand the needs of their work.

45. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that his office in Fu Tung Estate was extensively vandalised by protestors the night before and the case was reported to the Police. Large numbers of protestors vandalised facilities at MTR stations wantonly as well and some burnt the national flag under the full glare of public attention. Furthermore, it was said that two persons trying to shoot videos with mobile phones had disputes and were heavily beaten up by a few protestors. Some residents were outraged, concerned and dreadful of the violent situation. Members could only notify the residents in advance after being informed of upcoming large-scale marches around the Airport in case the marches and public meetings turned into confrontations.
- (b) He understood that the Police had been physically and mentally exhausted in the past two months and they risked their lives to perform duties. Protestors hurled patrol bombs, set fires and even attacked the Police with arrow-like objects. Frontline police officers had to risk their lives to maintain order under great pressure. He was concerned that everyone would be pushed to the brink of the cliff if such violent acts persisted. In addition, the Police and protestors might be seriously

injured in every violent confrontation. It was believed that the majority of the public did not wish violent incidents to happen.

- (c) He hoped that everyone could make a clean break with violent acts and objected to tackling problems with force. He found behaviours such as cyber bullying, public disclosure of others' information and bullying of family, including children, of police officers beyond the moral bottom line.

46. Mr KWONG Koon-wan said that there had been rumours on the internet of the organising of protests in Cheung Chau the day before (1 September), over which the residents of Cheung Chau were extremely concerned. He had contacted the Police and the Fire Services Department to understand their responsive measures in the past weeks, and understood and gave support to actions taken by the Police to avoid confrontations. A number of riot police stationed in the vicinity of Cheung Chau the night before which aroused concerns among the residents. An unpleasant incident also happened. To his understanding, the Police stopped and questioned an underage teenager but he failed to produce a valid identity card. Owing to the tense atmosphere, large numbers of riot police stationing and large numbers of people at the site, the teenager burst into tears when being stopped and questioned, which gave rise to public discontent with the Police. The teenager was released after his parents arrived and produced his identity document. He said that the living habits of residents of Cheung Chau were different from those of people in the urban area. For instance, he did not often bring his identity card along when he was in Cheung Chau. While police officers familiar with the customs in Cheung Chau were believed to understand the mode of living of the residents, those stationed or deployed temporarily from places outside the island might not. Therefore, he proposed that the Police could suggest the person being stopped and questioned ask his/her family or friends to bring his/her identity card if the person concerned could speak fluent Cantonese and clearly named his/her address in Cheung Chau, despite not having identity document. In this way, the incident could be satisfactorily settled.

47. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He felt saddened and helpless about the current social environment in Hong Kong. He sighed that Hong Kong people were born of the same root and why one hurt each other so mercilessly? The police officers had families and the young protestors were beloved children of their parents, yet there were division, mistrust and attacks between the two sides. As mentioned by Ms Amy YUNG, all these were triggered by the proposed amendments to the Fugitives Offenders Ordinance, and political issues should be resolved by political means. The Police had all along upheld the principle of integrity and dealt with matters and persons with an impartial and sympathetic attitude. He respected the Police very much, and opined that the Police should not be made targets and suffer harm to its reputation that had been built up over the years.

- (b) He proposed that the Chief Executive should consider a reshuffle of the Executive Council. Regarding the five demands, the Government might not have to respond to all of them but choose to respond to two. Since the Government said that the fugitive bill was dead, he proposed that it should explicitly indicate that the Fugitive Offenders Bill would be withdrawn or appoint persons of credibility to form an independent commission of inquiry (ICI) for conducting investigation on all fronts, targeting not only the Police but all related persons. He believed that if the Government demonstrated sincerity, it and the Police would regain support from the majority of Hong Kong people. As it would take about two to four years from the establishment of the ICI until the results of investigation were available, he believed that the number of rally participants would significantly decrease at that time and the Government might, as and when appropriate, invite people at different posts to build a platform for dialogue and undo this knot with sincerity for the country and Hong Kong. He hoped that various parties would make efforts to resolve the problem faced by Hong Kong today through communication.

48. Mr WONG Man-hon said that yesterday (1 September) the protestors deliberately vandalised Tung Chung MTR Station and Airport Express, suspending the services on the Tung Chung Line and severely affecting bus services at the Airport and Tung Chung. Yesterday, a large group of protestors occupied Tat Tung Road, Chek Lap Kok South Road and Tung Chung roundabout, etc. as well as set up barricades and committed arson at various locations, bringing to a standstill of the Airport and traffic and seriously affecting the daily life of the residents of Tung Chung and Lantau Island. Citing his own experience, he said yesterday he participated in an activity and after which he and other participants were carried by two coaches back to Tung Chung. Upon receiving the relevant information, the drivers changed route and took the participants to Central Piers to interchange for ferries. Upon reaching the piers, he saw about 100 riot police officers stationed there and he was fully aware of the feeling of jittery. People on the scene all felt nervous and alarmed. In Tung Chung, individual protestors threw large amounts of objects onto the railway track which might derail the train and seriously endanger the safety of passengers. He considered such violence totally unacceptable. He strongly condemned the protestors for the violence and disregarding public safety, and called on all Hong Kong people to make a clean break with violence, not to condone and connive any violence and make a concerted effort to stop riots so that Hong Kong would have a better tomorrow.

49. Mr YUNG Chi-ming expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He deeply respected the Police and supported fully police enforcement. He said that he did not oppose to marches and protests but objected to the vandalism and traffic obstruction caused by protestors which posed inconvenience to people going to work or school. He opined that people might express their demands by ways of sit-ins or marches but should not resort to vandalism. He saw on TV that a police officer was

beaten up and only drew his gun after having been beaten for some time. He considered the police officer very restrained and brave and that the consequences could be unimaginable if he did not draw the gun.

- (b) Regarding the sudden influx of people into Cheung Chau yesterday, he suspected that they came from Tung Chung by inter-islands service and did not understand why the protestors caused destruction in Cheung Chau. To his understanding, the police officers in Cheung Chau last night were very restrained and patient, and residents of Cheung Chau did not intervene when the persons concerned put up paper on the Lennon Wall or held movie screening sessions. He felt aggrieved by the vandalism of the protestors and worried that continued violence would seriously affect the life of people and even cause riots across the territory, thereby giving rise to more problems such as unemployment, threats to livelihood, inability to pay tuition fee and rent, looting, and eventually break down in law and order in Hong Kong.

50. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She opposed to brutality. However, members of the public saw with their own eyes “indiscriminate beating” in the violent incident happened on 21 July in Yuen Long, where men in white T-shirts assaulted people in the MTR station or train compartments, and the situation lasted for four hours before the Police arrived. She said it had been reported earlier that the Police had contacts and interactions with the people in white T-shirts. She considered this a serious incident because not only the protestors were injured but also the old, weak, women and children.
- (b) She pointed out that on the day preceding the violent incident on 31 August, i.e. 30 August, a number of incidents happened, which included the arrest and prosecution of several political figures by the Police and the incident of a police officer being chopped and injured. She felt strange about a series of arrests and the injury of police officer and wished to know the reason for it.
- (c) As for the hurling of petrol bombs, she enquired whether it was legitimate for an undercover police officer to pose as a protestor. As she understood, the Police generally mounted undercover operations against illegal activities such as drug trafficking, vice activities and gambling. As shown in a photo taken by the Agence France-Presse, a woman hurling a petrol bomb carried a pistol, and was thus suspected of being a female police officer. She asked the Police to respond to this. She also enquired of the Police that in a series of protests, whether any undercover police officer had led the public to engage in illegal acts and whether any people had been beaten to death in the protests.

- (d) She concurred with Mr Eric KWOK's proposal of setting up an ICI and that the investigation should not target only the Police. There had been accusations that foreign forces were involved in the protests and she reckoned that setting up an ICI would help find out the truth. As it was learnt that the Police strongly opposed the setting up of an ICI, she enquired of the Police whether it was true and the reasons for opposition. Lastly, she expressed her feeling with a remark: "The melon of Huangtai cannot bear the picking again (黃台之瓜，何堪再摘)".

51. The Vice-Chairman Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that as the Chairman of Fight Crime Committee, he had been closely collaborating with two Police Districts over the past four and a half years. To his understanding, the police had a strength of only 30 000, and excluding civilian members and off-duty officers, there were only several thousand officers on duty in each shift. Over the past three months, melees ensued across the city almost every day, leading to difficulties in police enforcement. He hereby thanked the Police for their efforts and expressed utmost respect to them.
- (b) Many riots including wounding, assault, damage of public properties and road blockade broke out over the past two months. Yesterday, some protestors in Islands District even threw objects such as iron poles and metal boxes onto the railway track. As Hong Kong was a densely populated city and the public generally travelled by MTR, he was worried that if the objects were not cleared promptly by MTR staff, heavy casualties would be caused.
- (c) He remarked that despite the political differences in IDC, Members were able to conduct rational discussions on the current problems of Hong Kong without uncivilised acts or swearing. He agreed that political issues should be resolved by political means and that dialogue was necessary. He hoped that people holding different political views would realise that it was necessary to compromise in politics, and so it was necessary to make political compromises on the aspiration of "five demands, not one less". He hoped that all parties would resume rational discussion and that riots, casualties and worries would not arise again. He believed that if all parties could discuss issues in a rational manner as Members did today, Hong Kong would definitely have a way out.

52. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said that yesterday there were calls made by some people to gather at Cheung Chau Ferry Pier which she believed was to block the pier. She indicated that the Police did not disperse the people and exercised restraint. She appreciated the Police's way of handling the matter. She opined that if the assembly could not achieve the expected result, people would gradually leave; on the contrary, if it was obstructed by the Police, there would be a growing number of people gathering.

53. Ms YU Lai-fan supported the Police to take enforcement actions in accordance with the laws. She hoped that when holding marches and assemblies, participants would not cause disturbances near residences to avoid the Police taking enforcement actions near residential areas and even deploying tear gas to disperse the protestors. She opined that if members of the public had any opinions, they should reflect to relevant government departments. She proposed that the Government should call on the protestors to express their demands in a peaceful and rational manner and not to cause disturbances near the residences, so as to ensure the safety of residents and to avoid injury to police officers and the public. At present, marches and protests were held at various districts from time to time, and she did not understand why the people were not willing to use the platform established by the Government to conduct dialogue.

54. Mr HO Chun-fai said that Members should not enquire of the Police why tear gas was deployed at crowded places or near residential areas. Moreover, he remarked that discussions on the issues concerned should be conducted in a matter-of-fact manner and should not target individual cases (e.g. Yuen Long violent incident).

55. Mr Bill TANG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He indicated that it was not easy to reach consensus on political issues and called on all sectors to continue to display professionalism and not to spread hate speech. He was shocked by the recent remarks made by the education and medical care sectors and hoped that various parties could reach consensus soonest.
- (b) He condemned the acts of the assailants and riots in Yuen Long and opined that the Police should adopt an impartial approach in investigation and arresting offenders. He hoped that Members from the pan-democratic camp would also condemn the protestors who used violence for reason of justice. He questioned that if being civilised and rational were common sets of value, why some Members claimed that “not even a nuclear explosion could set us apart” and continued to support the protestors who had become irrational.
- (c) Although “one country, two systems” had come under severe criticisms, he believed that this political idea should still be upheld. He reckoned that Members from the pan-democratic camp should state as soon as possible their position on the acts of the university students such as burning the national flag, blatantly offending the state and speaking to the media that Hong Kong should become independent. He opined that the problems could be resolved only by opening a dialogue on the premise of upholding “one country, two systems”.
- (d) He hoped that protests would be halted for two weeks to allow time for the Government and various sectors to explore solutions instead of



criticising one-sidedly that the Government did not respond to public demands.

56. Ms WONG Chau-ping expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She opined that all parties should identify solutions in a calm and rational manner as Ms Amy YUNG said. She hoped that the tension in society could be eased soonest and peace be restored in Hong Kong. She concurred with Mr Eric KWOK that if people really cared about the interest of the country and Hong Kong, they should take more concrete actions to improve people's livelihood. She said that recently many members of the public and villagers expressed the hope of settling the chaos soonest and she believed that Members here with different political views also thought the same.
- (b) Some people said that as the current situation and image of Hong Kong deterred tourists, coupled with the travel alerts for Hong Kong issued from some countries, the occupancy rate of hotels dropped, the tourist industry was hard hit, and the retail and catering industries were also affected. She said that recently the property market was unstable and the rentals dropped, with some companies requesting their staff to take unpaid leave and conducting layoffs. She reiterated that all parties should keep calm to solve the problems so that the public could live and work in contentment and Hong Kong be brought back onto the right track.

57. Mr Holden CHOW said that all violent acts including the Yuen Long violent incident should be condemned and requested the Police to take vigilant enforcement action in an impartial manner. He reckoned that even the disputes which were difficult to address should be solved by communication and dialogue and believed that solutions could always be found through prolonged negotiation. He hoped that the people would resolve the existing disputes through dialogue.

58. The Chairman said he believed the Police would handle the related matters fairly and justly without favour to anyone.

59. Mr LAU Cheng-fung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) It was the Police's responsibility to combat crimes and maintain social order. While Hong Kong was now faced with serious challenge, the Police would perform duties faithfully, fulfill their responsibilities conferred by the law and strive to serve the public.
- (b) Regarding the public assembly at Cheung Chau Ferry Pier yesterday, he pointed out that the Police had maintained good relations with the public in Cheung Chau, yet there were unnecessary misunderstandings and disputes arising from the social problems recently. When taking

enforcement actions or maintaining law and order in the district, the Police (including Cheung Chau Police District) would as far as possible consider the needs of residents, particularly in such communities as Cheung Chau which had all along been harmonious. Given the current situation of the society, there might be misunderstandings between the public and the Police, yet the police officers would be reminded to continue to discharge duties properly.

60. Mr Jacky SHEUNG expressed gratitude for Members' support, in particular the Chairman's understanding of and trust in the Police, and noted the suggestions of Members. Regarding Ms Amy YUNG's enquiry about whether anyone had died during the arrest of protestors by the Police, he cited the response of the Hospital Authority which stated that no one had died as a result of participation in protests. He reiterated that the Police would continue to perform their duties faithfully and provide professional services to the public.

#### VIII. Progress on District-led Actions Scheme (Paper IDC 82/2019)

61. The Chairman welcomed Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin, Assistant District Officer (Islands)<sup>1</sup> of IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

62. Mr Benjamin AU briefly presented the paper.

63. Members noted and endorsed the proposal set out in the paper.

#### IX. Report on the Work of the Islands District Management Committee (July 2019) (Paper IDC 83/2019)

64. Mr Ken WONG was concerned about the vessel removal work in Peng Chau. He said that the removal of abandoned vessels had been handled by DLO. However, FEHD recently participate in the concerned work but solicited help from the community due to lack of tools for removing abandoned vessels, which caused nuisance to the residents. After checking the documents, he noted that abandoned vessels had all along been removed by DLO and asked the department to explain why FEHD was responsible for the removal work at present.

65. Mr KWOK Chi-hang responded that to his understanding, DLO would post notices on the vessels concerned before joint operation according to Section 6(1) of Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Chapter 28). If the vessels were not removed before the specified date to cease unlawful occupation of government land, DLO would arrange removal of the vessels. Regarding the arrangement for removal of vessels by FEHD mentioned by Mr Ken WONG, he would study the situation after the meeting.

66. Mr Ken WONG supplemented that FEHD and DLO were responsible for removing bicycles and vessels respectively in general. After posting statutory notices, DLO invoked Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Chapter 28) to remove vessels in the past. However, the responsibility had been shifted to FEHD, which solicited help from IsDO as FEHD was unable to handle abandoned vessels. He urged DLO to clarify which department was responsible for the removal of abandoned vessels.

67. Mr KWOK Chi-hang said that he would study the situation and take follow-up action after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: According to the record, DLO was invited to participate in the joint operation on 27 September 2018 to handle illegally-parked vessels at Peng Chau. On division of work, the co-ordination unit requested DLO to post notices on the vessels concerned pursuant to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Chapter 28) and FEHD to clear the vessels during the operation if they had not been removed by the owners. DLO proactively participated in the joint operation on 27 September 2018 but did not arrange the contractor to remove the vessels due to the aforesaid division of work. To avoid misunderstanding, when participating in future joint operations, DLO would take the initiative to clearly inform the co-ordination unit of the roles of DLO, which included posting notices and arranging for removal of vessels unlawfully occupying government land.)

X. Reports on the Work of the IDC Committees  
(Papers IDC 84-87/2019)

68. The Chairman said that since the operation of DC would be suspended from 4 October to the end of this year, the Working Group on Bazaar could not implement activities due to the time constraint, thus the related activities for this financial year would be shelved.

69. Mr Bill TANG supplemented that he had considered using the allocation for bazaar activities to conduct research but found that it might not be appropriate due to the different natures of allocations. Although he had discussed with past co-organisers the holding of bazaar, bazaar activities were unable to be held this year due to manpower and time constraints. He extended apologies for this.

70. Members noted and endorsed the above paper.

XI. Allocation of DC finds

(i) Up-to-date Financial Position on the Use of DC Funds  
(Paper IDC 88/2019)

71. The Chairman said that to make optimal use of funding, he proposed that the \$160,000 originally earmarked for the Working Group on Bazaar and part of the reserve, i.e. \$110,000, be allocated to the recruitment of DC contract staff in order to cater for the salary adjustment this year.

72. Mr Holden CHOW enquired what kind of staff would be recruited.

73. The Secretary supplemented that the said allocation of \$270,000 would be only used to cater for the salary adjustment this year.

74. Members noted and endorsed the above paper and proposal.

(ii) Approval for Using DC Funds by circulation from 1 June to 31 July 2019  
(Paper IDC 89/2019)

75. Members noted the paper.

XII. Date of Next Meeting

76. The Chairman said that to facilitate the election for the new term of DC, the operation of DC would be suspended from 4 October 2019 until the end of the current term of office, i.e. 31 December 2019. During the suspension, meetings and activities of DC and its committees and working groups had to be suspended. As such, meetings of DC and its committees and working groups originally scheduled for the dates after 4 October 2019 would be cancelled.

77. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

-End-