

(Translation)

Minutes of Special Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 17 January 2020 (Friday)

Time : 10:00 a.m.

Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Present

Chairman

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Vice-Chairman

Mr WONG Man-hon

Members

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH

Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Mr HO Chun-fai

Mr HO Siu-kei

Ms WONG Chau-ping

Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy

Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Mr LEE Ka-ho

Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho

Mr WONG Chun-yeung

Attendance by Invitation

Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr TONG Ping-tat

Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands,
Housing Department

Mr. KWAN Chung-wai, David

District Leisure Manager (Islands),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Secretary

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

The Chairman welcomed Members to the special meeting.

2. The Chairman said that at the District Council (DC) meeting on 6 January, owing to time constraint, Members expressed the wish that another meeting be arranged for further discussing in detail matters relating to the formation of DC committees and Standing Orders, and for discussing Wuhan pneumonia as well. The formation of DC committees and Wuhan pneumonia would be discussed at the meeting today, whereas the Standing Orders would be discussed at the meeting on 20 January (next Monday).

I. Formation and election matters regarding the Sixth Term Islands District Council Committees
(Paper IDC 11/2020)

3. The Chairman said that the formation of committees was not discussed in detail at the last meeting due to insufficient time, hence discussion continued at this meeting. Subject to endorsement of DC on the formation of committees, the Secretariat would write to Members on 21 January asking them to indicate by 30 January whether they would like to join the committees, and then write to Members again for nominating candidates for the election of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen which would be held at the DC meeting on 17 February. He said that the Islands District Council (IDC) had four committees and proposed discussing them one by one.

4. The Chairman briefly introduced the main duties of the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC), which included conducting discussion on daily traffic and transport issues in the district.

5. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the formation of TTC.

6. The Chairman briefly introduced the main duties of the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee (TAFEHC), which included assisting in promoting the development of fisheries and agriculture, commercial and industrial, and tourism sectors and conducting discussion on environmental and hygiene matters in the district. He added that a proposal was raised by Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho at the last meeting to include climate change-related matters in the scope of work of the committee, which was in general covered although not expressly stated in the terms of reference of the committee. He remarked that in view of the frequency of typhoon attacks in recent years and occurrence of natural disasters throughout the world from time to time, he agreed to add the words “climate change” to arouse public concerns. He asked Members to read and consider the amended proposal set out in Annex 1.

7. Ms LAU Shun-ting considered it reasonable to include climate change issue in the terms of reference of TAFEHC. In light of the serious damages caused to Lamma Island, Cheung Chau, Lantau Island and Peng Chau by the previous two super typhoons, she agreed with the proposal of Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho.

8. Ms Josephine TSANG also agreed with the proposal and opined that precautionary measures should be taken and there should be a better understanding of climate change.

9. Mr Eric KWOK agreed to include climate change issue in the terms of reference of TAFEHC and proposed that representatives of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) be invited to attend the meetings of the committee.

10. The Chairman said that letters would be issued to invite representatives of EPD and HKO to attend meetings of TAFEHC and enquired whether Members agreed to the formation of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee (TAFEHCCC).

11. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the formation of TAFEHCCC.

12. The Chairman briefly introduced the main duties of the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC), which included conducting discussion on the demand and supply, management and use of cultural, recreational, sports and community facilities in the district and advising on the use of DC works funds to carry out improvement or construction works for district facilities.

13. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the formation of DFMC.

14. The Chairman briefly introduced the main duties of the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC), which included providing advice and recommendations on education, housing, healthcare, social service, poverty alleviation and employment needs in the district; assisting DC in vetting funding applications for community involvement projects (CIPs) and cultural, leisure and sports activities

organised by local groups; and reviewing the funding criteria of DC. He added that regarding the proposal of Ms Amy YUNG at the last meeting for setting up Finance and Monitoring Committee (FMC), the Secretariat had enquired about the duties generally performed by relevant committees of other DCs (please refer to Annex 2 for details) and found that many of which were already performed by CACRC (see points 3 to 5). The Chairman enquired whether Members would like to retain the terms of reference of CACRC or establish FMC to undertake the related work.

15. Ms Amy YUNG proposed transfer of part of the functions of CACRC to FMC. Noting that the recent Director of Audit's report (audit report) mentioned matters relating to allocation of DC funds, she reckoned that DC should set up an independent committee as recommended in the audit report. She indicated that CACRC was mainly responsible for vetting of funding applications and might not be suitable for the role, whereas FMC was tasked to draw up the funding framework.

16. Mr Eric KWOK concurred with Ms Amy YUNG. He indicated that he had been a member of CACRC Vetting Group for years and that organisations in attendance at CACRC meetings included Association of School Heads of Islands District, Islands District Sports Association and Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association, and all had submitted funding applications for CIPs. Since members of these organisations sat on the Vetting Group, conflict of interests was inevitable in the vetting process. He agreed that the duties of the Vetting Group be taken up by FMC to avoid conflict of interests on the one hand and ensure greater clarity and certainty in the vetting process on the other.

17. Ms Josephine TSANG indicated that she had been a member of the Vetting Group and concurred with Mr Eric KWOK. She proposed that all the 18 DC members should join the Vetting Group and that co-opted members or representatives of other organisations should not attend the meetings. She considered the formation of FMC unnecessary lest the structure and functions of committees be overlapping.

18. Ms Amy YUNG indicated that in view of the stringent requirements as stated in the audit report for monitoring of DC fund, matters about funding should be handled independently. She opined that even if all 18 DC members joined the Vetting Group, they might be unable to attend every meeting. She agreed with Ms Josephine TSANG's proposal of not allowing co-opted members to join the Vetting Group since Members had a public mandate whereas co-opted members were nominated by a Member and had limited representativeness, thus should not have the right to vote.

19. Ms WONG Chau-ping agreed that co-opted members should not be allowed to participate and only the 18 DC members could make the decisions, thereby avoiding overlapping of work and ensuring prudence in decision-making.

20. Ms Josephine TSANG agreed that co-opted members should not have the right to vote at DC meetings lest the operation of DC be compromised.

21. Mr Eric KWOK generally concurred with Ms Josephine TSANG. He stressed that it was necessary to form FMC which was to be made up of 18 DC members

and independent from other committees. Apart from vetting funding applications for CIP activities, FMC carried out duties including monitoring of DFMC where district works and large amounts of money were concerned. FMC might be overseeing the fund of DFMC and all DC-related funds.

22. The Chairman Mr Randy YU suggested to vote on the proposal of allowing co-opted members to give advice only but having no right to vote at future meetings of DC.

23. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed that co-opted members had no voting right.

24. The Chairman concluded Members' views as follows:

(a) Some Members requested the formation of FMC while others considered that if the Vetting Group comprised 18 DC members, its functions would be the same as those of FMC, leading to overlapping structure.

(b) He indicated that at present DC undertook the function of monitoring. He made two proposals: first, to form FMC for focused discussion on financial monitoring relating to community and recreation affairs and funding applications of local groups; second, to have 18 DC members sitting on the Vetting Group. He reiterated that the existing organisational structure was that DFMC was made up of 18 DC members without co-opted members, and members were responsible for making financial decisions and monitoring of financial matters. It differed from CACRC in that the latter delegated the vetting of funding applications of local groups to its Vetting Group. Therefore, if all 18 members joined the Vetting Group, there would be structures overlapping.

25. Mr Eric KWOK indicated that not being a member in accounting, he found himself not competent enough to sit on the Vetting Group. DFMC oversaw large-scale projects with huge sums of money involved and he did not think he could make good decisions about the proper use of funds. Therefore, he strongly requested the formation of FMC with a Member with accounting expertise appointed as Chairman for exhaustive review and approval of project funding and providing advice to Members.

26. Mr HO Siu-kei learnt that all finance approval documents would be made available for public inspection and monitoring. Joint approval by 18 DC members and public disclosure of related information fostered a sound monitoring system.

27. Mr Sammy TSUI agreed with Ms Amy YUNG's proposal of setting up an independent committee for conducting financial vetting. He opined that there might not be sufficient time for discussion on relevant matters if the existing committees remained intact. On the contrary, an independent committee could ensure that the matters could be discussed in detail and avoidance of conflict of interests. He

supported the formation of an independent committee with no co-opted members. In his opinion, it might not be able to invite professionals or government departments to attend the meeting for consultation if discussion was held at the working group level, whereas financial and funding arrangement would be justified to be made at the committee level. Therefore, it would be undesirable to maintain the existing committees and delegate the work to the working groups.

28. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She clarified that FMC should not be responsible for scrutinising funding proposals which should be vetted by the working groups. It should be responsible for approving funds for works projects, committees and working groups based on the total amount of allocation.
- (b) Moreover, she considered point 4 in Annex 2 of the paper very important. She pointed out that the committees should, as and when necessary, set up a working group to examine matters relating to the terms of reference of the committees, since examination of such by the committees might lead to conflict of interests.
- (c) She reiterated that FMC should not scrutinise individual funding proposals as other committees did, but should examine the allocation in a holistic manner such as analysing the funds allocated to various districts over the past four years to ensure equal allocation of funds. The committee might also analyse the types of funding in the past, which included works projects, recreation activities and Cantonese opera etc., and formulate a long-term plan for future allocations. Taking Tung Chung as an example, she indicated that in view of its rapid development and population growth, the committee might consider whether more funds should be allocated to the district. In addition, it might consider organising district festival in other areas apart from Lamma Island and Cheung Chau, etc.

29. Mr Sammy TSUI concurred with Ms Amy YUNG. According to previous papers, the amount of funds approved for CIPs in 2018-19 was as much as over \$18 million. He opined that a designated committee should be formed for discussion on use of funds and optimisation of resource allocation with a view to balancing the interests among residents of various districts.

30. Mr Ken WONG opined that matters relating to resource allocation should be discussed and decided at DC meetings by 18 Members. He indicated that given the Government's emphasis on the development of Tung Chung, it would be unfair to other districts if resources were allocated based on population. He therefore proposed that resources be allocated by district-based approach instead of pegging of allocation to population as Islands District had no high-rise buildings and fewer residents. On fund allocation, he said that the funding of over \$18 million previously was to subsidise CIPs of Islands District for the whole year and Members could bring it up for discussion at DC meetings if they considered the sum far too big.

31. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho agreed with the formation of FMC and considered that it would not be in conflict with DC meetings. As a matter of fact, matters discussed at committee meetings might also be discussed at DC meetings. The original intent of forming the committee was to conduct focused discussion on issues which, if discussed at DC meetings, would result in very long meetings. He reckoned that the function of FMC was not resource allocation or approval of applications but monitoring of application approval to ensure proper use of funds.

32. The Chairman Mr Randy YU summarised Members' opinions as follows:

- (a) Option 1: to form FMC for discussion on allocation of DC funds by 18 DC members to decide the fund allocations to various committees. Applications for proposed activities from local groups which were vetted by CACRC in the past would be approved by relevant committees, whereas FMC would monitor the use of funds by the local groups and check the vouchers for reimbursement claims to ensure appropriate handling.
- (b) Option 2: to allocate funds to various committees at DC meetings as it was done previously, and the committees would then distribute funds and vet and monitor applications for proposed activities. The allocation to CACRC would, as proposed by Members, be approved by 18 Members who had public mandate.

33. The Chairman asked Members to vote by a show of hands on Option 1 (formation of FMC) and Option 2 (discussion on allocations to various committees at DC meetings, with vetting groups under various committees being made up of 18 DC members who would approve and monitor the use of funds, including the approval of applications for proposed activities from local groups which were used to be vetted by CACRC. Co-opted members could only take part in discussion and had no right to vote). The voting result was seven voted for Option 1 and 11 for Option 2.

(Members voted for Option 1 included: Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Members voted for Option 2 included: the Chairman Mr Randy YU, the Vice-Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Josephine TSANG and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

34. The Secretary said that although Members endorsed that co-opted members had no voting right, Section 71(4) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547) stipulated that a co-opted member appointed might vote at a meeting of the committee.

35. The Chairman announced that the existing arrangement would be adopted, i.e. 18 DC members would approve the funding for committees and monitor the use of funds.

36. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the voting right and proposed that it be discussed under the agenda item on Standing Orders at the next meeting.

37. Ms Amy YUNG said that the first option put to vote proposed approval of funding at DC meetings, monitoring the use of funds by 18 Members and that co-opted members should not sit on the vetting groups of the committees; and the second option proposed the allocation of funding by the committees subject to the approval and monitoring by 18 Members. Both options deviated from her proposal of FMC. She reiterated that the proposal of forming FMC was made in response to the advice of the Audit Commission on DC funding and pointed out that DC had approved the applications for CIP activities at the meetings from time to time. The committees did not manage the use of funds but allocating funds for activities according to their nature and among districts. Since DC did not maintain related statistics, an independent committee should be set up to analyse comprehensively the fund allocation in the past and review whether funding appeared tilting for immediate rectification and giving an explanation to the public. She indicated that she did not oppose the voting result but was disappointed that the option removed the function of FMC in handling the fund allocation independently.

38. Mr Sammy TSUI said that since the District Councils Ordinance provided that co-opted members had voting rights, if the proposal of not allowing co-opted members voting rights was not endorsed at the next meeting, the measures to ensure funding allocation and monitoring of use of funds by 18 Members only might not be implemented. He asked the Chairman to clarify the point of whether co-opted members would have voting rights.

39. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the formation of FMC would ensure that important issues could be studied in a more focused manner at DC meetings, yet it was endorsed that the past arrangement of discussing matters relating to fund allocation at DC meetings would be maintained. According to Standing Orders, each Member could speak three times, which meant that if he had spoken three times on financial matters, he would not be allowed to express views on livelihood issues. He hoped that when discussing whether co-opted members had voting rights, Members could discuss the number of times one could speak as well.

40. Mr Eric KWOK said that since it had been endorsed that all 18 Members would sit on CACRC Vetting Group, he hoped that Members would make time to attend meetings as far as possible. He pointed out that according to past practice the Secretariat prepared the paper on funding allocation for endorsement at DC meeting, and Ms Amy YUNG's proposal of forming FMC was meant to avoid the papers being endorsed hastily at meetings. He opined that the paper should be first reviewed by accountants or persons possessing accounting skills before a report was submitted for Members' perusal.

41. Mr LEE Ka-ho supported the formation of FMC and thanked the Secretariat for preparing the paper in this regard. He indicated that detailed amendments had been made to TAFEHCCC, but the proposed terms of reference of FMC was not specific enough, resulting in a departure of points of discussion and options put to vote from

what were proposed originally. He proposed that the Secretariat should prepare the paper on the terms of reference discussed by Members before presenting it for discussion at the meeting.

42. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the Secretariat prepared and distributed the papers to Members prior to the meeting so that Members could avoid hasty decisions. She proposed that Members should take time to read the papers in detail prior to the meeting and raise opinions before casting a vote.

43. The Chairman responded as follows:

- (a) Although Standing Orders stipulated that Members could only speak three times on each agenda item, the Chairman might allow a Member to continue the speech depending on the situation, yet he should be prudent to exercise such flexible arrangement so as not to affect the efficiency of meetings. He reminded Members to go through the paper prior to the meeting and that the arrangement of speaking time limits might be further discussed at a later time.
- (b) Members had voted on the formation of committees by a show of hands and the final decision was made. He understood that each option had its pros and cons, and the benefits of forming FMC included reviewing whether the project funds of DFMC were used properly. In fact, in previous DFMC meetings, Members had requested the departments to provide a breakdown of expenses and also submitted prior request for more information to facilitate discussion at the meetings. As a surveyor, he knew from experience that there was in general a 10% to 15% deviation between the estimated and actual costs. He reiterated that Members should go through the paper before the meeting.
- (c) The advantage of maintaining the existing committees was to provide the terms of reference clearly, though there was still room for improvement. For example, a breakdown of expenditures might be requested and if irregularities were found, a preliminary meeting could be convened before the meeting which he believed would provide greater flexibility.

44. Mr Sammy TSUI opined that the use of the old system might make one question whether funds were used properly. He pointed out that recently the Government spent over \$24 million to provide a bicycle parking area on Lamma Island with an average cost per parking rack as high as \$80,000. If FMC was set up, the problem could have been discovered early to ensure proper use of funds and efficient allocation of resources. At present the fund allocation for the next year was arranged by the Secretariat according to that in the previous year, taking into account the inflation rate, yet such arrangement could not reflect whether funds were reasonably allocated. If FMC was formed, an analysis of the funds allocated and project quotations, etc. might be performed by professionals at the meetings, and Members could then make suggestions and decisions based on the analysis. He said that given the large number

of issues brought up at DC meetings, it would not be enough for Members to speak not more than three times on each item. DFMC faced the same situation of having many items on the agenda, including construction of benches or rain shelters, without any time left to monitor the use of funds. He proposed the formation of FMC to oversee financial affairs.

45. Ms Amy YUNG indicated that her original intent was to enhance the transparency of DC and monitor the use of funds through the formation of FMC, and regretted that the proposal was rejected by DC. Moreover, she remarked that since Members showed different degrees of concern over different issues, flexibility might be given to the number of times one could speak.

46. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He considered it insufficient for Members to speak three times as stipulated in Standing Orders. He pointed out that since the proposal of forming FMC was rejected, Ms Amy YUNG might focus on monitoring the finance of DC in the future and would not have much time remaining to express views on livelihood issues. As such, he hoped that the speaking arrangement would be enhanced and the issue of formation of FMC be revisited after a year or half a year.
- (b) He noticed that the minutes of the last meeting had not been uploaded to DC webpage. In addition, the Secretariat only followed up on matters of climate change raised by him but did not convene a meeting regarding Ms Amy YUNG's proposal of forming FMC or follow up on Mr LEE Ka-ho's proposal of forming Constitutional and Police Power Committee (CPPC). He queried that follow-up actions were taken selectively. He appreciated the handling of the issue relating to climate change but was perplexed about the different ways of handling.

47. The Secretary responded as follows:

- (a) She clarified that the Secretariat did not take follow-up actions selectively. She said that the last meeting was held on 6 January and it took time to prepare the minutes. When the draft minutes were ready, they would be distributed to Members for review and amendment before endorsement by DC.
- (b) She said that Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho clearly proposed at the meeting for addition of climate change to the name and terms of reference of TAFEHC, so the Secretariat prepared the paper basing on the proposal for Members' consideration. As for FMC, after taking reference from the terms of reference of similar committees set up by other 17 DCs, the Secretariat consolidated information and prepared Annex 2 for Members' reference. As for CPPC, since the other 17 DCs did not have similar committees which could provide reference, more detailed

information and advice was sought from Members about the terms of reference of CPPC for preparation of the paper for DC's consideration.

48. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that he intended to enquire at the end of the discussion of the different handling of the three proposals. He said that he would be glad to provide relevant information but was perplexed about why the Secretariat had not carried out any liaison and communication before the meeting. He hoped that the Secretariat could take the initiative to ask Members to suggest some concrete ideas. He originally thought that a discussion would first be taken on the broad direction and then further on the terms of reference, but the matter was only voted on by a show of hands at the meeting and was then concluded.

49. The Chairman proposed that discussion be stuck to the existing agenda items first, and then there would be a discussion on the proposal of forming CPPC. Regarding the project of bicycle parking area mentioned by Mr Sammy TSUI, to his understanding, it was not a DC project and the funding requirement exceeded the ceiling for DC projects. He concurred with Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho that the prevailing system or voting method had their shortcomings but no system was perfect. Although DC adopted the mechanism used previously, it could make reforms and questions could be raised at the meeting for discussion. The proposal of forming new committees might be discussed under the next item or as a newly-added item.

50. Ms LAU Shun-ting pointed out that the Lamma Island bicycle parking area project received widespread media coverage and was called a "white elephant project" by members of the public. She hoped that Mr TSUI would look into the underlying reasons for the huge cost.

51. Mr CHOW Yuk-tong indicated that the Lamma Island bicycle parking area project was a Rural Public Works project, the cost of which was estimated at about \$8 million initially but further escalated after objection by environmentalists. Nevertheless, he found the bicycle parking area project proved effective. The pier of Lamma Island was packed with parked bicycles before the completion of parking area, with the access road leading to the pier very congested if the bicycle parking area was not built.

52. Mr CHAN Lin-wai responded as follows:

- (a) As the Chairman of Lamma Island (North) Rural Committee, he was kept informed of the progress of the entire project. The project cost increased from \$4 million initially to almost \$30 million, mainly due to opposition of environmentalists who opined that the project affected the landscape of Lamma Island, while some objected to reclamation, resulting in the use of stone pillars.
- (b) He opined that the responsibility should not rest with DC. The Government was excessively accommodating to the environmentalists, hence the cost kept escalating. He indicated that DC had long since endorsed the project which would have cost \$4 million if the

Government commenced works right away. He reiterated that the increased cost was attributable to the objections raised but not DC.

53. The Chairman understood that the rising costs were due to historical factors.

54. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

(a) Regarding the terms of reference of CACRC set out in Annex 1 of the paper, he remarked that DC only acted in an advisory role and had no actual power. He hoped that Regional Council Committee and Working Group would be set up to review the terms of reference of DC.

(b) He clarified that Mr Sammy TSUI had not referred to the bicycle parking area project as a “white elephant project”.

55. The Chairman said that since the dissolution of Regional Council, DCs were tasked with more functions, whereas departments such as the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) under the Regional Council did not come under DCs. He considered that the proposal of re-provisioning of Regional Council raised by Mr WONG Chun-yeung was a major issue and therefore beyond the scope of discussion by DC.

56. Mr WONG Chun-yeung enquired if an endorsement or objection of DC was rejected by the Executive Council would be deemed null and void.

57. The Chairman said that proposals endorsed by DCs were generally taken as reference. Since each of the 18 DCs might have different views, their proposals were only taken as a cogent reference and might not be accepted by the Executive Council.

58. Mr WONG Chun-yeung hoped that the Chairman would explain again the advantages of forming FMC.

59. The Chairman said that no system was perfect. He indicated that he understood Members’ intent was to make improvement to DC, but the functions conferred on DC were limited. DC could only exercise its limited functions to allocate funds to the committees, which then distributed resources and performed monitoring under their respective purview. Despite the endorsement for retaining the previous four committees, improvement could be made to the committees. For example, CACRC would have no co-opted members and funding requests would be approved by 18 Members. He pointed out that Members should be accountable to the electors and since they had voted in favour of retaining the previous four committees, the committees should operate according to the proposed enhancements. He reminded Members to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible which committees they would like to join for the election of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen and activating the committees formally.

60. Mr Sammy TSUI noted the part “representatives of organisations to be invited to attend the meeting” set out in Annex 3 of the paper and suggested inviting

Long Win Bus Company Limited (Long Win) and Citybus Limited (CTB) to arrange representatives to attend meetings of TTC, though he said that he was not sure whether New World First Ferry Services Limited and CTB belonged to the same corporation, and opined that since Long Win and CTB operated numerous bus routes serving Tung Chung, they should attend the meeting to listen to local views.

61. Mr WONG Chun-yeung concurred with Mr TSUI and proposed that representatives of The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB) be invited to the meetings as well.

62. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He supplemented that if the agenda items of TTC involved KMB and CTB, they would be invited to the meeting to respond to questions.
- (b) He asked for the details of the proposal set out in paragraph 6(e) of Paper IDC 2/2002.

63. The Chairman suggested to finish the discussion of this item before moving on to other items.

64. Ms Amy YUNG agreed to invite the representatives of Long Win and CTB to the meetings. She criticised that the representative of HKRI International Limited (HKRI) Mr Vincent CHUA attended the meeting only once over the past four years and did not speak at the meeting. She pointed out that given the nature of coherence between meetings, one would find it difficult to follow up on matters brought up at the meetings if he did not attend past meetings. She hoped that when the Secretariat wrote to HKRI to invite it to attend the meeting, it should remind the latter its responsibility to answer questions at the meetings and give explanation to the residents.

65. The Chairman responded as follows:

- (a) He indicated that although the representatives of organisations invited were not DC members, the organisations concerned should fulfill corporate social responsibility by attending meetings upon request. He noted the views of Ms Amy YUNG and proposed that when issuing letters to the companies to arrange their representatives to attend the meeting, the Secretariat might politely remind them the coherent nature of TTC issues and request them to attend the meeting to show respect for DC.
- (b) He concurred with Mr Eric KWOK that if there was any item involving the bus routes of Long Win and CTB, the companies concerned would be asked to arrange representatives to the meeting. He indicated that TTC also discussed from time to time items not related to bus companies, e.g. road blockage by wild cattle on South Lantau and ferry routes, etc., and there would be no need to invite the bus company representatives to the meeting.

- (c) Noting the increasing population in Tung Chung, he proposed the formation of Bus Route Working Group to specifically monitor the bus routes. Representatives of bus companies might meet once every two months to discuss issues such as insufficient bus frequency, and reports would be submitted to TTC timely to save the time on discussing bus routes at TTC meetings. He said that the proposal would be raised for further discussion after the formation of TTC.

66. Mr Sammy TSUI disagreed with the Chairman and pointed out that the representatives of New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited attended the meeting every time, and Long Win and CTB should not be given preferential treatment. He indicated that traffic issues were always inter-related, and questions raised would be answered right away if Long Win and CTB arranged representatives to attend the meeting. He continued to point out that Long Win and CTB operated numerous bus routes in Tung Chung and a number of enquiries and complaints relating to bus routes received in December were being followed up. He stressed that bus companies had the responsibility to attend meetings to participate in the discussion of traffic issues. He further indicated that an agenda item on traffic might involve various companies, if the representative of Long Win was not present at the meeting, the discussion might have to be deferred to be taken up at the next meeting after more than a month. As such, he opined that Long Win and CTB should arrange representatives to attend TTC meetings to enhance meeting efficiency.

67. The Chairman noted the views of Mr Sammy TSUI. As no objection was raised, he asked the Secretariat to write to the two bus companies requesting them to arrange representatives to attend TTC meetings.

68. Mr LEE Ka-ho opined that a vote should be taken even though it was unanimously endorsed by Members.

69. The Chairman accepted the opinion and asked Members to vote by a show of hands on whether they agreed that Long Win and CTB should arrange representatives to attend TTC meetings.

70. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the proposal for inviting Long Win and CTB to arrange representatives to attend TTC meetings.

71. The Chairman said that regarding Mr LEE Ka-ho's proposal of forming Constitutional and Security Affairs Committee (CSAC), since the Secretariat failed to gather relevant reference materials, the terms of reference of the committee could not be confirmed at the moment. He proposed that Mr LEE Ka-ho and the Secretariat gather information and draw up the terms of reference for discussion at DC meeting to avoid assembling a committee hastily without setting out the terms of reference clearly.

72. Mr LEE Ka-ho concurred with the Chairman. He reckoned that a discussion could only be held with all documents ready and agreed to follow up on the matter with

the Secretariat. However, he questioned why the discussion on FMC could proceed even without detailed documents.

73. The Chairman reiterated that no system was perfect. He said that since the vote on the proposal of FMC had been taken, no further discussion was required. He asked Members to vote by a show of hands on whether they agreed that Mr LEE Ka-ho collected information together with the Secretariat, with the proposal of forming the CSAC to be discussed at DC meeting after the drawing up of its terms of reference.

74. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the arrangement.

75. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would later issue letters to Members requesting them to join the committees and nominate candidates to stand for election as committee chairmen and vice-chairmen. He asked Members to consider endorsing the proposal of the arrangement for election of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen set out in paragraph 7 of Paper IDC 2/2020 for the elections to proceed.

76. Members voted by a show of hands. There were 16 voted for, one against and one abstaining. The arrangement set out in paragraph 7 of the paper was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr Randy YU, the Vice-Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Amy YUNG, Ms Josephine TSANG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Ms LAU Shun-ting and Mr LEE Ka-ho; Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho voted against; Mr WONG Chun-yeung abstained.)

77. The Chairman said that among the four committees, DFMC would comprise all IDC members without co-opted members. As for the other three committees, Members might join at least two for a term of two years. If Members wished to join or withdraw from any committee mid-way, request should be made to DC in writing via the Secretariat. He enquired whether Members had any comments and requested them to consider the arrangement.

78. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the arrangement.

79. The Chairman said that all committees except DFMC comprised co-opted members. For arrangements such as the number, appointment and term of office of co-opted members, he proposed that the details should be discussed later. He enquired whether Members had any comments and requested them to consider the arrangement.

80. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired whether “to be discussed later” meant that the details would be discussed at the next meeting (20 January).

81. The Secretary said that the paper on the proposed arrangement concerning co-opted members would be provided to Members at the next formal meeting of DC (17 February) at the earliest.

82. The Chairman added that a discussion on Standing Orders would be conducted at the special meeting on 20 January and Members might raise questions or opinions, and at the DC meeting on 17 February, election of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen would be conducted, followed by a discussion on matters relating to co-opted members (including the arrangements such as their number, appointment and term of office). He enquired whether Members had any comments and requested them to consider the arrangement.

83. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that whether co-opted members had the right to vote would have bearing on the voting at all meetings of DC and its committees. He opined that matters relating to co-opted members should be discussed at the meeting on 20 January with the Standing Orders.

84. The Chairman said that all committees except DFMC had co-opted members. Details such as their number, appointment and term of office would be discussed at the meeting on 17 February and co-opted members might then be nominated or appointed. Regarding whether co-opted members had the right to vote on matters relating to funding applications, he said that a discussion could be conducted at the meeting on 20 January and the outcome would be clearly set out in Standing Orders. He remarked that the voting right of co-opted members was an administrative arrangement. For the number of co-opted members, in the past each Member could appoint one co-opted member for a term of generally one to four years as so decided by Members.

85. The Secretary supplemented that there were provisions relating to co-opted members in the Standing Orders. After discussion and decision made by Members at the meeting on 20 January, the Secretariat would prepare a paper detailing information such as the term of office and number of co-opted members for Members' consideration.

86. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho agreed that the term of co-opted members was an administrative arrangement and clarified his proposal that all provisions relating to co-opted members in the Standing Orders be discussed at the meeting on 20 January to avoid any provisions escaping notice.

87. The Chairman indicated that Members only proposed revoking the voting right of co-opted members at this meeting. The duties and responsibilities of co-opted members could be put forward for discussion at the next meeting after Members had read the papers. Regarding the number, appointment and term of office of co-opted members, relevant arrangements would be made by the Secretariat later.

88. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the arrangement.

89. The Chairman indicated that all committees had their own chairmen and vice-chairmen which would be assumed by Members for a term of two years. He proposed following the practice of the last term to conduct election of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen at the DC meeting on 17 February 2020. He enquired whether Members had any comments and requested them to consider the arrangement.

90. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the arrangement.

91. The Chairman suggested Members to consider whether formation of the working groups proposed in section 6(e) in Paper IDC 2/2020 should be endorsed first for follow-up of the cross-year DC activities or items not yet completed and preparation of programmes held in January to March 2020. He pointed out that DC and each committee could decide whether formation of other working groups was necessary according to the actual needs, and the proposed terms of reference of relevant working groups had been set out in Annex 6 of Paper IDC 2/2020. Members of working groups were suggested to elect the Convenor and Vice-Convenor themselves.

92. Mr Eric KWOK pointed out that replanning of Yat Tung Street was not yet completed by the TTC Working Group and there was outstanding work by the Working Group on promotion of bazaar development in Islands District (WGPBDID). He enquired whether the work would be followed up or continue only after the formation of relevant working groups under the committees.

93. The Secretary pointed out that WGPBDID of the previous term had decided to cancel the bazaars so there were no activities for follow-up from January to March this year and hence no urgent needs for formation of the working group. After formation of the committees, Members could raise motions at the respective committee meetings for formation of working groups if considered necessary. She explained that the list in Annex 5 mainly set out items to be followed up by the working groups. Although the items concerned were not included in the list, the working groups would follow up on them.

94. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Six DC-funded activities to be held from January to March 2020 and followed up by the working groups were set out in Annex 5. After formation of the committees, Members could add or remove working groups such as setting up the Climate Change Working Group, or the Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group (IHCACWG) under TAFEHCCC as necessary. As the Convenor of IHCACWG of the previous term, he had invited several private organisations to sponsor a tree planting activity to be held on Nei Lak Shan, Ngong Ping which Members could draw reference.
- (b) For actions taken in light of climate change, the working group concerned had planted over 14 000 trees of different species to enhance biodiversity. The Conservancy Association submitted yearly reports analysing the

growth of the trees. He said that \$50,000 was received from each sponsoring body for purchasing seedlings so DC funds or public funds would not be used. He pointed out that formation of relevant working groups or not under the new term of DC and arrangement for the Convenors were to be discussed, but stressed that working groups under the committees could be added or removed after formation of the latter.

- (c) He asked Members to consider whether they agree to form the working groups proposed in section 6(e) in Paper IDC 2/2020 for commencing or continuing activities and work in progress in January to March 2020 and if the committees could decide to retain the existing working groups.

95. Member voted by a show of hands and endorsed the arrangement concerned unanimously.

96. The Chairman said that section 6(f) of Paper IDC 2/2020 suggested allowing public observation of the meetings of the sixth term of IDC and those of its committees as well as working groups. He enquired if Members had any views and requested them to consider endorsing the proposal.

97. Mr Eric KWOK reminded that some Members at the previous meeting proposed inviting relevant organisations or residents to express views at the meetings in addition to public observation.

98. The Chairman said that DC meetings valued the spirit of democracy and there were invited attendees and attendees. For example, organisations including environmental protection organisations and bus companies were invited to the meetings to give views. To increase the transparency of meetings, he proposed opening the meetings of DC, committees and working groups to public observation.

99. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho noted the proposal of opening the meetings of committees and working groups to public observation but proposed allowing letter submission which was currently unavailable in DC. He supplemented that some organisations had submitted letters about the problem of stray dogs to the DC Chairman of the previous term who had no idea about the letters sent. As such, he proposed reserving five minutes before each meeting for submission of petition letters by organisations or associations regarding items to be discussed at the meeting and photo-taking to show that DC accommodated different views.

100. The Chariman clarified that there was a letter submission session at DC meetings of the previous term and the representatives of organisations or associations submitting letters were arranged to take photos with the Chairman in front of the DC logo. He agreed with the views of Mr LEUNG and suggested requesting organisations intending to submit letters to notify the Secretariat in advance and arrive at the site 10 minutes before the meeting for letter submission and photo-taking to avoid hindering the progress of meeting. He asked Members to consider the arrangement.

101. Member voted by a show of hands and endorsed the arrangement concerned unanimously.

102. The Chairman asked Members to take a vote on allowing public observation of the meetings of the sixth term of IDC and those of its committees as well as working groups.

103. Member voted by a show of hands and endorsed the arrangement concerned unanimously.

II. Severe Respiratory Disease associated with a Novel Infectious Agent---Measures taken by relevant government departments

104. The Chairman welcomed Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Mr TONG Ping-tat, Senior Property Service Manager/HK Island & Islands Region of the Housing Department (HD) and Mr KWAN Chung-wai, David, District Leisure Manager(Islands) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting to give responses. The letter of the Department of Health (DH) and the written reply of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) had been distributed to Members for perusal.

105. Ms Winsy LAI briefed on the measures taken by FEHD as follows:

- (a) The second Steering Committee meeting in accordance with the Serious Response Level under the Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance was convened on 16 January which was attended by the representative of the departments.
- (b) FEHD was conducting a territory-wide year-end clean-up campaign between 31 December 2019 to 20 January 2020 to step up the cleaning and disinfection of public venues and facilities under its management, including public markets, cooked food centres, hawker bazaars, public toilets and refuse collection points by applying 1:99 diluted domestic bleaching agent. The frequency of disinfection would be adjusted according to the needs of the venues.
- (c) The department had disseminated information to trade associations of the food industry and reminded operators of food premises to keep their premises and equipment clean as well as to maintain hygiene practices in handling food. It also appealed to market and hawker stall operators to clean their stalls thoroughly. To maintain hygiene of public places, the department would strengthen enforcement actions against people committing offences in relation to public cleanliness. It had also reminded cleaning contractors to provide sufficient personal protective gears including masks, gloves and boots for their staff.

- (d) As for public education, the department carried out regular inspection to ensure that operators of licensed food premises kept their premises and equipment clean, and maintained hygiene practices in handling food. After the Steering Committee was convened for the first time, the department issued letters to operators of food premises and market stalls subsequently reminding them to enhance personal, food and environmental hygiene.
- (e) The Centre for Food Safety had also stepped up publicity through various channels to remind the public not to bring raw game, meat, poultry or eggs (except fully cooked eggs) without health certificates into Hong Kong.

106. Mr TONG Ping-tat briefed on the measures taken by HD in response to the novel infectious disease as follows:

- (a) HD had stepped up cleaning and pest control in housing estates under its management. To support the Government's territory-wide clean-up campaign, cleaning operations in the housing estates under the department's management would extend to the end of February to step up daily cleaning of the housing estates including their public toilets and markets/shopping malls. The staff would be provided with sufficient protective equipment including masks, bleach, soap and alcohol-based handrub. HD had reminded the cleaning contractor to use 1:99 diluted household bleach and water for cleaning.
- (b) As for publicity and education, HD had put up notices, including those from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of DH, in the housing estates under its management to urge the domestic and non-domestic households to maintain personal, home, shop premise and environmental hygiene. It also disseminated relevant information to the residents through the Estate Management Advisory Committee (EMAC). The Housing Authority had already issued letters to market tenants/stall tenants/management companies under its purview with information provided by FEHD and CPH enclosed on 15 January.
- (c) In view of the risks of the novel infectious disease, HD would invite shareholders of the districts concerned to participate in the respective Operations Tai Ping Tei before Lunar New Year. It would also maintain close liaison with shareholders including Link REIT and the tenants and step up enforcement actions against poor hygiene habits of tenants (such as implementation of the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement).

107. Mr David KWAN briefly presented the written reply of LCSD.

108. Mr WONG Chun-yeung thanked FEHD, LCSD and HD for sending representatives to the meeting. He said that a contractor of HD agreed to provide

masks free of charge at three blocks in Fu Tung Estate and the residents could obtain them from the security guards. However, some residents reflected to him that requests were rejected by the security guards repeatedly so he requested HD to follow up on the matter. He continued that spitting was a serious problem in the estate. He had taken photos of the black spots of spitting and urged FEHD, the Police and HD to strengthen enforcement actions at the locations concerned. In addition, he pointed out that some shop operators marked up the price of masks and hoped that LCSD could provide masks for free for the public at venues under its management to alleviate mask scalping.

109. Mr LEE Ka-ho thanked the departmental representatives for attending the meeting and providing written replies. He pointed out that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Port in Tung Chung was one of the major land-based boundary control points. While Mainland visitors could access Hong Kong and travel to Islands District via the boundary control point when the novel infectious disease originated in the Mainland, he enquired what preventive measures would be taken at the boundary control point and hoped that measures would be stepped up. The Government had repeatedly said that Mainland cities were neither countries nor regions covered by the “Outbound Travel Alert System” of the HKSAR Government. However, neighbouring countries and regions were going to issue a travel alert for Wuhan or other Mainland cities. He opined that the even if the Government did not issue one on Wuhan or other Mainland cities, it should at least advise the public of the outbreak in the Mainland and to take appropriate measures. Lunar New Year was around the corner and high passenger traffic (such as Mainland residents returning to their hometown and Hong Kong citizens crossing the border) was expected. To his understanding, other regions had deployed medical experts to Wuhan for inspection and assessment to determine the situation of the disease but Hong Kong only sent the Under Secretary for Food and Health and a delegation to the city for basic inspection. He urged the Government to better understand the situation of the disease and step up preventive measures to avoid a large-scale outbreak like “SARS” in the past.

110. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho thanked FEHD, LCSD and HD for sending representatives to the meeting, and expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He did not understand why DH did not send representatives to the meeting as epidemic prevention was within its scope of work.
- (b) In response to the remarks of various departments that sufficient preventive measures had been taken, he enquired how to assess the sufficiency of the measures concerned. He also opined that protective gears for frontline cleaning staff should be improved, and hoped that the departments concerned could formulate guidelines to remind relevant staff to change their masks regularly and provide them with the latest protective gears (such as N95 masks).
- (c) He enquired of HD the number of ethnic minorities living in public housing estates in Islands District. Since some ethnic minorities did not know Cantonese and English, he requested re-production of notices in their languages to enable them to receive information about the disease.

- (d) Non-frontline staff such as clerical assistants would also have contact with the public and might be infected via respiratory droplets. He hoped that the departments could suggest staff to wear masks to reduce the risk of infection.
- (e) Regarding the anti-epidemic information reporting mechanism, to his understanding, there were 76 suspected cases of novel infectious disease, 41 confirmed cases in Wuhan and one in Thailand and Japan respectively. However, the infection situation in Mainland cities between Hong Kong and Wuhan was unavailable. He was dissatisfied with major departments responsible for anti-epidemic work including the Hospital Authority (HA) and DH for just providing information related to the disease in written form which he considered incomprehensive, without sending representatives to the meeting to respond to Members' questions. In addition, he opined that the information released by the Government was insufficient and Members could only obtain information about the situation of the disease via news reports. He proposed that the Chairman and Secretariat should request relevant departments to send representatives to the meeting to brief on the latest situation of the coronavirus disease. If departments failed to attend the meeting, an explanation would be required.

111. Ms Winsy LAI said that the department had contacted Mr WONG Chun-yeung to gain preliminary understanding of the situation of spitting and welcomed provision of information on the black spots. The department would work with HD closely to follow up on the problem. In response to Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's concern about the preventive measures for frontline staff, the department had requested the outsourced contractors to provide sufficient surgical masks for the workers. The department had all along been carrying out regular inspection to ensure the sufficiency of the personal protective gears of staff, and would step up inspection having regard to the development of the disease.

112. Mr TONG Ping-tat said that he would follow up on the problem of mask distribution in Fu Tung Estate after the meeting. At present, all frontline staff wore masks at work and the department would review whether there was a sufficient supply of gears in due course. Yat Tung Estate had a number of ethnic minority residents so the notices in the estate were all bilingual in Chinese and English. Since some residents did not read the notices, the management company would also notify them of the latest anti-epidemic information through resident representatives and other channels.

(Post-meeting note: Masks were personal protective equipment so HD had no plan to distribute masks to the residents.)

113. Mr David KWAN said that the venue staff would advise person with respiratory infectious disease not to enter the sports centres and swimming pool. If the concerned person requested for a mask, the department would provide a mask to that person accordingly if circumstances allowed. The department would also provide

sufficient masks, gloves and protective clothing for frontline staff and protective gears including masks would be available at offices for staff in need.

114. The Chairman said that in a report on coronavirus disease submitted to the Legislative Council, the Government mentioned that it had stepped up the preventive measures of boundary control points and AA. He opined that preventive measures of the two boundary control points were accounted for in the report but the information provided might not meet Member's expectation, and therefore hoped that relevant departments could make improvements. As for the enquiry from Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho about the outbreak situation in Mainland cities between Hong Kong and Wuhan, he hoped that the Secretariat could write to the department concerned to request more information and to arrange representatives to attend the meetings.

115. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed regret over DH's failure to send representatives to the meeting, which indicated that the department did not attach much importance to the disease. He said that the first case of novel infectious disease was detected in Wuhan and cases of infection were recorded in other places including Canada and Thailand one after another. After deploying staff to Wuhan for inspection, DH did not rule out the possibility of human-to-human transmission of the virus but had not define the severity of the disease. As a result, the public could not take appropriate measures. Although confirmed cases were recorded every day and there were already two deaths, Hong Kong Government responded to the disease in a low-profile manner to tie in with the Mainland's approach. It had only taken general preventive measures, such as placing thermal imaging machines at clearance facilities, without implementing any protective measures in the community, appealing to the public to wear masks or providing masks and liquid handrub in housing estates for the residents. As some members of the public reflected that the price of masks kept increasing in the market, he enquired whether the supply of masks and liquid handrub was sufficient. At present, the public, media and foreign governments were vigilant and fully prepared for the disease but the Governments of Hong Kong and the Mainland did not attach high importance to preventive work despite their frequent contact. He criticised the Government's failure to learn the lessons of "SARS" and urged it to step up regional preventive measures, such as providing masks and liquid handrub in housing estates and putting up publicity materials to raise public awareness of the importance of infection prevention to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

116. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He complimented FEHD for carrying out cleaning and disinfection work expeditiously in response to his suggestions, HD for stepping up cleaning work and LCSD for its efforts. However, he opined that relying on the above departments to implement preventive measures as gatekeepers in Islands District was not enough, and expressed regret that DH, AA and HA had not sent representatives to the meeting.
- (b) Although HD had stepped up cleaning, he hoped that the department could further increase resources and manpower to ensure that relevant

work could meet the expectations of the public and Members to safeguard the residents' health.

- (c) He mentioned at the previous month's Estate Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) meeting that the filter of an air-conditioner in the ground floor lobby of a housing block in Yat Tung (I) Estate was filthy, and hoped that HD could step up the cleaning of filters. He said that the exhaust fans of the lifts in Block 13 were filthy as they were cleaned every five years. Noting that the works division was responsible for cleaning exhaust fans of lifts, he requested HD to contact the division for thorough cleaning.
- (d) It was mentioned in the written reply of AA that "specific arrival gates were designated for flights from Wuhan and staff of the Port Health Division under DH would put in place additional infrared thermal imaging systems at the gates for checking the body temperature of inbound travellers". He hoped that the Chairman could write to AA to request deploying infrared thermal imaging systems at all arrival gates for flights from the Mainland. According to a press release of DH, there were six to seven new cases per day on average in Wuhan from 9 to 13 January this year but information of other Mainland cities were unavailable, which he found unusual and unreasonable. He noted that the Mainland had formulated preventive measures and opined that Hong Kong should formulate preventive measures that suited our needs to enhance protection of local residents.
- (e) He enquired what preventive measures were taken in North Lantau Hospital (NLH) and whether relevant work was carried out in Tung Chung and Lantau South. He hoped that the Chairman and Rural Committee (RC) chairmen could write to NLH to request stepping up publicity and education as well as setting up a dedicated hotline to answer public enquiries.

117. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that the rodent problem in Yat Tung Estate was serious. Some welfare organisations reflected that rodents had got into residential units. However, HD only installed rodent guards at some pipes so rodents could make their way into residential units by climbing the pipes without rodent guards. In addition, subsidence occurred at a few locations in the estate, providing harbourage for rodents which were seen crawling from time to time. He urged HD to tackle the problem concerned. Some residents complained about spitting, smoking and animal fouling problems in the estate. As the situation was becoming serious, he requested HD to step up publicity and enforcement actions. He was also told that over 10 students of a school in the estate were infected with chickenpox, and enquired if DH had received relevant reports.

118. Ms WONG Chau-ping agreed with the views of Mr Eric KWOK and requested relevant departments to step up cleaning in public housing estates. She pointed out that cleaning work should be carried out regularly regardless of whether there was an

outbreak of infectious disease. Given Tung Chung was close to HZMB Hong Kong Port and Hong Kong International Airport, she opined that relevant departments should send representatives to DC meetings to respond to Members' questions and update DC Secretariat regularly on the latest information on each boundary control point so the latter could inform Members who would then pass on the information to the residents.

119. Mr WONG Chun-yeung agreed with the views of Mr FONG Lung-fei, and opined that the cleaning work of Yat Tung (I) Estate was carried out unsatisfactorily. The problem of rodent infestation was serious and a number of singleton elders reflected that rodents had entered their premises. He had participated in clean-up activities of FEHD and HD, during which some cleaning staff reflected to him that their workload was very heavy but with disproportionate pay and they had no channels to complain. He said that the cleaning staff had low morale which would affect the quality of work and public hygiene, and hoped that HD could request the outsourced contractors to enhance the pay and benefits for their staff including salary increment and welfare improvement to boost staff morale.

120. Mr TONG Ping-tat responded as follows:

- (a) Regarding Mr Eric KWOK's question about Yat Tung Estate, the department would arrange cleaning of the air-conditioner filters and exhaust fans of estate lifts. When cleaning the exhaust fan on a lift car top, lift service had to be suspended and the department would make appropriate arrangement accordingly.
- (b) In response to the problem experienced by singleton elders mentioned by Mr WONG Chun-yeung, the department would contact him for follow-up through the Estate Management Office. Since most singleton elders were infirm, the department would remind frontline staff to pay a home visit to understand the hygiene condition of the elderly residents' premises if they had not gone out for a long time.
- (c) Regarding rodent guards, HD would contact FEHD for a joint inspection to assess the necessity to install additional rodent guards to step up rodent prevention and control. As rodents generally hid at planters, the department had already filled up rat holes near planters and placed rodent baits. The department would continue to enhance the rodent prevention and control work.
- (d) As for problems related to dogs and spitting in Yat Tung Estate, the department would instruct frontline staff to monitor the situation closely and take enforcement actions against offending residents. It would also arrange the special duty team to step up inspection in Yat Tung Estate. With respect to hygiene problems outside the estate, the department would contact relevant departments or parties for follow-up.

121. Ms Winsy LAI responded that HD was responsible for rodent control in the estate. FEHD would co-operate with HD and provide technical support as appropriate.

122. Mr David KWAN responded that LCSD would step up cleaning operations at the planters managed by the department in the vicinity of Yat Tung Estate and conduct enforcement actions under its purview to improve the hygiene and prevent rodent infestation.

123. The Chairman concluded after discussion as follows:

- (a) Members were concerned about the outbreak situation in Mainland cities between Hong Kong and Wuhan and hoped that the Government could provide Members the relevant statistics and information about the severity of the outbreak. Members also hoped that the Government could monitor the supply of masks to address the shortage .
- (b) Members requested DH to provide daily reports setting out the number of persons in the quarantine area due to abnormal body temperature or confirmed infection of the coronavirus disease. DH could also issue press release every day to provide relevant information. Members proposed meeting the representatives of DH and AA before Lunar New Year for discussion regarding the situation of the disease. He proposed that all questions be collected in advance. If DH or AA could not visit DC by Lunar New Year, DC would request the department and AA to provide a detailed reply and decide the next course of action according to the development of the disease.

124. Mr Sammy TSUI pointed out that provision of alcohol-based handrub and masks at the lobbies of the estate's housing blocks for residents in need could enhance publicity and raise residents' awareness to avoid the spread of the disease at low cost.

125. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He opined that HD should provide cleaning companies with additional resources for staff recruitment in view of a substantial increase in the workload of cleaning workers. Therefore, he requested HD to take special measures for special problems by allocating additional resources for such purpose. He said that taking into account the sufficient reserves of HKSAR Government, HD was capable of implementing short-term measures during the outbreak of disease in Wuhan, including recruiting additional employees for three to four months.
- (b) The Chairman and Secretariat had proposed inviting DH and AA to send representatives to DC meetings to answer questions including why AA only provided screening with infrared thermal imaging systems at arrival gates for flights from Wuhan but not do so at all gates, and whether DH had put in place infrared thermal imaging systems at the boundary control

point of HZMB. He opined that the questions should be raised before the visit by representatives of DH and AA so they could be well prepared for giving responses.

- (c) He enquired of the Chairman and Secretariat whether a portion of DC funds could be deployed for purchasing masks or antiseptic products for residents' use.

126. Mr FONG Lung-fei was concerned about the problem of rodents climbing up buildings and proposed greasing the section of pipes from the ground floor canopy to the first floor to prevent rodents from climbing. He also proposed provision of nets for units on the first and second floors of public housing estates to prevent rodents getting into the premises and mosquito breeding. In addition, refuse accumulated on canopies as some residents littered from premises, thus aggravating mosquito breeding and rodent infestation. He urged HD to step up cleaning work.

127. Mr WONG Chun-yeung agreed with the proposal of greasing the canopies and pipes. He pointed out that regardless of the outbreak of the coronavirus disease, some residents had greased the areas at their own expense as Yat Tung Estate had been affected by rodent infestation for over 10 years. As for salary increase for cleaning workers, he understood that the outsourced contractors and HD were independent entities so the department had no authority to request the contractors to offer benefits or pay rises to their staff. He enquired whether the department could consider recruiting an outsourced dedicated team for rodent and pest control at quarterly intervals to step up cleaning on each floor from once every three months to once per month, until the coronavirus disease was brought under control and rodent infestation was alleviated.

128. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that nullahs were generally used in rural area and hoped that relevant departments could clean the nullahs in villages and towns more frequently during the outbreak of the disease.

129. Mr TONG Ping-tat responded as follows:

- (a) The department had stepped up preventive measures in the public housing estates in Islands District. Regarding the morale of outsourced cleaning workers, the outsourced company had to engage a contractor according to the contract for conducting cleaning work, which would continue even under special circumstances or during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease.
- (b) As for the proposal of recruiting additional outsourced workers, he could not give a reply at present but would relay it to the headquarters. He understood that cleaning workers were doing hard work but reiterated that the spirit of the contract must be observed. There were other ways to raise their morale, such as encouraging the cleaning contractors to commend outstanding staff and offer rewards. He said that the department had stepped up cleaning in the housing estates and would pay close attention to the latest situation.

- (c) Regarding the proposal of greasing, the department had inspected the pipes, concealed drains and other locations, and would conduct inspection again and follow up on the issue with FEHD. He said that regular checking of the greased areas was necessary so the department usually installed rodent guards at pipes and walkway covers close to residential dwellings. In addition to installation of relevant devices at the pipes in Yat Tung Estate, rubbish collection and cleaning work would be stepped up to eliminate rodent infestation.

130. Ms Winsy LAI responded that the department would work closely with HD and offer technical support. She understood that the hygiene condition of housing estates might vary during different periods of time and would deploy staff to Yat Tung Estate for inspection with HD's staff as soon as possible after the meeting. She thanked Ms WONG Chau-ping for her input on drain clearance matter. The department would address the problem or refer it to relevant departments for follow-up expeditiously.

131. Mr Kaiser CHAN said that in response to the proposal of purchasing preventive gears with DC resources, IsDO had preliminary discussions with mask suppliers after the previous meeting. As Lunar New Year was around the corner, he believed that 5 000 masks could be ordered before the holiday. Members would be informed of the delivery arrangement after the order and relevant details were confirmed.

132. Mr WONG Chun-yeung hoped that before the end of the meeting, a vote could be taken on whether a request should be sent to AA in the name of all Members for conducting health check on all inbound Mainland tourists at the airport, the same as that currently applied to tourists from Wuhan.

133. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho thanked IsDO for researching on mask procurement but hoped that it could also research on the supply of alcohol-based handrub. He pointed out that many residents had not developed the habit of washing hands frequently and only some children and parents would carry with them small bottles of alcohol-based handrub. As such, he hoped that the department could step up publicity to educate the residents to clean hands with alcohol-based handrub.

134. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that some DC Members of the last term had secured suspension of the automatic refuse collection chutes in Yat Tung Estate to save \$2 million for recruitment of cleaning staff. However, He found that the number of cleaning staff decreased rather than increased after suspension of the facility which aggravated the hygiene condition with leachate escaping along the walkways sometimes. He enquired whether HD had recruited additional cleaning staff with the money saved.

135. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He hoped that HD could take special measures for special problems by

deploying additional resources to the outsourced cleaning contractors or management companies for stepping up cleaning and preventive work. He understood that the outsourced cleaning contractors had already increased the frequency of cleaning and it would be unfair to increase the workload of cleaning workers. He requested the department to relay the views on recruitment of additional cleaning workers or manpower deployment to the Director of Housing. If a written reply was not received, he proposed that DC Members of Tung Chung should send a joint letter to the Director of Housing to express their requests.

- (b) He was dissatisfied that DC could only purchase 5 000 masks, which were insufficient for 18 Members. He enquired how much resources could DC use for purchasing masks, and opined that if there was insufficient time to purchase masks before the approaching Lunar New Year, relevant work could be continued after the holiday.

136. Ms WONG Chau-ping hoped that relevant departments could provide RCs or Village Offices with resources including liquid handrub for residents' use.

137. Mr HO Siu-kei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that although all departments had taken preventive measures against the novel infectious disease and there was news coverage, the information disseminated by the Government was insufficient and a number of residents enquired Members of the latest situation.
- (b) It was stated in the written reply of DH that the department responded to the disease following its usual practice. He proposed inviting credible and reliable experts to present clinical records or convincing research report on gene sequences of the virus for Members to explain the latest situation to the residents to ease their concern.

138. Mr TONG Ping-tat made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He would relay the views of Mr Eric KWOK to his seniors and reply accordingly.
- (b) Regarding the problems of the automatic refuse collection system, the system had broken down so the old system was in use at present. He understood that relying workers to remove refuse in the traditional way was not ideal but asked for Members' understanding as no better means of moving the rubbish bins to the refuse collection point at the construction site was available at the moment. Since manual moving of refuse would cause more wear and tear to road surface or subsided slabs, HD had reminded frontline cleaning staff and construction workers to pay close attention to it. If subsidence occurred, construction workers would handle the issue immediately. HD would urge relevant workers

to complete the works as soon as possible and inspect the road condition and conduct repair work as necessary after works completion.

139. Mr Kaiser CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) IsDO noted Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's concern about purchase of preventive gears including alcohol-based handrub, and would follow up on the matter.
- (b) As for the reasons for purchasing only 5 000 masks, some contractors reflected that it took time to order goods so they could neither sell all stocks to IsDO nor confirm the delivery time. As such, IsDO proposed purchasing a small amount of masks to meet urgent demand. He asked the Secretary to respond to the questions on funds.

140. The Secretary said that the amount of DC funds currently available was \$100,000.

141. Mr Anthony LI said that IsDO had requested the suppliers to increase the mask supply as soon as possible and it was guaranteed that 5 000 masks could be supplied by Lunar New Year. As for the supply of masks after Lunar New Year, he believed that the supply would definitely increase by then and would obtain more information from the suppliers.

142. The Chairman hoped that IsDO could purchase masks in stages.

143. Mr WONG Chun-yeung hoped that Members would agree to issue letters to DH and AA. He pointed out that residents of many Mainland cities knew nothing about the outbreak in Wuhan and hoped that Hong Kong Government could take appropriate preventive measures and step up publicity and education to keep tourists informed of the latest situation of the disease.

144. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to write to DH to request information and a meeting with IDC Members by Lunar New Year so that Members could understand the outbreak situation in provinces between Hong Kong and Wuhan, development of the disease, mask supply and arrangements made for daily news update. Even if a meeting could not be arranged, the department should provide a detailed written reply. In addition, he asked the Secretariat to write to AA to request a detailed explanation of response measures to be taken for inbound flights from places other than Wuhan. Members endorsed the proposals unanimously.

III. Date of Next Meeting

145. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 20 January 2020 (Monday) at 2:00 p.m.

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