

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 19 December 2022 (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 YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Vice-Chairman

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH (Arrived at around 2:05 p.m.)

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 (Arrived at around 2:05 p.m.)
Mr HO Siu-kei
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr FONG Lung-fei
Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Mr SHEK Hon-yin	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island and Islands)3, Housing Department
Ms Agnes CHOW	Manager - Community Relations, Link Asset Management Limited
Mr Leo LEUNG	Senior Officer - Community Relations, Link Asset Management Limited

In Attendance

Ms YEUNG Wai-sum, Amy, JP	District Officer (Islands), Islands District Office
Mr LI Ho, Thomas	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie	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
Ms WONG Yik-ting, Sarina	Senior Executive Officer (District Management)(Acting), Islands District Office
Ms TANG Yuen-ki, Phoebe	Senior Engineer/9 (Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms KWAN Wai-ling, Jane	Senior Town Planner/Sai Kung, Planning Department
Ms YAN Lai-ming, Jenny	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/ Islands), Social Welfare Department
Mr LING Ka-fai	District Lands Officer/Islands (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Mr TSANG Wai-man	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Ms KWAN Ka-mun, Karen	Chief Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department
Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan	District Commander (Lantau), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWAN Wai-kwan	Divisional Commander, Marine Harbour Division, Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LI Ka-chai, Denise	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Sheung-yung, Cyrus	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr HUI Kar-nung	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms WONG Wai-chu	Senior Housing Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands 2 & Management Control 1, Housing Department
Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West)(Acting), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms Kennis CHAN	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Islands District Office
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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the meeting of the Islands District Council (IDC), and introduced the following representatives of departments:

- (a) Ms TANG Yuen-ki, Phoebe, Senior Engineer/9 (Lantau) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, who stood in for Mr CHENG Yuk-lung, Stanley.
- (b) Ms KWAN Wai-ling, Jane, Senior Town Planner/Sai Kung of the Planning Department, who stood in for Ms TANG Tsui-yee, Caroline;
- (c) Ms KWAN Wai-kwan, Divisional Commander, Marine Harbour Division of the Hong Kong Police Force, who stood in for Mr Clive WALTON; and
- (d) Ms WONG Wai-chu, Senior Housing Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands 2 & Management Control 1 of the Housing Department (HD), who stood in for Mr TO Chak-foo.

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 3 November 2022

2. 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.

3. Members had no other amendment proposals. The minutes were confirmed unanimously.

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr Randy Yu, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

II. Question on the emergency rescue service for users of the lifts in Tung Chung (Paper IDC 62/2022)

4. The Chairman said that the written replies of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and the Fire Services Department had been provided to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

5. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question.

6. Mr Eric KWOK said that Mr FONG had brought up the problem of the frequent failures of the lift on Chung Yan Road near Yu Tai Court for discussion at the District Facilities Management Committee, and had also dialled the emergency contact number shown in the lift to contact the contractor when there was a lift failure, but the contractor did not send any personnel to the scene for inspection and maintenance immediately. He pointed out that Members had raised questions twice recently on the lift failures in Tung Chung District, which indicated the severity of the problem. He opined that apart from the issuance of warning letters, the EMSD should also establish a demerit point system for the substandard performance of contractors, so that the points could be taken into account in the approval of the contractors' applications for licence renewal.

7. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to write to the EMSD to state that the IDC had received the department's written reply to the question and to convey to the department Members' concerns over the frequent lift failure incidents in Tung Chung District recently. In this connection, he asked for a response on how the department would seriously follow up on the frequent lift failures to ensure the safety of residents.

(The Vice-chairman Mr WONG Man-hon and Mr HO Chun-fai arrived at around 2:05 p.m.)

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had written to the EMSD on 19 January 2023. A reply was received on February 3 this year and had been forwarded to Members for perusal.)

III. Question on the slow operation of the toll gate system at Yat Tung Street carpark
(Paper IDC 63/2022)

8. The Chairman welcomed Ms Agnes CHOW, Manager - Community Relations and Mr Leo LEUNG, Senior Officer - Community Relations of the Link Asset Management Limited (Link) to the meeting to respond to the question.

9. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question. He opined that the slow operation of the toll gate system at the carpark was the main cause for the traffic congestion. He said that on the day of the accident, the traffic congestion was very serious although there was no taxi in the roundabout area. After the reprovisioning of traffic facilities on Yat Tung Street and the completion of the new taxi stand in early 2023, taxis would have to route through the roundabout to leave the location. If the problem of the carpark toll gate system remained unresolved by then, he believed that the traffic congestion at the roundabout would be exacerbated and the risk of accidents would increase. He asked the Link to deal with the problem squarely.

10. Mr Leo LEUNG responded as follows:

- (a) The carpark contractor engaged by the Link found in early November 2022 that the detection system on the ground at the entrance of the carpark was operating slowly, and immediate maintenance was arranged. Before the commencement of the maintenance works, the Link had deployed extra staff to monitor the operation of toll gate system and restart it when necessary, so as to alleviate the traffic congestion. On the day of the accident mentioned by Members, the operation of the toll gate system was affected by the maintenance works underway. The maintenance works had been completed in mid-November, and the toll gate system had also resumed normal operation. The opening and closing of the toll gate only took a few seconds. He said that the Link would keep in view the operation of the toll gate system.
- (b) Regarding the uneven road surface at the entrance of Carpark 2 caused by channel covers, the Link had arranged the contractor to carry out repair works. It was planned that the works would commence before the Lunar New Year and would take about a week. The Link would follow up on the progress of the channel cover works and would report to Members in due course.

11. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Although the repairs to the toll gate system had been completed in mid-November, according to his recent observation, the lifting and lowering of the toll bar at the roundabout would take around two to three seconds, and it took about ten seconds for a vehicle to pass the toll gate, therefore the traffic could not be diverted effectively. When there were a few vehicles waiting to pass the toll gate, the traffic would be obstructed. In addition, he also found that the toll bar often failed to operate normally during adverse weather conditions. Although the repairs to the toll gate system had been completed, there had been circumstances where staff of the Link had to remove the toll bar during the rush hours at around 7 a.m. to alleviate the traffic congestion at the roundabout, which revealed the severity of the problem.
- (b) Residents of Yat Tung Estate had suffered from the traffic congestion and noise problems at the roundabout for more than 20 years. In particular, the residents working on shift at the airport were off duties in the morning or afternoon and the noise generated at the roundabout during day time would seriously affect their rest.
- (c) The traffic congestion and noise problems on Yat Tung Street had been discussed many times in both the previous and current terms of the IDC. Members had expressed many opinions on the problems, however, the Link and the departments concerned only said they kept an open attitude but had yet to come up with any solutions. He said

that the above problems had seriously affected the daily life of residents. He requested the Link to listen to Members' views and make efforts to improve the problems.

12. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed with Mr FONG Lung-fei that it was the responsibility of the Link and the departments concerned to improve the above problems. In early October 2022, he made a phone call to the Link about the serious traffic congestion caused by the toll gate, asking the company to arrange the contractor to remove the toll bar immediately, so as to facilitate the smooth flow of vehicles entering the roundabout and solve the traffic congestion problem at that time. Hence, the Link should consider removing the toll bar as a short-term solution and relocating the toll gate system to the entrance of Carpark 2 to solve the problem in the long term. If it was not possible to remove the toll bar in a short period of time, temporary contingency measures should be taken. Staff on duty should be instructed to pause the operation of the toll gate and lift the bar immediately to divert the traffic when there was serious traffic congestion.
- (b) Yat Tung Street was the main passage for travelling to and from other areas for residents of Yat Tung Estate. If there was traffic congestion at the location, the traffic in the entire area would be paralysed. He suggested that the Link and Members should conduct an on-site inspection to explore feasible solutions.
- (c) There was often a heavy vehicle parked at the entrance of Carpark 2, obstructing the vision of residents walking to the bus stop. He had tried to advise the driver to leave, but to no avail. He therefore hoped that prosecution or other enforcement actions would be taken by the Police or the HD. In addition, even if the Link arranged the replacement of the channel covers at the entrance of the carpark, he believed that the noise problem would reappear because the channel covers could not bear the pressure exerted by heavy vehicles passing through the entrance and would be damaged again.

13. Ms WONG Chau-ping opined that the Link should carry out inspections on a regular basis, instead of following up after the problems were brought up by Members. She asked whether there were security guards on duty round the clock at the toll gate, and enquired about the inspection cycle of the gate facilities and the standard time required for lifting and lowering the toll bar.

14. The Vice-chairman Mr WONG Man-hon opined that there were serious problems in the traffic planning, which had led to the congestion problem at the roundabout on Yat Tung Street. No solution had been worked out after years of discussion and the departments concerned should look for a way out together.

During peak hours, there were often traffic jams at the location, which posed a threat to the safety of the pedestrians crossing the road near the roundabout. He suggested that new services should be provided at the carpark with the utilisation of technologies. For example, the toll bar could be set to rise automatically when a vehicle was approaching the toll gate to allow the passage of the vehicle, and the parking fee could be collected with a card reader at the time when the vehicle left the carpark, so as to improve the flow of vehicular movement. He pointed out that the current design of the roundabout could not cope with the high vehicular flow. After the new taxi stand was put into service, the problem of traffic congestion would be exacerbated. He hoped novel parking arrangements would be introduced by the HD, so that drivers would not be required to stop and tap their cards at the card reader when entering the carpark, and therefore the above problem would be alleviated.

15. The Chairman asked whether the toll gate facilities at the roundabout were handed over to the Link by the HD and had been in use for more than 20 years. He further asked if the toll gate system had been used for many years and had malfunctions repeatedly, whether the Link would consider replacing it with a new system. He said Members had also proposed to relocate the toll gate in the unloading area to the entrance of the carpark, so that vehicles could leave immediately after entering the roundabout and the vehicular movement would be speeded up. The proposed solution would not affect the management of the carpark. He asked the Link to consider the proposal and respond to the above questions. As for the heavy vehicle mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK, he asked the representatives of the Police to make a response later on.

16. Mr Leo LEUNG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) It only took a few seconds to lift the toll bar at present. Generally, the process would take four to five seconds.
- (b) The toll gate system at the roundabout was handed over to the Link by the HD. However, the Link had replaced the toll gate afterwards at the end of 2020 in order to provide stable and reliable services. The Link understood Members' concerns over the operation of the toll gate, and would ask the responsible personnel to monitor the traffic flow at the roundabout and take contingency measures in a timely manner.
- (c) The Link noted the views of Members, and would forward them to relevant departments for follow-up after the meeting and report to Members in due course.

17. The Chairman asked whether only the Octopus fee collection system was replaced or the toll gate system was replaced as well.

18. Mr Leo LEUNG said that the toll gate system was replaced. The staff at the carpark had been asked to keep a closer watch on the situation once the new taxi stand on Yat Tung Street was put into service. In addition, the Link would look into

the views of Members.

19. The Chairman said although residents agreed that the traffic congestion problem had been improved after the toll gate system was replaced, it had not been solved completely. In addition, many Members expected that the completion of the taxi stand on Yat Tung Street would aggravate the traffic congestion at the roundabout. Therefore, he suggested that the Link should conduct further studies on the proposal to update the toll gate system and relocate the toll gate to Carpark 2 after the meeting, and make a response to the IDC in mid-February 2023.

20. Ms Agnes CHOW added that the Link would study the various suggestions put forward by Members and would report to Members the study progress and the updated information.

21. Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan said that if the traffic congestion was caused by vehicles waiting to pass the toll gate (commonly known as “running vehicles”), there was no law enforcement actions that the Police could take. If the vehicles concerned were illegally parked vehicles (commonly known as “dead vehicles”), the Police would take enforcement actions. According to her daily observation, there were very few illegally parked vehicles at the location and the traffic congestion problem was mainly caused by the large number of vehicles queuing at the gate.

22. Mr Eric KWOK said that a zebra crossing was provided in front of the access ramp at the entrance of Carpark 2 of Yat Tung Estate to facilitate residents’ walk to and from the bus terminus. However, a heavy cross-border coach was often parked there in the morning. It not only obstructed the vision of the pedestrians, but also caused inconvenience to the vehicles entering and leaving the carpark. When there were vehicle-pedestrian conflicts on the road, accidents could occur easily. In this regard, he asked whether it was an offence to park a heavy vehicle at the location.

23. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Since the carpark gate and the roundabout were managed by the Link and the HD respectively, it was difficult for the Police to make any intervention in the roundabout area unless a serious crime was involved. He said that incidents such as illegal parking, large vehicles causing visual obstruction to pedestrians and vehicles not giving way to pedestrians when approaching the zebra crossing were very common. He hoped the Police would take note of the situation. He opined that the departments concerned should step up their communication, and the HD, the Transport Department (TD) and the Police should meet with the Link to jointly seek solutions to the problems above and explore the feasibility of relocating the toll gate.
- (b) The half-hour free parking offer provided by the Link indirectly caused the traffic congestion. Attracted by the offer, many private car drivers

would go shopping in the shopping centre after parking their vehicles at the unloading area. As a result, some goods vehicles were unable to enter the unloading area and had to load and unload goods at the roundabout, posing a threat to pedestrian safety. Therefore, the relevant departments and the Link should not ignore issues such as traffic safety and people's livelihood, and should review the current half-hour free parking offer.

24. Mr HO Chun-fai opined that the traffic problem at the roundabout outside the Yat Tung Shopping Centre stemmed from the inappropriate location of the carpark gate. The problem could be alleviated by relocating the toll gate to the carpark and converting the existing gate into a pedestrian passage with zebra crossing marking or even box junction marking to prohibit the stopping of vehicles within the area. He said that the relocation of the toll gate could increase the traffic flow at the roundabout and could be more feasible. He then asked the Link and the relevant departments to consider the suggestion.

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

- (a) He agreed with the Vice-Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon. He said that the relevant departments and the Link should improve the toll gate system that was currently operating in a traditional mode and he supported the relocation of the gate to the entrance of the carpark.
- (b) Although security guards were arranged by the contractor to prevent private cars from entering the unloading area, they were not on duty round the clock. He said that the security guards were unable to effectively manage the entry and exit of vehicles such as private cars, school buses and taxis during the peak hours of goods loading and unloading every day. He opined that the Link needed to strengthen its vehicle management measures, and said that the problem would be solved if the Link could update the toll gate system, relocate the toll gate to the entrance of the carpark and prohibit picking up of passengers by taxis within the roundabout.
- (c) Currently, the roundabout was always clogged during morning rush hours as it was fully occupied by pedestrians and vehicles. Therefore, he suspected that there were problems with the design, which posed a threat to pedestrian safety and caused inconvenience to drivers. He opined that the departments and the Link should work together to look for a suitable and feasible solution, and strict management measures should be adopted.

26. The Chairman said that the zebra crossing marking mentioned by the Member was not a standard zebra crossing set up by the TD and the Highways Department, but a pedestrian aid provided in private housing estates. He pointed out that the relevant location fell on the boundary between the areas under the purview of

the Link and the HD respectively, and asked whether the Police could take enforcement actions there. In addition, as the ramp was under the management of the Link, he asked the Link how it would strengthen its management of the location.

27. Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan said that the Police needed to discuss with the HD to understand the actual situation before determining whether prosecutions could be proceeded with. Generally speaking, if the heavy vehicle mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK did not pose any immediate danger and was not a “dead vehicle”, the Police would not take any actions. She reiterated that according to the Police’s observation, the traffic congestion problem in the vicinity of the roundabout was mainly caused by the slow operation of the toll gate, therefore law enforcement was not an effective solution to the problem.

28. Ms Agnes CHOW said that suggestions put forward by Members were noted. The company would study the feasibility of the suggestions and would report to Members if any conclusions were drawn.

29. The Chairman made a conclusion and asked the Link to submit a reply within two months. He said if necessary, Members might consider referring the issue to the Traffic and Transport Committee Working Group under the IDC for follow-up and meeting with representatives of the Link, the HD and the Police to look for a practical solution.

IV. Question on the assistance to the ethnic minorities in their integration into the community
(Paper IDC 64/2022)

30. The Chairman welcomed Ms YEUNG Wai-sum, Amy, JP, District Officer (Islands) (DO) of the Islands District Office (IsDO), Ms YAN Lai-ming, Jenny, District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Mr SHEK Hon-yin, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island and Islands)³ of the HD to the meeting to respond to the question.

31. The Chairman said Mr FONG Lung-fei had requested that an ethnic minority group be invited to speak at the meeting. Members were consulted and most of them did not agree to the arrangement. They opined that Mr FONG, as a representative of public opinion, could explain the problem in detail. Mr FONG was asked to sum up the views he had received.

32. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question.

33. Ms Amy YEUNG responded as follows:

- (a) She agreed that non-Chinese speaking new arrivals had difficulties in integrating into the community, studying and finding employment due

to unfamiliarity with local culture and environment in addition to language barriers. Her response would focus on the services provided by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) for ethnic minorities. She believed that the relevant departments would respond to Mr FONG's question about renting facilities in public housing estates.

- (b) The HAD had always provided support services for ethnic minorities, with the main service being the establishment of support service centres for ethnic minorities, including the TOUCH Sub-centre operated by the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (NAAC) in Tung Chung. The centre provided support and social integration services for ethnic minorities, including language classes which Mr FONG was concerned about. Since June this year, the TOUCH Sub-centre had begun to offer employment support courses, and many ethnic minorities had enrolled within the past six months.
- (c) Members had expressed their concerns about the sustainability of the services provided to ethnic minorities when the IDC was discussing issues related to them in the past. As she understood from the NAAC, the language classes mentioned above were offered at three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced. Learners could enrol on the courses repeatedly to ensure they could attain a level sufficient to cope with daily life.
- (d) As for studying, the NAAC also offered tutorial classes and homework guidance classes for non-Chinese speaking students. According to the NAAC, the instructors appointed were qualified and sufficiently proficient in Chinese to provide language training.
- (e) The HAD also funded two community support teams to serve the Pakistani and Nepalese communities in Hong Kong by providing them with appropriate support, including access to social services and other community resources, so as to help them integrate into the society.
- (f) The HAD had also launched the District-based Programmes for Racial Harmony to encourage interaction and exchange between ethnic minorities who have settled permanently in Hong Kong and local Chinese residents so that the former would be able to adapt to life in Hong Kong as soon as possible.

34. Ms Jenny YAN responded as follows:

- (a) The SWD attached importance to facilitating the integration of ethnic minorities into the community so that they could have fair access to different social services. The SWD set up an integrated services centre in Tung Chung to provide various social welfare services for the public.

- (b) The SWD knew that ethnic minorities might face language barriers when learning about social welfare services, so it prepared service publicity materials in different languages and provided translation services.
- (c) Understanding the special needs of ethnic minorities, the SWD set up outreaching teams for ethnic minorities in 2019 to proactively reach out to ethnic minorities and connect those in need with mainstream welfare services. The outreaching service in Tung Chung was provided by the NAAC.
- (d) Ethnic minority district ambassadors were deployed at the SWD's main service points, such as integrated services centres, parents/relatives resource centres and district support centres for persons with disabilities, to strengthen the welfare support for ethnic minorities.

35. Mr SHEK Hon-yin responded as follows:

- (a) The HD would mainly respond to the question on the renting of the offices of the Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) of public housing estates. All MAC offices would cease operation after 1 January 2023. The HD was carrying out a feasibility study on the future use of the MAC offices and would prioritise converting them for residential use, subject to the suitability of locations and technical feasibility.
- (b) With the implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme, it was expected that all housing estates would require extra space for processing recyclables. In this connection, the HD would consider using the MAC offices for the provision of relevant facilities.
- (c) If any groups or organisations wished to rent the MAC offices for welfare or other purposes, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) would process the applications in accordance with established procedures having regard to the legislative requirements, technical feasibility and actual circumstances of the housing estates. Under the prevailing policy, when there were vacant welfare premises in public housing estates available for renting directly, the HA would upload the information onto its website for application by eligible interested non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

36. Mr FONG Lung-fei said ethnic minorities worried that their children would not be able to integrate into activities led by Chinese due to cultural differences. They hoped that the Government would provide funding for organising activities led by ethnic minorities so that they would feel at ease about letting their children participate. Besides, married women in ethnic minorities could not easily participate in the said activities organised by NGOs, but it would be easier for them to participate

if the activities were organised by ethnic minorities. Many ethnic minorities had put down roots in the local community years ago, so they should be treated equally like other Hong Kong people. Owing to religious and cultural differences, he might not be able to convey the views of ethnic minorities accurately. He therefore hoped that government departments would meet with them to listen to their views directly through, for example, an informal meeting. He would be glad to help with the arrangement after the meeting so that ethnic minorities could express their concerns in person.

37. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He had always been concerned about issues relating to ethnic minorities. Before becoming a DC member, he had had liaison with many ethnic minorities, especially those who were Muslims and Sikhs. Despite cultural differences, he wanted them to integrate into Hong Kong society and live happily and healthily, but regrettably the Government's prevailing policy failed to achieve such goal. Last year, he assisted a Muslim group in applying for the setting up of a community centre in Mun Tung Estate. Multiple reports were submitted to the property manager of Mun Tung Estate. The community centre was planned to be jointly operated by ethnic minorities and local groups. It was hoped that, apart from serving as a place of worship for ethnic minorities, the centre could provide a common learning space for young people, women and local families in ethnic minorities, but unfortunately there was no suitable location.
- (b) At the beginning of the year, he assisted a Sikh group in finding a place available for short-term renting in Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate, but there was no suitable location. He opined that the policy should be reviewed but it could not be done at the DC level. He hoped that the Legislative Council could set up a task force to review the policy in order to solve the problem.

38. Ms Amy YEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Mr FONG mentioned that ethnic minorities wished to organise activities and provide services for their own ethnic groups. In Tung Chung, apart from the centre operated by the NAAC, there was the Masjid Ismail of United Welfare Union Hong Kong Limited (UWU), which was also of a considerable scale and presided over by the local religious leaders of ethnic minorities. In addition to holding religious worship, the Masjid Ismail also provided many services in high demand, such as homework, language and employment guidance, the nature of which was similar to that of the services provided by the NAAC. It might be just that the person who sought Mr FONG's assistance was not familiar with those support services.

- (b) Mr FONG was concerned about whether local groups were culturally sensitive enough to understand the needs of ethnic minorities and provide them with suitable services. She knew that the NAAC had been engaged in the work of supporting ethnic minorities for many years and some of its staff were Muslims. She also learnt that the services provided by the NAAC largely met the needs of ethnic minorities in the district. If ethnic minorities considered the existing services in Tung Chung inadequate, the NAAC would be happy to make improvements and enhance its service levels to meet their needs. Members could relay the specific needs of ethnic minorities to the SWD or the service providers directly. Regarding Mr KWOK's remark that ethnic minorities wished to co-organise inclusive activities with local organisations, she welcomed the idea and invited Mr KWOK to communicate further with the IsDO to explore the possibility of such partnership.

39. Ms Jenny YAN said each ethnic minority group had their own culture. In order to meet the needs of different ethnic groups, the SWD decided to provide services on an outreach basis. The outreaching team of the NAAC which was responsible for serving Islands District employed staff of different ethnicities who could understand the culture of ethnic minorities and were capable of assisting them in obtaining the most suitable personal or group services. She welcomed views from different parties, and the outreaching team would be pleased to listen to them.

40. The Chairman appreciated the DO's proactive attitude. He said while there were various kinds of services provided by different departments and the NAAC's support service centre for ethnic minorities, ethnic minorities had pointed out some blind spots of the existing services to Mr FONG and Mr KWOK. He suggested that the DO, after gaining an understanding of the problems, consider arranging an informal meeting at the NAAC in Tung Chung for the IsDO and the SWD to have a discussion with the NAAC, the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui and the HD. He also suggested inviting ethnic minorities to attend the meeting so that they could communicate directly with the government departments to identify the blind spots and solve the problem.

41. Mr FONG Lung-fei said the NAAC's outreach vehicle only visited Yat Tung Estate one day a week, but there were already 2 000 to 3 000 Indians and Pakistani in Yat Tung Estate. The number could be over 4 000 if other ethnicities were included. Moreover, ethnic minorities relayed that the UWU site did not have enough space for organising activities or providing services. He wished to fight for more benefits for them.

42. Ms Amy YEUNG thanked Mr FONG and Mr KWOK for expressing their views which allowed her to gain more understanding on matters that ethnic minorities were concerned about. The IsDO would relay their views to the NAAC and the relevant organisations and explore the possibility of holding the meeting so that the organisations could better cater for the needs of ethnic minorities. The IsDO would

liaise with Mr FONG and Mr KWOK after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO had liaised with Mr FONG Lung-fei and Mr Eric KWOK after the meeting to follow up on the above matter. Mr FONG said he had arranged a meeting between the representatives of ethnic minorities and that of the IsDO. He said the IsDO noted the needs of the ethnic minorities, so there was no need to arrange another meeting for the time being. Regarding Mr Eric KWOK's views, the HD confirmed to the IsDO that there were no vacant welfare premises available for renting by NGOs in Mun Tung Estate.)

V. Question on the isolation facilities and the provision of proper care for patients in the Accident and Emergency Department of the North Lantau Hospital
(Paper IDC 65/2022)

43. The Chairman said the written reply of the Hospital Authority had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

44. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

45. Mr Eric KWOK said although the North Lantau Hospital (NLH) did not send its representatives to attend the meeting, the Hospital Chief Executive had called him after learning about the issue to express his concern about the situation, saying that the medical staff were unable to attend the meeting to respond to the question due to official commitments. Regarding isolation facilities, the NLH had sent him photos showing that partitions had been installed in the waiting area in the Accident and Emergency Department to separate patients and reduce the risk of infection. In addition, he learnt from the NLH's written reply that hospital staff would provide meals to patients during meal times and prepare bottled drinking water and biscuits for patients in need. He opined that the NLH had responded appropriately to patients' needs and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the NLH.

VI. Report on the Work of the Islands District Management Committee (November 2022)
(Paper IDC 66/2022)

46. Members noted the paper.

VII. Reports on the Work of the IDC Committees / Working Group
(Paper IDC 67-71/2022)

47. Members noted and endorsed the papers unanimously.

(Members who voted in favour 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, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

48. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 20 February 2023 (Monday) at 2:00 p.m.

-END -