

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 26 April 2021 (Monday)
Time : 10:30 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

(Arrived at around 10:45 a.m. and left at around 1:10 p.m.)

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

Attendance by Invitation

Ms CHOI Siu-man, Sherman

Chief Transport Officer/Planning/Ferry Review,
Transport Department

Mr TANG Kai-yan, Alan

Chief Engineer/Port Works,
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr CHAN Kwok-leung, Clarence

Senior Engineer/Projects 6,
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Ms TONG Pui-sze

Engineer/Projects 6A
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr CHONG Shing-tak, Raymond	Engineer/Projects 6B Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LO Siu-keung	Senior Engineer/15(Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr KAO Hsi-chiang	Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms WONG Kam-wah	Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands, Housing Department
Mr CHEUNG King-man	Senior Engineer/L, Drainage Services Department
Mr YUEN Kwok-keung	Senior Land Executive/Lantau (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Mr Barry WONG	Project Manager, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited
Ms Jessica SIN	Project Coordinator, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited
Ms Candace HSU	Senior Officer – Public Relations (Projects), Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong 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 LEUNG Tin-ye, Christy	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Mr MOK Sui-hung	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Mr CHAN Yat-kin, Kaiser	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office
Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred	Chief Engineer/Lantau 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna	District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Ms IP Siu-ming	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands), Social Welfare Department
Ms LEE Sin-man	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), Housing 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 CHEUNG Hoi-yan	District Commander (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr K JACOBS	District Commander (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LO Tim-fat, Frankie	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEONG Seong-iam	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWAN Ka-mun, Karen	Chief Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department

Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

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

Mr WONG Chun-yeung



Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the meeting.

I. **Confirmation of the Minutes of Meetings held on 8 February and 1 March 2021**

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 voted by a show of hands, and the minutes were confirmed with 15 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

(Members 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, 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 whereas Ms Amy YUNG abstained.)

(Mr Ken WONG attended the meeting at around 10:45 a.m.)

II. Proposed Reconstruction of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier
(Paper IDC 25/2021)

4. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHOI Siu-man, Sherman, Chief Transport Officer/Planning/Ferry Review of the Transport Department (TD), Mr TANG Kai-yan, Alan, Chief Engineer/Port Works, Mr CHAN Kwok-leung, Clarence, Senior Engineer/Projects 6, Ms TONG Pui-sze, Engineer/Projects 6A and Mr CHONG Shing-tak, Raymond, Engineer/Projects 6B of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) as well as Mr Barry WONG, Project Manager, Ms Jessica SIN, Project Coordinator and Ms Candace HSU, Senior Officer – Public Relations (Projects) of Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited to the meeting to present the paper.

5. Mr Alan TANG briefly presented the paper.

6. Mr Barry WONG presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

7. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho pointed out that repair works had been carried out at Cheung Chau Ferry Pier in recent years, during which the operation of the pier was affected. Some parts of the works had to be carried out under the pier, imposing risks on the repair workers. He also considered reconstruction of the pier necessary and pointed out that facilities including the passenger waiting area and bicycle parking spaces along the coast should be improved. It was expected that the reconstruction works could bring substantial improvements.

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

(a) He was pleased to learn that the Cheung Chau Ferry Pier would be reconstructed. Applications for the works project had been made for years. In previous Ching Ming Festivals and the Jiao Festivals, the pier was full of passengers queuing for ferries. After reconstruction of the pier, larger waiting and queuing areas could be provided and problems including excess demand for bicycle parking spaces in the vicinity could be relieved.

(b) He had consulted a number of Cheung Chau residents on the project and the majority supported the second proposed location which was near the Water Supplies Department Cheung Chau Depot. He also pointed out that there were over 80 small boats operating inshore so sufficient mooring space should be reserved after the pier was relocated northward. He hoped that the department could liaise with the Marine Department (MD) and the Hong Kong Fire Services Department to explore solutions.

9. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed to the reconstruction of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier and opined that more bicycle parking spaces should be provided as both sides of the existing pier were fully parked with bicycles obstructing the pavement. He proposed the consultant to work with the relevant departments to study the provision of a cycling track connecting to the parking spaces at the pier to prevent indiscriminate parking of bicycles.
- (b) He proposed, with reference to the practice of Stanley, the enhancement of pedestrian walkway along the coast of Cheung Chau for residents and visitors to enjoy the scenery and access to and from Cheung Chau more conveniently.

10. Ms Josephine TSANG was delighted with the reconstruction of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier. He pointed out that the Peng Chau Ferry Pier also had a number of problems. Since there was only one side for berthing, when a ferry was using the pier, other inter-islands ferries could only berth after the ferry left the pier, possibly causing delay in departures. In addition, wooden pieces on one side of the pier tipped up during typhoon, causing obstruction to berthing of ferries. She hoped that the department would reconstruct Peng Chau Ferry Pier to provide berthing spaces on two sides.

11. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Ferry operators said that with the rising sea level, the ramp for embarking/disembarking could be flooded during high tides, affecting boarding of passengers. He asked whether the deck levels of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier would be elevated, and whether the view of residential buildings nearby would be blocked, which might attract opposition from some residents, just as the bicycle parking spaces on Lamma Island were subject to judicial review. He opined that the problems concerned should be dealt with as a matter of priority, otherwise the progress of the project would be affected.
- (b) He supported the provision of lift(s) in the proposed Cheung Chau Ferry Pier, and also in Central Pier No. 5, otherwise it would be difficult for persons in need to leave the upper deck after arriving at Central. Detailed studies on the proposal should be conducted.
- (c) He was not in favour of the enhancement of promenades along the coast of Cheung Chau. As there were residential buildings along the promenade, it would be easy to see the inside of houses from the promenades, which would affect the livelihood of residents.
- (d) He urged the department to enhance the functions of all piers in Islands District in the long run. As pointed out by Ms Josephine TSANG, it was unacceptable that the Peng Chau Ferry Pier had only one side for berthing. In addition, although the department had specified on the tender the need for ferry operators to provide a boarding/alighting

pontoon, it should not be taken as a solution as the cost of the pontoon would be shifted to the fare. Based on the tender, the Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry Limited should provide a boarding/alighting pontoon for Inter Islands operated by the Sun Ferry Services Company Limited, which was tantamount to Peng Chau Residents paying for the facility. Mui Wo Ferry Pier could no longer cater for all demand. As the provision of an additional departure was stipulated in the new contract, the ferry operator wished to revise the schedule of Inter Islands to fulfill the requirement and relieve the demand for berthing space at the pier. He urged the department to review the condition of all piers in Islands District and formulate comprehensive reconstruction plans.

12. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho also considered the reconstruction of other piers in Islands District necessary and hoped that the department could proceed with the matter. In addition, regarding the proposal of enhancement of pedestrian walkway, he opined that Mr Eric KWOK, as a Member of the Tung Chung constituency, might not understand the situation of the island. Cheung Chau had no roads but only pavements, and consultation with residents would be needed before launching pavement beautification. There were mainly facilities of the Water Supplies Department and restaurants near the proposed pier, and the number of residential buildings was small.

13. Mr Eric KWOK supplemented that the proposal was about the construction of an extended pedestrian walkway similar to that at the Mui Wo Ferry Pier rather than the elevation of the pavement.

14. The Chairman said that he, Mr YUNG Chi-ming and Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho had conveyed part of the above views to the CEDD, which pledged to take them into account. He asked the department to make a consolidated response.

15. Mr Alan TANG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Four berthing spaces as well as larger waiting and queuing areas would be provided at the proposed Cheung Chau Ferry Pier.
- (b) The second proposed location had relatively little impact on the operation of ferry services, marine facilities nearby and Cheung Chau residents. The department would maintain liaison with the stakeholders and the relevant departments to minimise the impact on fishermen.
- (c) The proposals on the enhancement of pedestrian walkway and provision of a cycling track might affect the livelihood of residents, therefore a consensus should be reached by the residents and Members.
- (d) Regarding the deck levels of the proposed Cheung Chau Ferry Pier, the department would design in accordance with the latest standard on sea level rise stated in "Port Works Design Manual". The department

believed that the rise in sea level would not be significant enough to cause the said impacts to residents nearby.

16. Ms Sherman CHOI said that the department had strived to improve the waiting area and facilities at ferry piers and the Pilot Scheme for the Upgrading of Yung Shue Wan Ferry Pier was in progress. Upon completion of the project, consideration would be given to refurbishing and upgrading facilities at other ferry piers to meet the needs of the community, subject to the project's effectiveness, the views of passengers and ferry operators, as well as the experience gained during the design and construction process. The department noted the views of Members and would consider them when reviewing the pilot scheme.

17. Mr Alan TANG supplemented that as stated in the PowerPoint slides of the consultant, bicycle parking decks would be provided on both sides of the proposed Cheung Chau Ferry Pier to relieve the congestion associated with bicycle-parking at certain parts of the pavement. At present, the space available for pedestrians was only about four-metre wide. If bicycles were parked at the bicycle parking decks, the space available for pedestrians could be roughly doubled to facilitate the flow of pedestrians.

18. Mr Ken WONG enquired if the provision of lift(s) at the proposed Cheung Chau Ferry Pier but not Central Pier would result in inconsistency and thus a waste of resources.

19. Mr Alan TANG said that the department would take into account the views of Mr Ken WONG at the design stage and seek supplementary advice from consultants.

20. Mr Barry WONG said that the provision of public spaces at the proposed Cheung Chau Ferry Pier could be considered. The lift(s) enabled persons in need to access to the first floor, the roof or other places. The details could be considered in a more in-depth manner at the design stage.

21. The Chairman said that Members welcomed the reconstruction project in general. The department and the consultant had conducted a few consultations and accepted views raised by Members at focus groups, such as the provision of solar panels. In addition, the Chairman said some Members suggested that the TD could review the demand of Peng Chau in one go and conduct relevant studies. He asked Members to vote by a show of hands on whether to support the preliminary proposal of the feasibility study of the project.

22. Members voted by a show of hands. There were 15 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention. The preliminary proposal of the feasibility study was endorsed.

(Members 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,

Ms Josephine TSANG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Ms LAU Shun-ting and Mr LEE Ka-ho. Ms Amy YUNG abstained.)
(Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho temporarily left the meeting.)

23. Ms Amy YUNG said that she abstained as she had to leave the meeting room just now to account for the incident occurred earlier to the Police. She had no choice but abstained as she was not fully informed of the matter.

(Since the two representatives of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) could not attend the meeting in the afternoon, the Chairman proposed discussing items XI and XII first.)

XI. 2021 Marine Port District Action Plan
(Paper IDC 22/2021)

24. The Chairman welcomed Mr K JACOBS, District Commander (Marine Port District) of the HKPF to the meeting to respond to the question.

25. Mr K JACOBS briefly presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint Presentation.

26. Mr CHAN Lin-wai, representatives of the Lamma Island (North) Rural Committee (RC), was pleased with the police patrolling in the waters near Lamma Island. Of the main islands in Islands District, Lamma Island had the lowest police strength. The implementation of “One-Village-One-Officer Scheme”, “Two-Village-One-Officer Scheme” and “Three-Village-One-Officer Scheme” yielded considerable results and good police-community relations were maintained. In the past two years, a low crime rate was made possible with the efforts of police officers serving the island. Taking July this year as an example, the Police swiftly cracked down a few number of burglary cases on the island and arrested a person involved. Late last year, they also arrested over ten illegal immigrants. During the epidemic when there were imported new confirmed cases on the island, the Police tracked down the persons involved in a timely manner, and thus minimising the impact on the community. He thanked the Police for their hard work to maintain peace in the society.

27. Mr Eric KWOK said that he had repeatedly requested District Council in the previous and current terms that after the establishment of South Lantau Marine Park, marine police should maintain close liaison with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and other departments to prevent illegal fishing boats entering Hong Kong waters for illegal fishing activities in the marine park and to ensure conservation of marine resources. He hoped that the Marine Region would consider his proposal and incorporate it in the future action plan.

28. Mr Sammy TSUI enquired whether there was an upward trend in the number of smuggling by sea in recent years and if police statistics could be provided. If the increase was evident, whether actions would be stepped up against smuggling

activities. Several months ago, citizens reported on social media platforms that rampant fishing boats smuggled frozen meat and chilled food off Tung Chung. He was worried that Tung Chung was near the boundary control points and would become a blackspot for smuggling.

29. Mr Ken WONG said that public cooperation with police was encouraging in Peng Chau with good law and order situation. During the epidemic, people visited the outlying islands during holidays as they could not go overseas. The islands were crowded with visitors, some even camping illegally on beaches with a campfire. There were only a few officers stationing in Peng Chau and marine police was called for reinforcement. He hoped that extra police personnel would be stationed in Peng Chau to take enforcement actions against unlawful activities on beaches.

30. Mr HO Siu-kei said that there were so-called "deep-trawling" large fishing vessels operating in the waters to the west of Lantau. Tai O residents said that the MD had revoked the licence of this type of trawlers with compensation paid. Therefore, the trawlers seen in the waters off Tai O and Tuen Mun were unlicensed and could cause damage to the seabed and affect the living of fishermen severely. The fishermen had called 999 for assistance but as the area was under the ambit of AFCD, marine police could do nothing or take any actions to pursue legal liability after arrival. He asked which ordinance could be invoked to ban illegal trawling.

31. Mr K JACOBS thanked the support for the policing on Lamma. Concerning the marine park and authorised vessels, the Police would consider including them in the policing plan for the next year. In terms of marine parks, the leading agency was AFCD and the Police would work with it closely. For the figures on the smuggling trend, the figures provided related to the whole of Marine Region, not just the Marine Port Area. Last year, 41 cases were detected with 66 persons arrested and 29 vessels and 28 vehicles were seized. The value of seizures was over HK\$368 million, a rise from the previous years. Of the 41 cases, 34 were jointly detected with the Customs and Excise. About 75% of the arrest cases made last year were in Marine West Division Area, which included the waters north of Lantau. Tung Chung was relatively close to the Mainland and was quite vulnerable to smuggling. Marine West Division was frequently reinforced by the Small Boat Division in the operations. Members had just asked about assigning more officers on patrols on the islands. He pointed out that he had to balance where he put the officers. He could not have all the boats tied up and the Marine Police Officers patrolling on the islands. On the trawling activities of the Western Lantau area, they were within the remit of AFCD. The Police worked with it frequently and responded to 999 calls. If people saw illegal trawling activities, they could make the 999 calls. Fishing activities, though, might be permitted under licence.

32. The Chairman said that the police might find it difficult to ascertain whether trawling took place and suggested that Mr HO Siu-kei write to AFCD to find out how it cooperated with the police to combat trawling activities. He urged the two departments to explore ways to plug the loopholes and prevent fishing boats trawling in the waters off Tai O.

XII. Lantau District Action Plan 2021
(Paper IDC 23/2021)

33. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan, District Commander (Lantau) of the HKPF to the meeting to respond to the question.

34. Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan briefly presented the paper.

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

(a) He thanked the police force of Lantau District for cracking the case of air gun shots in debt collection and a methamphetamine case. He had recently received from residents requests for assistance in relation to deception and he considered that Members of District Council should assist the police in publicity to prevent crimes. Last month, he had worked together with the police in a publicity event in this regard in the Citygate Outlets. He regretted that the leaflet was subsequently used by an organisation for secondary creation, in which the content was related to another crime(s). He wondered why he would become a target of constant cyber-attacks and online smears due to his cooperation with the Government in promoting anti-crime messages in the community, and enquired of the police whether cyber bullying and intimidation constituted criminal offences.

(b) He said that his office had been splashed with liquid, and objects were being thrown from a height towards it. Although he had earlier worked with the police to arrest those involved, there remained objects thrown from a height. He wasn't sure if he was targeted or if someone had incited others to harm Members of District Council online. He enquired whether it was an offence to obstruct public officers in the discharge of their duties at District Council as happened in the morning.

36. Ms Amy YUNG said she was frightened by being harassed and intimidated, and being obstructed from entering the conference room before the meeting. She said that although both the Chairman and the District Officer indicated that staff of the Secretariat/ Islands District Office had called upon the security guards of the building for assistance in maintaining order, she did not see any security guard coming to help. When the police arrived at the scene and took her statement, still no security guard showed up.

37. Mr KWOK Ping expressed his views as follows:

(a) He thanked the police of Lantau Police District and the Tung Chung Police Station for their active efforts in handling problems in the district, including the problems of illegal parking, fire hose, illegal use

of electric bicycles and electric scooters within estate areas in Tung Chung, illegal entry into South Lantau and so on.

- (b) He supported the police's crackdowns on street gambling. He indicated that he had received requests for help from many families, saying that their relatives had lost a lot of money in gambling. He hoped that the police would crack down on illegal gambling stalls at the perimeter of Yat Tung Estate.
- (c) According to the Housing Department (HD), there would be an intake of nearly 30 000 people in the residential units to be completed in Tung Chung West between 2027 and 2028, while the population of Areas 100, 101, 103 and 109 in Tung Chung East would exceed 60 000. Once the Tung Chung New Town was fully developed, its resident population would increase by more than 180 000, and the entire population of Tung Chung district would increase from the current 120 000 to more than 300 000. Therefore, he considered it was necessary to upgrade the Lantau Police District as soon as possible to avoid shortage of manpower.
- (d) He said that he had informed the police of the rampant smuggling activities in Tai O, Mui Wo and Tung Chung. He hoped that measures would be taken to curb the problem.

38. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Since the implementation of the Lantau Link toll waiver, there had been a large number of external vehicles entering Tung Chung on holidays, causing traffic chaos. He said that in the long run, the roads needed to be re-planned, but in the short term, assistance from the police would be needed to help ease traffic. In addition, a large number of tourists visited South Lantau during holidays and did not want to spend long time waiting for public transport in Tung Chung. As a result, there arose the problem of the "pak pais" (that is, illegal hire car service). He hoped the police would pay attention to this issue.
- (b) He urged the police to follow up on the problem of juvenile gangs as well as the use of scooters and electric bicycles on footpaths within the district.

39. Mr HO Siu-kei said that, as indicated in the paper, drug crimes had increased by 1.4 times, which was considered as undesirable. In view of the anticipation that the resident population of Tung Chung would grow rapidly to nearly 300 000, he asked how the police would tackle the drug problem in the district. He said that if the drug abuse problem became serious, it would have an adverse impact on the youth in the district.

40. The Chairman agreed that the upgrading of the Lantau Police District should be carried out as soon as possible because the population in the district was expanding continuously and it would take several years for relevant arrangement to be made. He said that the District Council was willing to co-operate and hoped to discuss the relevant matters with the police. He reiterated that it was extremely important to upgrade the Lantau Police District as drug and fraud crimes would definitely increase with the growth of the population. The District Council hoped that it could do its bit.

41. Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She clarified that there was a 1.4 times increase recorded in the fraud cases, not drug crimes. She understood that Members had different concerns, but the police needed to deploy public resources in accordance with the crime situation and trends in the district. She said that the police would seriously handle and actively follow up on the cases, especially the drug and debt collection activities, and would step up relevant publicity.
- (b) She said that the laws in the real world were applicable to online acts. Acts inciting others to break the law or engage in cyber-bullying were regulated by the relevant legislation as long as they involved criminal offences, regardless of whether they were committed online. For example, criminal intimidation under Section 24 of the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200) and the blackmail under Section 23 of the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210) were also applicable to online acts. The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) of the HKPF focused on handling cyber crime cases. People in need should contact the police for assistance and provide the police with relevant information and evidence.
- (c) The police would vigorously combat illegal gambling and step up its intelligence gathering. However, since gambling could be addictive, cross-agency efforts were required. The police would actively follow up on this issue together with the social workers and non-governmental organisations in the district.
- (d) Regarding the smuggling activities, information available showed that there was no increasing trend and the police had already taken crackdown actions.
- (e) The Lantau Police District had been paying close attention to the traffic situation in Tung Chung and had worked closely with the Traffic New Territories South Region, Citygate Outlets and other car parks in the district. On weekends and holidays, the display panels on the North Lantau Highway would show the availability of parking spaces in Tung Chung in real time. If the parking spaces in the district were full, drivers would be advised to park at Disneyland, Inspiration Lake or

other places, or use public transport instead. In addition, the Lantau Police District would actively discuss with the TD on combating "pak pais". The Traffic New Territories South Region had been taking enforcement actions against "pak pais" and would give an account to the media and the public in due course.

42. Mr Sammy TSUI said that the number of fraud cases had increased significantly and this phenomenon was not exclusive to individual police districts. The problem had persisted for years. In recent years, the modus operandi of fraud cases was multifarious, and the monetary losses involved were getting larger and larger. Previously, it was even reported that a senior citizen was defrauded of over HK\$ 200 million. He enquired whether the police would cooperate with people with experience in information technology to prevent telephone deception. He said that even with increased manning, it was still difficult to crack down fraud cases and recover defrauded property. Therefore, he hoped that the police could make use of information technology in crackdowns on fraud crimes.

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

- (a) He noted that online acts were regulated by the existing legislation. In addition, he enquired whether secondary creations of the police leaflet would infringe copyright.
- (b) He said that he often received requests for help from deceived residents. In Yat Tung Estate, there lived many elderly people, who might be easily targeted by swindlers. He asked, apart from reporting such cases to the police, how the Members of District Council could offer assistance and cooperate with the police. He said that the police often failed to recover the monetary loss even if they successfully solved a case, so he considered that adequate publicity efforts should be made to nip the problem in the bud. He also hoped that he could discuss with the police on how to tackle the problem in conjunction with other Members of District Council.

44. Regarding the "Project Lantau Eyes" mentioned in the paper, Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the police would ask villagers for CCTV or dash cam footage when carrying out investigations in the past two years. She hoped that the "Project Lantau Eyes" would be improved. For example, more resources would be allocated to the villages along Tung Chung Road. In addition, she said that many citizens would visit remote villages for hiking amid the COVID-19 epidemic, which disturbed the peace of the community. She hoped that this project would help strengthen security in the villages and facilitate the enforcement actions of the police.

45. Ms LAU Shun-ting enquired whether the "Project Lantau Eyes" was limited to the Lantau Island only. She said that a project of similar nature had once been implemented in Lamma Island, and she hoped that the "Project Lantau Eyes" could be extended to Lamma Island.

46. The Chairman said that Members had called the police for assistance in connection with the incident in the morning. He said he was willing to fulfil his civic responsibility and assist the police in the investigation if necessary.

47. Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She noted the Members' concerns over the fraud cases. She said that technology was a double-edged sword. While it provided convenience for life, it could also be used by swindlers. Amid the COVID-19 epidemic, as citizens spent more time at home, many young and elderly people became addicted to web surfing and were more likely to fall victim to fraud. She urged the Members to promote the activities of "Senior Police Call" or "Junior Police Call" among the young and the elderly to help them broaden their social circles and increase knowledge on crime prevention, so that they could enhance their crime prevention awareness by reminding each other and stay vigilant to fraud.
- (b) The police had launched an active publicity campaign, in which banks, money changers and remittance shops were urged to enquire for more details when finding a senior citizen remitting a large amount of money to any unknown account. Some bank staff had managed to cut the monetary losses of the deceived by halting remittances in large amount. In addition, the Investor and Financial Education Council had designed a board game themed with fraud and crime prevention for the elderly. Participants of the "Senior Police Call" in Lantau were invited for trial and feedback. The game would be launched soon after refinements were made. The police had also produced and uploaded to the website of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre a publicity video. It was hoped that the Members would forward the video to residents.

48. Mr FONG Lung-fei supported the police's publicity campaigns on fraud and crime prevention. He indicated that the Junior Police Call Clubhouse in Yat Tung Estate had been closed for a long time and enquired whether there was a shortage of resources. He said that the population of Lantau Island was growing and the upgrading of the Lantau Police District would require considerable resources. Therefore, he proposed to move a motion for seeking allocation of additional resources from the Government.

49. Ms Amy YUNG supported the upgrading of the Lantau Police District. She pointed out that since the opening of the Discovery Bay Tunnel, Discovery Bay no longer had a police station, which had caused inconvenience to residents seeking help. She said that there had been a significant increase in drug abuse and the use of electric bicycles in Discovery Bay recently. It was hoped that after the upgrade of the Lantau Police District, a police station or police post would be set up in Discovery Bay, so as to facilitate the case reporting by residents and act as a deterrent.

50. The Chairman said that it would take time to upgrade the police district and the matters concerned had been fully discussed and recorded in the meeting. Members could move a motion in this regard in the future if necessary. He believed that Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan would convey such views to her superior officers.

51. Ms CHEUNG Hoi-yan added that information revealed the population of Tung Chung would reach 200 000 in 2026, which would then meet the population threshold for establishing a regular police district. Therefore, areas had been reserved for additional police stations and fire stations in the planning of Tung Chung East.

III. Question on objection to four Lantau outline zoning plans of Planning Department
(Paper IDC 26/2021)

52. The Chairman welcomed Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna, District Planning Officer/Sai Kung and Islands of the Planning Department (PlanD) to the meeting to respond to the question.

53. Mr HO Siu-kei briefly presented the question.

54. Ms TAM Yin-ping responded as follows:

- (a) The four draft Development Permission Area (DPA) Plans were all interim plans. The PlanD expected to replace the draft DPA Plans with Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) soon which will indicate the land use boundaries of zonings and other information in detail.
- (b) The PlanD had conducted site visits and met with the relevant Rural Committees, village representatives and villagers concerned. The PlanD would consolidate the views received and take such views into consideration in the preparation of the OZPs before they were submitted to the Town Planning Board (TPB). Comments from stakeholders would be welcomed.

55. Mr WONG Man-hon expressed his views on the draft Mui Wo North DPA Plan as follows:

- (a) He did not understand why the PlanD would conduct the public consultation during the Lunar New Year holidays and amid a severe epidemic outbreak. The consultation process was too hasty, which had caused dissatisfaction among many residents.
- (b) The PlanD had previously designated some sites as "R4" on the layout plans, which had caused expectations of the land use among the residents. However, because the residents neglected to take care of

the sites and clear undergrowth, the PlanD then changed the land use from "R4" to "Green Belt", which was unacceptable for the residents.

- (c) The draft plan failed to reserve land for future development in the light of the needs of the villages. It also restricted the areas where the indigenous villagers might build Small Houses, without considering the requirements of village type development. Before the publication of the OZP, all activities carried out on the sites were regulated by the Government. Residents might be prosecuted by the PlanD on the ground of unauthorised development even if they conducted undergrowth clearing or tree pruning.
- (d) The Silver Mine Bay, though with inspirational landscapes, was in lack of diversification in community facilities such as schools or water sports centres etc. According to the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint, a balance between "conservation" and "development" should be struck in the land use planning of Mui Wo, so as not to constraint the development of community facilities. With the completion of Home Ownership Scheme residential units, the population in the district would grow substantially, therefore the PlanD should reserve land in the town centre of Mui Wo for government, institutional and community facilities. He also suggested that an international school be built in Mui Wo given the convenient transportation between Mui Wo and Central. The Government had conceived of building a water sports centre in South Lantau. However, since there were camps along the Silver Mine Bay, he considered that a passive recreational activities centre which could benefit the community was more desirable. The Government might instead consider planning a recreation area in Chok Tsai Wan for the purpose of building a water sports centre. This would not only enhance the public's understanding of nature conservation, but would also play a positive role in the ecological development of South Lantau in the long run.

56. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the remarks made by Members earlier were all dissenting views, presumably many villagers opposed to this proposal. He asked whether the PlanD had received similar comments in the course of consultation. If not, he considered that the consultation procedure of the PlanD might need to be reviewed and improved.

57. Mr HO Chun-fai was concerned that the boundary of the Pui O Au planning scheme was too close to the Pui O Lo Wai Tsuen. Considering that the consultation process was too hasty, he had written to the PlanD requesting an extension of the consultation period for six months, but in response the PlanD only proposed to meet with the Rural Committees. He pointed out that villagers had to earn their living on weekdays, so a longer period of time was required for them to express their views. In the past, the Government had proposed extending the South Lantau Marine Park to Mui Wo and Nam Shan. He also considered the consultation process defective. As to the planning scheme of Pui O Au, since some small houses and burial grounds in

the Pui O Lo Wai Tsuen were included in its scope, he enquired whether a reconstruction or repair of the Small Houses would contravene the law. Apart from the inclusion of private land in the planning area, the PlanD also failed to indicate the future land uses, making it difficult for villagers to cooperate.

58. Mr HO Siu-kei pointed out that in the past, opinions of major stakeholders had not been adopted in the OZPs for the New Territories published by the Government, nor had any response been made to the public demands when such OZPs were gazetted later. As in the current consultation, the preliminary draft OZPs published by the PlanD did not provide a true reflection of the situation of the villages. For example, agricultural land was designated as a "Green Belt" zone, which had caused concerns among major stakeholders as well as questions over the PlanD's criteria for land use planning. Resident representatives had expressed their views to the PlanD via letter and other means, but the gazette documents and the documents submitted to the TPB for approval did not incorporate the relevant views. He was worried that this would lead to conflicts, and as a result, the Government and the residents would not be able to make concerted efforts for the wellbeing of the community if each side stuck to its own views. Taking Shan Tau Village as an example, he indicated that villagers wished to promote greening and conservation and had contacted the Conservancy Association and other organizations for assistance. Therefore, unilateral effort was not going to be effective, coordination among all parties was needed.

59. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) It was understood that the PlanD would not make any prior notice before publishing the draft DPA Plans in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO), so as to prevent land hoarding or other commercial moves. He considered that Members were mainly dissatisfied with the short consultation period. As a total of four draft plans concerning four individual districts on Lantau Island were published by the PlanD in one go, and the consultation was conducted during the Lunar New Year holidays when there was a severe epidemic outbreak, the villagers had not been allowed adequate time to express their views.
- (b) He clarified that the sites covered in the draft plans were "U sites", namely "Unspecified Use" area.
- (c) He pointed out that in addition to the draft DPA Plans, the PlanD also published four preliminary draft OZPs, which confused the Members. Although the PlanD was not able to collect views in respect of the DPA Plans in advance, the four preliminary draft OZPs had not yet entered into gazettal stage. He believed that the PlanD's intention was to inform the Members of these preliminary draft plans as soon as possible, so that the Members could give their comments and learn about the difference between a draft DPA Plan and a preliminary draft OZP. He summed it up as follows: first, Members were dissatisfied

that the consultation period for the draft DPA Plans was too short; second, the preliminary draft OZPs had not incorporated the views of the Members.

- (d) He had contacted the PlanD and learned that the original deadline for submission to the TPB in May this year had been deliberately extended by the PlanD. Although it might not be possible to revise the preliminary draft OZPs before they were submitted to the TPB, it was hoped that such documents could be tabled for discussion in the meeting in May.
- (e) The District Council had estimated the land demand for village type development. Since the the ratio of land grant by the PlanD had always been low, he hoped that the PlanD could explain why only 30% of the land could be granted according to the current standards.
- (f) He considered that as villagers lacked resources for management of agricultural land, and they had to earn their living outside the village, they were not able to carry out weeding regularly and the agricultural land then turned into green land. As a result, after reviewing the aerial photos, the PlanD decided to designate such areas as "Green Belt". If the villagers intended to rehabilitate a "Green Belt" site, they had to obtain a regular permit. Villagers were allowed to build houses before 1898, applications were not required for building houses until the New Territories were leased to the British in 1898. In 1972, the Small House Policy was introduced, applications had since been required for building Small Houses. Before inclusion in the plans, the value of the land concerned was higher than that in the "Green Belt" zone. Following the designation of such sites as "Green Belt", it would be difficult to obtain permits for development purposes unless the land was used for rehabilitation. He hoped that the PlanD would understand the plight of the villagers. 70% of the land on Lantau Island was already for the purpose of country parks, which together with the "Green Belt" zone took up nearly 90% of the land on the island. He considered that the rest of the land, if not rehabilitated or poorly maintained, would look similar to green land, and therefore there was no need to designate such sites as "Green Belt". Instead, such sites should be designated as "Agriculture" to reflect the original use, so that their value would not be impaired even though construction of buildings were not allowed on agricultural land.

60. Mr KWOK Ping was aware that many major property developers owned quite a large quantity of agricultural land, especially in Tung Chung and South Lantau. Regarding the draft DPA Plans, he asked the TPB and the PlanD how to deal with the conflicts of interest.

61. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the question involved the areas in Tai O, Sham Wat, San Shek Wan, Sha Lo Wan, Mui Wo and Pui O, where there were many

private lands. She pointed out that as indicated by the Chairman, the PlanD would not notify anyone in advance. Many of the title holders of the land were native villagers who had witnessed the changes of the land. Some of the land had even been inherited from generations over 100 years ago, but now the use and development of such land was left to the decision of the PlanD. She questioned the authority of the PlanD to control the use and development of the land concerned. She considered that the PlanD should show its respect to the stakeholders by conducting more in-depth consultation to understand their requests and needs.

62. Ms TAM Yin-ping made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) According to the TPO, the PlanD would be responsible for drawing up the DPA Plans for rural areas, and no public consultation would be conducted until the DPA Plans were gazetted. The public consultation would be conducted for a period of two months in accordance with the TPO to allow members of the public to express their views. The purpose of a DPA plan was to impose planning control on the relevant areas in accordance with the TPO. Therefore, these plans would normally not be shown with detailed land use zonings or proposals, and the public should not have major comment to make.
- (b) According to the TPO, the PlanD might prepare an OZP in three years after the DPA Plan was first gazetted. In the future, many developments in Lantau Island would attract much attention. The PlanD had prepared the four preliminary draft OZPs concurrently and provided preliminary proposals on the detailed land use zoning for the stakeholders and the public to comment on. In response to the question raised by Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho, the PlanD was conducting a consultation on the preliminary draft OZPs, and follow-ups would be made accordingly after the consultation and collection of views.
- (c) Regarding the issue of conflict of interest mentioned by Mr KWOK Ping, when considering the appropriate planning and land use zoning for a particular area, the PlanD would not take into account the land title of an owner, whether the owner was a property developer, villager or citizen. Instead, the PlanD would only consider whether the proposed land uses area appropriate, such as designating suitable land as "Agriculture" zone, or assessing whether supporting facilities were needed in the area.
- (d) Regarding the proposal of building community facilities such as school and water sports centre in Mui Wo North, follow-up actions would be taken by the PlanD.
- (e) The PlanD would arrange meetings and exchange views with the villagers on issues concerning the Pui O Lo Wai Tsuen. The PlanD had explained the issue of burial ground to the Rural Committees

earlier. If there remained doubts among the villagers, the PlanD was willing to make further explanation.

- (f) With regard to the arrangements for "Village Type Development", "Agriculture" and "Green Belt" zones, the PlanD would put forward proposals in accordance with the prevailing practice of the TPB. The PlanD would communicate with the villagers to keep abreast of the latest developments in the villages and conduct a review after collection of relevant information. Subsequently, having considered the site conditions and the development needs of the villages, the PlanD would designate the "Village Type Development" zones as appropriate. As for the "Agriculture" and "Green Belt" zones, the PlanD would also consider the villagers' proposals for rehabilitation and consult relevant government departments in that regard. The PlanD would continue to collect and collate views and revise the four preliminary draft OZPs before submission to the TPB. The draft plans would be gazetted upon approval by the TPB, hence they were still at the consultation stage.

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

- (a) He asked Members present whether they or their relatives held any agricultural land; and if so, whether it was necessary to make a declaration to avoid conflicts of interest or adverse public perception.
- (b) He reminded Members that Hong Kong was governed by the Chinese government. According to the Basic Law, the land and natural resources within the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region should be State property, and the Government of Hong Kong was authorised by the Central Authorities to manage, use and develop such land and natural resources. Therefore, in a legal sense, the Central Authorities had the power to coordinate the land supply of Hong Kong. As certain Members mentioned that some lands were privately owned, he questioned whether such remarks were made in order to win public support, and whether such Members would hold opposite views if the Government initiated a land resumption programme in the future. He then invited the Planning Officer to supplement.

64. Mr HO Chun-fai said that he did not hold any title to any land within the planning scheme. As far as he knew, some lands in the New Territories were privately owned and would not be given away to the Central Government or the Hong Kong Government for no reason. If the Government needed to acquire land, it should consult the stakeholders in accordance with the usual practice. Back to the time when no legislation had been enacted in this regard, no application to the Government was required for changes in land use or construction of buildings.

65. Mr HO Siu-kei said that the New Territories had been leased to the United Kingdom for 100 years. China indeed owned the sovereignty over the New

Territories, which were administered by the Hong Kong Government with the authority of the Central Authorities. He was only speaking for the villagers and fighting for the interest of the land owners, but not to seize any land through illegal means. As for conflicts of interest, land ownership in Hong Kong was highly transparent. The Government had made information available to the public. If any Member was found hoarding land, complaints could be lodged accordingly.

66. Ms Amy YUNG said that according to her understanding, land ownership and land use right were two different concepts. The Government had the right to acquire land for development, for example, acquiring agricultural land with compensation to the owners. She asked the PlanD to confirm whether her understanding was correct.

67. Mr WONG Hon-kuen declared that he did not own any land, nor was he entitled to build any small house. To his knowledge, private land acquired by the Government should only be used for public purposes, such as road construction, but not for housing development. He asked the Lands Department (LandsD) to confirm whether his statement was correct.

68. The Chairman considered that a reminder to the Members on declaration of interest at the meeting was unnecessary, because all Members were obliged to make declarations and update their information as early as possible, and to declare land and property interest under Category 6 of the Registration Form on Members' Interests. Ex-officio Members could make declarations on-the-spot in respect of individual issues during the meeting. Hence, it was unnecessary for individual Members to remind other Members to make special declarations. He invited the representatives from the LandsD and the PlanD to respond to the questions raised by the Members.

69. Mr LING Ka-fai said that land acquisition by the Government, if needed, would be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation, in which the purposes for land acquisition would be stated. He said, for example, in accordance with the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance, the Government might resume land for the purposes of implementation of road works. Generally speaking, the Government might also acquire land for the development of public housing, such as the Home Ownership Scheme housing and public rental housing.

70. Ms TAM Yin-ping said that as to the relationship between land ownership and development right mentioned by Members, virtually all land in Hong Kong was leasehold, and land leases would set out restrictions on use of land. Block Government Lease contained the descriptions of the land, while the land leases stipulated the permitted use of land after it was granted. When considering the appropriate planning for a particular area, the PlanD would propose suitable land use zonings and prepare statutory plans for both private and government land in accordance with the TPO.

(Mr WONG Hon-kuen left the meeting at around 1:10 p.m.)

IV. Question on request for expediting the establishment of a public market and providing a temporary market as an interim measure
(Paper IDC 28/2021)

71. The Chairman welcomed Ms LAI Wing-sau, District Environment Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) and Mr KAO Hsi-chiang, Chief Health Inspector (Islands) 2 of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The FEHD had provided a written reply for Members' reference. The question was raised by Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr Kwok Ping, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr Sammy TSUI, together with the proposal to invite the Tung Chung Community Development Alliance and the Alliance on the Development of Public Markets (監察公營街市發展聯盟) to attend the meeting, but the proposal was rejected by most of the Members.

72. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question. He pointed out that discussion in the Islands District Council had always been focused on people's livelihood, and the proposal for establishing public markets or temporary markets was indeed a livelihood issue, he could not understand why the relevant groups' participation in the meeting was rejected.

73. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) At the commencement of the current District Council term, he had hoped to invite groups to attend meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that if members would like to invite any group to attend a meeting in respect of an individual issue, they had to seek the consent of other Members.
- (b) As representatives of the voters, Members would generally listen to the views of the citizens in the district and then convey such views to the council. He considered that it could be taken into account on a case by case basis. For example, when the buffalo issue was to be discussed, there would be petitions made by some group representatives before the meeting.

74. Mr KAO Hsi-chiang said he had no supplement to the written reply.

75. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) According to the FEHD's reply, the Government announced in 2018 the decision to build a market in Area 6 in Tung Chung, but there was still no preliminary report or any detailed information available so far, nor had the site selection been confirmed. He remarked that the project was in slow progress.
- (b) The Government only said that it was considering looking for a site in Area 6 to develop a multi-purpose market, but no concrete action had yet been taken. Relevant questions had already been raised by

Members last year, but the FEHD was still using those old materials as response, obviously reflecting a lack of sincerity.

- (c) He considered that the FEHD proposed a multi-purpose market to be built in Area 6 because the department agreed that the number of markets in the district was not enough, but then the FEHD indicated at this meeting that a suitable site was identified in Area 133A of the newly developed reclamation area. Taking into account the progress of peripheral developments, he expected a detailed plan would only be ready at least six to seven years later.
- (d) Regarding the temporary market, the Members had visited the Tin Shui Wai Temporary Market last month. The market was small in size and commodities sold there included food and daily necessities. He suggested that the FEHD should consider setting up a temporary market in Tung Chung and conduct a research, instead of prevaricating with the plan for Area 6.
- (e) Given the growing population in Tung Chung, priority must be given to the issues of clothing, food, living and travel. He criticised the slow progress of the project and hoped that the FEHD would conduct a feasibility study on setting up a temporary market on the commercial land in Area 6 as soon as possible.
- (f) The building of the Tin Shui Wai Temporary Market was proposed by the Chief Executive. As both Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung were new towns, he enquired why Tung Chung could not have a temporary market. He also said that residents of Tung Chung were experiencing inconvenience in terms of clothing, food, living and travel. It was hoped that substantive steps would be taken by the Government to improve people's livelihood.

76. Mr KWOK Ping expressed his views as follows:

- (a) As regards the invitation of groups to express their views at the meeting, he and some other Members had written to the Secretariat to ask whether arrangement could be made for the groups to attend the meeting, and they respected other Members' views. However, he considered it was unacceptable that some groups intercepted the Members before the meeting today.
- (b) As regards the reason for inviting the Tung Chung Community Development Alliance to the meeting, he said that the group had participated in the campaigns of the Working Group on promotion of bazaar development in Islands District and the public consultation forums during the last district council term. They could provide a lot of data and information on temporary markets and the public markets under the FEHD's management and reflect the views of the villagers.

For example, some farmers of Tung Chung Old Village and some fishermen of Ma Wan Chung Village wished to hawk in temporary markets.

- (c) He hoped to strive for a market that would provide local food at affordable and competitive prices for the residents of Tung Chung New Town and Tung Chung Old Village. He also said that many elderly people of Tung Chung who earned their living by farming and fishing wished to sell crops and catches in the district, but at present they could only do it in the form of unlicensed hawkers.
- (d) The motion on temporary market would be dealt with later, and he would continue to follow up on the issue.

77. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was disappointed at the repetition of the FEHD's previous responses and pointed out that the soaring commodity prices led to a keen demand from residents in Tung Chung for public markets managed by the FEHD. It was hoped that new markets would bring down commodity prices through enhanced competition, thereby help to alleviate the burden on the public.
- (b) The Tung Chung Community Development Alliance conducted surveys on commodity prices every year. It was regretted that the group was unable to attend this meeting, but he had the relevant data for Members' reference. The price of a catty of Chinese flowering cabbage was about HK\$ 30 in the Fu Tung Estate Market and close to HK\$ 20 in other markets of Tung Chung, while in the Yeung Uk Road Market under the FEHD the price was around HK\$ 5. Similar situations were observed for fish and meat. Commodity prices across all markets in Tung Chung, whether managed by Link or outsourced service providers, were the highest in Hong Kong. He urged the FEHD to implement the proposals as soon as possible.
- (c) The decisions to construct new public markets in Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai were both announced in 2017. Now the new public market in Tin Shui Wai already had its timetable available and was expected to be completed in 2027. Apart from that, in order to satisfy the demands of the public in the short term, the Government even proposed in 2019 the construction of a temporary market, which had been put into operation at the end of 2020. He was dissatisfied that there was still no finalised plan for the new public market in Tung Chung and the FEHD indicated that further exploration and research were required.
- (d) As regards the FEHD's proposal to build the new market in a commercial building, he had repeatedly stated at meetings that it would

then be difficult to guarantee affordable commodity prices. Residents of Tung Chung, Members of District Council and even residents of other districts were all discontented with the proposal. He urged the FEHD to provide the timetable and latest information of the project as soon as possible, and to identify a suitable site for a temporary market by drawing reference from the practice of Tin Shui Wai to regulate prices.

- (e) Regarding the motion to be discussed later, he asked other Members to consider exerting pressure on the FEHD in order to expedite the construction of the markets.

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

- (a) As Tung Chung West had a larger population with most of the residents living beneath the poverty line, he did not understand why a new public market would be built in the New Development Area. Currently most of the residents of Yat Tung Estate worked at the airport with average monthly salary of about HK\$13,000. However, buying food for four usually costed more than HK\$200 in the markets in Tung Chung.
- (b) He used to sell eggs in Tung Chung. At that time, there were only a few stalls in the market, leading to the problem of monopoly. Commodity prices were about twice as high as the market rates. He criticised that the Government had no intention to alleviate grassroots' burdens. Bazaars had been organised in Tung Chung in the past and were very popular in the neighbourhoods. Currently many elderly farmers who wanted to earn their own living were hawking in Yat Tung Estate every day, but such conduct was subject to prosecution by the FEHD. When being pursued, the elderly farmers might faint due to physical exhaustion, which was rather dangerous. He understood that the economy was in recession due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the residents were also oppressed by the operators, thus worsening the situation. Last month, a middle-aged resident suffering financial hardship committed suicide by jumping from height. He indicated that the footpath next to Chau Yat House was very spacious and a number of bazaars had been held there. He hoped that the Government could make good use of the area for elderly farmers or unemployed residents to run small businesses.
- (c) He said that he had, in the past, submitted a petition as a group representative, but it ended up fruitless. He now again brought up the issue to the District Council in the capacity as a Member, but the FEHD still ignored it. He urged the FEHD to seriously examine improvement measures to control the commodity prices in Yat Tung Estate of Tung Chung, Tung Chung West and Tung Chung Old Village.

79. The Chairman said that as to the arrangement of the current District Council, a specific time slot was reserved for those who had applied to the Secretariat to submit petition letters. He pointed out that the corridor outside the conference room was shared by the Labour Department and the Central and Western District Office of Home Affairs Department, hence it was difficult for the Secretariat to identify the intentions of visitors. He said that what happened before today's meeting was an incident and he was aware that some Members called the police, so he suggested that the handling of this issue should be left to the police. The Chairman reiterated that the issue of inviting groups to attend this meeting had been handled in accordance with the decision made by the District Council at the commencement of the current district council term after thorough discussion. If Members opined that they could not perfectly represent a group in the discussion of a certain issue and wanted to invite group(s) to attend the meeting, they could make an application in advance, and other Members should be consulted for the final decision. Such a practice did not carry any political implications, and it was a democratic decision.

80. Mr KAO Hsi-chiang made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The commercial development site at Tung Chung Area 6 was adjacent to the MTR project. The CEDD was conducting further technical feasibility studies to ensure that the development project would not affect the operation of the MTR. If it was technically feasible, the Government would, through land sales, allow developers to construct the commercial building development project, including the design and construction of the new public market in accordance with the Government's requirements.
- (b) Regarding the site selection for the New Development Area, the Government had preliminarily identified a suitable site for the construction of a public market in Area 133A in the east of the Tung Chung New Town Extension Area, which was adjacent to the future MTR Tung Chung East Station and the public transport interchange, making it more convenient for residents' shopping.
- (c) The construction of a public or temporary market should not only comply with the relevant health and safety requirements, but also the FEHD should take into account the building structure, electrical installation, water supply system, drainage system, sewerage system, ventilation facilities, lighting system, fire fighting system, refuse disposal facilities, loading/unloading bays and other basic facilities. It was not easy to find a site in the Tung Chung Town Centre for building a temporary or permanent market. A temporary market was a transitional arrangement, for which the most important thing was to find a suitable site that was technically feasible and it could be completed and put it into use within a short period of time.
- (d) The Government was open to the proposal of organising bazaars. If a suitable site was available and the proposal was supported by the

community and the District Council, the Government would assist the proponents in applying for permits or licenses required as long as the event did not affect public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene or obstruct public access.

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

- (a) He understood that in the course of planning, the Government needed to take into account both the development of the entire area and the interest of the residents of Tung Chung West. If the FEHD considered that it was difficult to construct a temporary market, it could instead organise morning bazaars for sale of dry goods. The FEHD had granted approvals to the Tung Chung Community Development Alliance for organising bazaars in the past. According to experience, the venues would be cleaned at the end of the events, and the environmental hygiene would not be affected.
- (b) He enquired whether a morning bazaar could be held on the footpath along the Yu Tung Road opposite Chau Yat House, so that the residents could hawk to earn a living on the one hand and purchase the goods they needed at reasonable prices on the other hand. Some proponents told him that the application procedure was complicated and the preparation could take about half a year, but each event could only be approved for a maximum duration of eight days and could not be held continuously. He urged the relevant departments to simplify the procedure and relax the restriction on duration.

82. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that he had conducted inspection in Tin Shui Wai together with other District Council Members of Tung Chung in the past few weeks. It was found that the area of a bazaar in Tin Shui Wai was about the size of two basketball courts and it could be built quickly. He reckoned that it would be difficult to build a public market in Tung Chung within a short period of time, so he suggested that the FEHD should, in collaboration with other departments and following the example of Tin Shui Wai, find smaller areas for holding bazaars or constructing temporary markets, and leave the management to social welfare organisations. He opined that the current priority was to simplify the procedures for constructing temporary markets and holding bazaars. It was believed that with the assistance of the Members and the social welfare organisations, a temporary market could be completed in the next one or two years. He hoped that the relevant departments could work together to make this possible.

83. Mr LEE Ka-ho was disappointed that Mr KAO responded to the question only by repeating the content of the written reply. Given that the FEHD had constantly mentioned in the Council the difficulties for the construction of markets, he enquired if a solution could be worked out. He said that the Tin Shui Wai Temporary Market had been completed within one year without any change to the site selection or plan. A piece of land of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) was utilised, which was a successful experience to draw reference from. There were

many sites in Tung Chung under the jurisdiction of the LCSD or the Home Affairs Department (HAD). Proposals had been advanced by some groups to organise bazaar events on pitches (e.g. On Tung Street Soccer Pitch). He remarked that such proposals should be practical, subject to whether the FEHD or the Government had a positive attitude. The current District Council had been in operation for more than a year and had discussed this issue for four or five times. He said he did not intend to create difficulties, but pointed out that commodity prices in Tung Chung were many times higher than those in other districts, which was unreasonable. He hoped that the FEHD would face up to this issue and would report the latest developments in the next discussion instead of repeating previous responses.

84. Mr KAO Hsi-chiang said that it must be prudent in choosing the location for bazaars. He noted that bazaars had been held in Tung Chung before, and it was needed to consult relevant departments of the selected location. He was pleased to note that the Working Group on promotion of bazaar development in Islands District had been set up under the District Council. He said if a suitable location was identified and applications for holding bazaars were lodged, the FEHD would be happy to provide advice and assist in the application process.

85. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that she had always been concerned about the issue. She agreed with the views of Mr FONG Lung-fei and pointed out that the area adjacent to Fuk Yat House and Chau Yat House in Yat Tung Estate was suitable for holding bazaars. She enquired, if a bazaar event was to be organised in Yat Tung Estate, how many departments would be involved and whether it was feasible. She also proposed that the area shaded by trees outside Yat Tung Estate should be taken into account. The location had been fenced off and had recently been renovated, so it might be suitable for holding bazaars.

86. The Chairman said that Mr Kwok Ping had earlier suggested to him a number of locations for setting up the temporary market or holding bazaars, and asked him to convey the suggestions to the FEHD. He had called the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene but was advised that such suggestions were not technically feasible and the FEHD was further studying the feasibility of setting up a temporary market in Area 6 and Area 113A. He suggested that the FEHD should first sort out the pros and cons of the proposed locations and explore relaxing the maximum eight-day restriction for holding bazaars at a time. Later, a meeting would be arranged with the convener of the Working Group on promotion of bazaar development in Islands District to follow up on the issue.

V. Motion on request for provision of public market and temporary market in Tung Chung
(Paper IDC 29/2021)

87. The Chairman said that the motion was moved by Mr LEE Ka-ho and seconded by Mr FONG Lung-fei.

88. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly introduced the content of the motion.

89. The Chairman invited the Members to vote on the motion by a show of hands, and the motion was adopted with 13 votes in favour, none against and 3 abstained.

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

VI. Question on support for ethnic minorities
(Paper IDC 30/2021)

90. The Chairman welcomed Ms IP Siu-ming, District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Ms WONG Kam-wah, Senior Property Service Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands of the HD to the meeting to respond to the question. The Chairman said that Mr FONG Lung-fei had requested that an ethnic minorities (EM) organisation be invited to speak at the meeting. After consultation with Members, the invitation of the organisation was declined, because most of the Members did not agree with the arrangement.

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

92. Ms WONG Kam-wah said that the HD would balance residents' needs for different facilities as far as possible while ensuring adequate public space for residents' access and leisure use. In general, upon receipt of a letting application from an organisation, the HD had to conduct a feasibility study and take residents' views into account. It would also provide assistance during the application process.

93. Ms IP Siu-ming gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The Government provided social welfare services for residents irrespective of their religious culture and racial background. Anyone eligible could apply for the services. The SWD was concerned about the needs of EM and was providing services covering elderly, rehabilitation, family and child welfare, youth and social security for them.
- (b) There were integrated family service centres in all districts across the territory providing services to disadvantaged groups including EM at grassroots level. In addition to drop-in service, the staff would also take the initiative to offer preventive, supportive and remedial family services to people in need.

- (c) The SWD was aware that some EM did not know much about the centres' service or had difficulty to submit applications because of language barriers, so the promotion materials were translated into ten languages including eight EM languages. It also launched two services last year to enhance the promotion of social welfare services, including sponsoring non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form designated outreaching teams for EM, with at least three staff members who could speak Cantonese, English and other EM language, to approach EM groups proactively and recruiting EM District Ambassadors to serve in welfare service units in districts with higher EM populations.

94. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that Yat Tung Estate had organised activities for EM earlier, but some participants had given feedback that in the activities, people confused EM with South Asians, who in fact had different lifestyles and religions. Currently, non-profit-making organisations had not taken enough measures to help EM integrate into the community, so he hoped that the SWD could help establish a community centre dedicated to serving EM. The former Tung Chung Social Security Field Unit which had been vacant for a year could be used for such purpose. He hoped that the SWD would reach out to EM groups to provide assistance.

95. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that the English versions of the Government's press releases were issued later than the Chinese versions. The delays affected EM's access to epidemic information. He considered it necessary to issue press releases in EM languages to enhance their anti-epidemic awareness. In the long run, the establishment of a community centre for EM would help improve the dissemination of epidemic information, and the EM in Tung Chung also looked forward to the early completion of the community centre. He urged the SWD to assist in the coordination.

96. Mr Eric KWOK said that the EM in Tung Chung had different religious backgrounds, including Islam and Sikhism. The Muslims had rented the temporary community centre in Yat Tung (II) Estate as a gathering venue. He knew that the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (NAAC) organised activities for EM, but the activities were limited to distribution of supplies and the holding of religious worship services, which did not help EM integrate into the community. He hoped that the IsDO, the SWD and non-profit-making organisations would work together to organise regular after-school Chinese classes for EM students from the two largest religious groups to enhance their Chinese reading and writing proficiency.

97. Ms Amy YEUNG said that the IsDO organised language classes, academic enhancement courses and homework tutorial classes through the EM support service centre of the NAAC to help EM integrate into the community. She understood that Mr Eric KWOK was concerned about the sustainability of the services. The IsDO would discuss with the NAAC to improve the arrangements.

98. Ms IP Siu-ming gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She understood that language barriers made it difficult for EM to integrate into the community. As far as she knew, the Education Bureau had already implemented supporting measures to help enhance the Chinese reading and writing proficiency of EM students.
- (b) The SWD had been providing and promoting social welfare services to help EM integrate into the community.
- (c) As epidemic information involved professional terms, it would be more appropriate to be translated by the Centre for Health Protection. The SWD would remind NGOs to pay continuous attention to EM's epidemic prevention needs.
- (d) The SWD understood that the activities organised by integrated children and youth services centres had to be creative in order to attract young people, including EM. The department was happy to arrange suitable and inclusive activities for EM. As for the premises of former Tung Chung Social Security Field Unit at Chau Yat House that Mr FONG just mentioned, the SWD had invited social welfare organisations to provide elderly and youth services at the premises. A consultation was conducted in early 2019 on the proposal, which was supported by the local communities.

99. Mr Eric KWOK said some EM hoped that language classes could be offered on a regular basis, but the NAAC was unable to provide a regular venue for the classes. He contacted the Employees Retraining Board (ERB), and the ERB expressed its wish to co-organise the classes. The temporary community centre at Tat Yat House that he mentioned, which was being rented by the Muslims, might be available for borrowing for such use. If this was feasible, he could make arrangements so that the relevant government departments, non-profit-making organisations and the ERB could have a further discussion.

100. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that according to some EM, the former Tung Chung Social Security Field Unit was spacious enough to serve as a potential site for the community centre for EM. He expressed his discontent with the social welfare organisations that occupied the shop spaces in Yat Tung Estate but rarely provided service for the residents. Meanwhile, the organisations that truly served EM were unable to find premises for opening a community centre. He said that EM were a part of the local labour market, but they might not understand the recruitment information, so the community centre could provide them with employment support.

101. Ms IP Siu-ming said that language classes were provided by the Government-subsidised EM support service centre of the NAAC. In order for EM to improve their Chinese proficiency, they should be encouraged to participate in mainstream activities to integrate into the community. In the past, as far as she knew, the Airport Authority had provided training courses for EM, who might be employed as ground crews and courtesy ambassadors after completing the training.

However, given the current hardship faced by the aviation industry, there had been a reduction in employment opportunities.

102. The Chairman said that the SWD looked for religious and social inclusion, while Mr Eric KWOK and Mr FONG Lung-fei wanted that services could be classified according to users' different ethnic groups. He understood that inclusion was not easy and resources were limited. He suggested the SWD, the NAAC and Members meet with the EM in Tung Chung to better understand their needs and introduce them to the existing services.

103. Mr Eric KWOK opined that inclusion among EM with different religious backgrounds was not easy. He reiterated his hope that regular language courses could be provided to Muslim and Sikh EM separately. A certificate awarded upon completion of the course would be useful for them to look for jobs.

104. Mr FONG Lung-fei said some EM students had expressed that the activities organised by the NAAC did not have sufficient places and lacked sustainability, and most of the participants were local students. He suggested the activities be organised by EM with the assistance of local volunteers instead.

105. The Chairman hoped that Ms IP Siu-ming would consider Members' views and meet with EM to provide assistance.

106. Ms IP Siu-ming said that the SWD was happy to listen to EM and suggested IsDO could assist in the liaison and exchange.

VII. Question on concerns over demand for medical services in South Lantau
(Paper IDC 27/2021)

107. The Chairman said that the Hospital Authority (HA) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

108. The Chairman briefly presented the question.

109. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He understood that the problem was not easy to solve, considering the limited resources available. Although the HA replied that it would actively recruit additional staff, it seemed that the recruitment would not benefit South Lantau. He said that even though the demand for medical services in the area was so huge that the consultation quotas had to be increased from 61 to around 100, recruitment of part-time doctors should be sufficient to cope with the demand.
- (b) He said that he had raised similar questions in 2017 and 2019, so he was dissatisfied with the HA's written reply which was no different from the previous ones. Since the HA did not send representatives to

attend the meeting, he would continue to pressure the HA for a satisfactory response. He understood that given the growing burden on the medical services, it was not easy to recruit doctors. He hoped that Members could provide advice, continue paying attention to the issue and find solutions for it.

110. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the Department of Health (DH) and the HA had never sent representatives to attend the meetings to respond to questions over the past year or so. He said that the situation was unsatisfactory because follow-up was not possible when Members were the only parties participating in the discussion every time. He enquired whether there were other measures to prompt the departments to attend the meetings, such as holding video meetings or setting up a working group for follow-up. The regular meetings held by Cheung Chau Hospital, which both he and Mr YUNG Chi-ming attended, were a case in point. As far as he knew, other hospitals did not have regular meetings. If Cheung Chau Hospital could hold regular meetings, other hospitals in Islands District should be able to follow suit. In case Members could not discuss the issues during the IDC meetings, they could follow up at other small meetings and report back to the IDC.

111. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He observed that no matter what health issues the IDC discussed, the DH and the HA were absent from the meetings for discussion. These departments would show up only when they had documents to submit to the IDC. He was disappointed with the HA's response. Although he welcomed the expansion of the North Lantau Hospital, South Lantau residents would not be able to access the North Lantau Hospital when they needed emergency medical services late at night. Besides, Islands District did not have many hospitals for residents to choose from as in other areas.
- (b) Moreover, the DH did not send representatives to attend the meeting to respond to the "Question on enhancement of medical services on Lamma Island". Its written reply did not help solve the problem either. He hoped that the Secretariat would write to the HA, requesting an explanation for its absence and urging it to face up to the problem and send representatives to attend the meetings. Alternatively, the HA should consider Mr LEUNG's proposal of arranging for an exchange of views between Members and the relevant departments.

112. Mr Eric KWOK agreed with the Chairman's views, saying that as two Home Ownership Scheme blocks in Mui Wo had begun intake recently, in accordance with the planning standard, Mui Wo Clinic should recruit part-time doctors to cope with the demand. Mui Wo residents always complained that they were unable to get treatment because the consultation quotas were inadequate. The population of the district had been increasing, yet the HA only made a perfunctory effort by reusing the reply from two years ago. He hoped that Members could reach a consensus on

asking the Secretariat to write to the HA to propose recruiting part-time doctors for Mui Wo Clinic, so as to address the surging demand in the district.

113. Mr HO Chun-fai said that South Lantau had long been neglected. Besides, the former Cheung Sha Hospital had already ceased providing service. As the population of North Lantau would keep increasing, and South Lantau residents also needed to go to the North Lantau Hospital for consultation, he hoped that the Mui Wo Clinic would recruit additional staff and he urged the HA to address the problem squarely.

114. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to write to the Cluster Chief Executive of the Kowloon West Cluster, suggesting that a regular liaison mechanism be established by drawing on the practice of the Hong Kong East Cluster, so as to allow Members to clearly convey the situation in the district for the enhancement of the services.

VIII. Question on enhancement of medical services on Lamma Island
(Paper IDC 31/2021)

115. The Chairman said that the HA had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

116. Ms LAU Shun-ting briefly presented the question and felt disappointed by the repeated absence of the HA and the DH. She said that the HA had only attended one meeting so far and had replied that it was understaffed. The written reply given this time, which stated that "to ensure efficient use of general out-patient clinic resources, extending general out-patient services into the small hours or providing overnight services was not cost-effective", was unacceptable. She questioned whether the HA weighed lives in terms of "cost-effectiveness" and whether cost-effectiveness was measured in terms of the number of residents' lives lost. She criticised the HA for not seeing things from the public's perspective at all and suggested that the HA send its staff to the outlying islands to learn about the actual situation.

117. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that apart from the HA, other government departments like the TD should not judge the circumstances of Islands District against the standards of the other 17 districts. He asked if medical resources were to be allocated on the basis of "cost-effectiveness", whether it meant that it was unnecessary to provide ferry service for the residents of Po Toi Island since there were only ten of them. Hong Kong consisted of more than 200 islands, so if the HA considered it not "cost-effective" to provide service for outlying islands residents, it would be better to relocate them to the urban area. It was worth exploring why the Government cut the funding to the HA every year while allocating additional resources to other areas. He agreed with Ms LAU Shun-ting's suggestion of inviting the HA and relevant policy makers to conduct an inspection on the islands, so as to understand the difficulties the residents faced.

118. Mr Eric KWOK opined that life was priceless and that it was unacceptable of the HA to respond to Ms LAU Shun-ting's question by talking about "cost-effectiveness". He mentioned many times during meetings that the circumstances of Islands District were special, so the policy formulation should not only be based on factors like population, but also geographical environment. Taking Lamma Island as an example, there were no hospitals, flyovers, carriageways, traffic lights etc. on the island, which meant substantial savings for the Government in terms of "cost-effectiveness". If the HA improved the general out-patient clinic service and provided 24-hour resident doctor coverage in response to residents' request, around 10,000 residents were expected to benefit from the measures, which in other words was cost-effective. He asked the Chairman to highlight "the roars of anger from Lamma Island residents" when writing to the HA to reflect their strong demand. In fact, the HA had also neglected the needs of residents from other outlying islands, like Cheung Chau and Peng Chau. It was disappointing that the Government had no intention to address the needs of islands residents despite having foreign currency reserves of more than HK\$2 trillion.

119. Ms Josephine TSANG said that Peng Chau and Lamma Island were facing the same problem. The private clinic on Peng Chau only opened five days a week until around 6 p.m. The public hospital on the island did not offer evening out-patient service either. Whenever Peng Chau residents heard a helicopter land or take off, there were often only two situations: either someone was dangerously ill or a pregnant woman was about to go into labour. She said that many residents moved out of Peng Chau when they reached 60 so that it would not be too difficult to seek medical help in case they felt unwell during the night. She raised the issue with the HA before, but the HA refused to provide 24-hour resident doctor coverage on grounds that the population of Peng Chau was not big enough. She asked how many people were considered enough. She opined that Peng Chau was a small place with a relatively small population, so the calculation should be based on the ratio between the area and the population size. However, as in the past, the HA's reply was that the proposal was not cost-effective. She did not understand why 24-hour resident doctor coverage was provided on Hei Ling Chau but not on Peng Chau. She hoped that the Chairman could relay residents' requests.

120. Mr HO Siu-kei was disappointed with the HA's written reply. There were around 30,000 people living in Tai O in the 1960s to 1970s, which was enough to justify a clinic. At present, although there were only a few thousand people in Tai O, the clinic was still in operation. The populations of Lantau Island and other places had been increasing as many people would move into Islands District after retirement, yet the Government's policy had remained unchanged for decades. Taking the village he lived in as an example, even though it was located near the airport and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, it would take at least 40 minutes for rescue personnel to arrive after receiving a report. Also, there were not any places for helicopters to land nearby. Members raised the issue with the Home Affairs Department (HAD) many times, but no improvements had been made. He suggested that the Chairman consolidate and pass Members' views to the departments concerned to reflect the residents' keen demand for medical services.

121. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that many Members were dissatisfied with the medical systems of various areas of Islands District. He proposed convening a special meeting focusing on the medical services in the district. The meeting date could be decided by the guests because only by attending the meeting could they listen and respond to Members' views.

122. The Chairman said that Members shared the same views on this issue. He amended the request he made for the Secretariat to write to the HA during discussions on agenda item VII. As medical matters were community affairs, he asked the Secretariat to invite the HA and the Hong Kong East Cluster in writing to attend the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) meeting to respond to the questions related to agenda items VII and VIII again. Alternatively, the HA could set a meeting date to discuss with Members the inadequate medical services of Islands District.

123. Ms LAU Shun-ting proposed inviting the DH to attend the meeting.

124. The Chairman said that he would review what stakeholders were involved.

IX. Question on request for construction of drainage system expeditiously to resolve flooding problem in Ham Tin Kau Tsuen, Pui O
(Paper IDC 32/2021)

125. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHEUNG King-man, Senior Engineer/L of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and Mr YUEN Kwok-keung, Senior Land Executive/Lantau of the District Lands Office, Islands (DLO) to the meeting to respond to the question. The Chairman said that the PlanD and the LandsD had provided written replies for Members' perusal.

126. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

127. Mr CHEUNG King-man said that according to their initial observation, there were a number of private lands with village houses and private storm water drains built in the Ham Tin Kau Tsuen, Pui O. The DSD would follow up with the DLO and would be pleased to conduct a site inspection with Members.

128. Mr YUEN Kwok-keung said that he had nothing to add to the LandsD's written reply.

129. Ms WONG Chau-ping requested that the department remove the weeds from Wong Lung Hang Channel and the Tung Chung River estuary before the rainy season to keep the rivers flowing smoothly. She hoped that sediment could be removed from the rivers and that if it could not be done in the short term, debris like branches and weeds would be removed before the rainy season as far as practicable.

130. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He asked the relevant departments to stay in touch with the representatives of the Ham Tin Kau Tsuen and the villagers. He said that the village representative had raised with him the inadequacies of the village's drainage system. Since multiple private lands were involved, he urged the DSD and the departments concerned to conduct an inspection to look at the geography of the village and to investigate improvement measures.
- (b) The Ham Tin Kau Tsuen only had two storm water drains that were small and narrow, so the drainage condition was not ideal. When there was a rainstorm, the road and houses numbered 1 to 10 would still be flooded. As the road was not privately owned, he proposed widening the storm water drains behind the road. The village representative and the villagers were willing to make improvement suggestions on the drainage system design. He hoped that the departments concerned would meet with the village representative and the villagers to learn about the situation of the village.

131. The Chairman said that he had inspected the flooding situation of the Ham Tin Kau Tsuen with the relevant departments after the last typhoon. He expressed his dismay that there were still no solutions. He found that the storm water drainage was impeded by the backflow through the drain holes during the typhoon. He urged the DSD to tackle the problem expeditiously.

132. Mr HO Chun-fai expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was pleased to note that Mr Eric KWOK raised the issue of flooding in the Ham Tin Kau Tsuen. He said that when the Typhoon Signal or the Black Rainstorm Warning was in effect, there would be serious flooding across South Lantau, especially in Ham Tin, Pui O. A taxi was even flushed into the river in the past. He was dissatisfied with the departments' failure to find a long-term solution. He criticised the DSD for failing to desilt the rivers effectively over the years. As a result, the water level had risen about half a metre, making high tides more likely to occur during typhoons.
- (b) He hoped to invite the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) staff to attend the meeting to respond to the question. Since Ham Tin was located in the Coastal Protection Area (CPA), rivers could only be cleared manually without using machinery under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation. It would take one to two years for an application for clearing rivers with machinery to be processed. He pointed out that both the Ham Tin Kau Tsuen and Ham Tin San Tsuen in Pui O suffered from flooding. As it was ineffective to clear debris from the rivers manually, he hoped the EPD could exercise discretion. In the past, villagers dug the rivers by themselves to alleviate the flooding problem. However, they were now prohibited by the current legislation from making any unauthorised alterations to the rivers. He

urged the relevant departments to take follow-up action to mitigate the flooding problem.

133. Mr Eric KWOK said that there had been a gate between the two pillars shown in the bottom left photo of Annex B. The gate could be pulled down to prevent water from flowing back during high tides. However, there were no ways to prevent the backflow now.

134. Mr CHEUNG King-man said that the DSD had taken emergency measures last year to clear blockage in the rivers. The DSD would continue to follow up with other departments and would conduct a site inspection in the Ham Tin Kau Tsuen with Members if necessary.

135. The Chairman suggested that the DSD make a site visit with Members and the village representative to explore the feasibility of submitting an application for clearing the rivers with machinery. He also asked the DSD to provide short, medium and long-term measures for clearing the rivers.

136. Mr HO Chun-fai said the DSD had pointed out that the floodgate should not be too narrow to avoid affecting the current, but the situation had not improved. He asked whether the works were delayed because of the restrictions under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation. He expected the works to be completed by the next meeting with the DSD. The Ham Tin San Tsuen was also affected by the backflow of sea water which damaged the underground optic fibre cables. Consequently, the residents were unable to use their telephone communication network. A department advised raising the kerb but did not pursue the matter further. He proposed constructing a drain connecting the old village as soon as possible. In addition, if the works involved private lands, he could liaise between the departments and the villagers to get the works implemented.

137. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that for river clearance, the DSD should apply for a works permit from the relevant departments so that the works could commence in one to two years.

138. Mr CHEUNG King-man thanked Members for providing valuable views. The DSD was actively engaging in discussion with different departments in order to comply with the legislative requirements.

139. The Chairman expressed his wish to report to the DSD for a discussion of the improvement measures as soon as possible, and to conduct a site inspection with Members.

X. Question on large-scale events in Discovery Bay during Easter holidays causing nuisance to local residents
(Paper IDC 33/2021)

140. The Chairman said that HKR International Limited (HKRI) had provided a

written reply for Members' perusal prior to the meeting.

141. Ms Amy YUNG briefly presented the question. She added that HKRI and its subsidiaries had never sent representatives to attend the IDC meetings in the past few terms. Moreover, the inaccurate and unfounded written reply reflected the lack of transparency in HKRI's practice and the lack of established procedures for responding to public demands. She said that she had uploaded HKRI's written reply to her personal web page so that residents would know about the company's practice. As there were no channels for the residents to lodge their complaints, she had received a large number of complaints about HKRI. She said that the questions would keep coming if HKRI continued to submit written replies without attending the meetings to respond to queries. She had repeatedly asked the Secretariat to write to invite HKRI representatives to attend the meetings. She asked whether the Secretariat had taken follow-up action and what HKRI's reply was.

142. The Secretary said that the Secretariat had written to invite HKRI representatives to attend the meetings as per Ms Amy YUNG's request, but the company replied that it could only provide written replies.

143. The Chairman advised the Secretariat to write to HKRI again to express concern that the company had only provided written replies all along, and invite its representatives to attend the meeting to have an in-depth discussion about the solutions.

144. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) HKRI only ever expressed goodwill towards government departments, for example by inviting the senior staff of the IsDO, the Police and the Fire Services Department to its banquets. She opined that those departments should boycott HKRI's events to express their discontent with HKRI's lack of respect for the IDC and the departmental representatives who attended the meetings. Besides, she opined that the government departments should communicate with HKRI through formal meetings instead of private occasions.
- (b) She said that she had a clear conscience and had lived up to the expectations of the voters of Discovery Bay. She had been elected a DC member six times, and some residents expressed their support for her on social media platforms. She queried whether the Government would let businesses and political groups continue to distort the facts.

145. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that HKRI had never arranged representatives to attend the meetings in the past, so he suggested that the meetings could be held at a time and venue convenient to the company. In addition, he hoped that the Secretariat would try its best to relay Members' demands. The Chairman should also exercise his power to order the attendance of the company to bring the problem to an end.

146. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She thanked Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho for his suggestions, but she considered them impracticable. She said that although HKRI appointed Mr Peter TSANG as its permanent representative to the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC), he was occasionally absent from the meetings on grounds of work commitments. She queried that since HKRI had a large number of staff, it was impossible that it could not arrange other staff to attend the meetings. She once made a phone call to Mr TSANG during a TTC meeting, and he himself answered the call. This showed that he was not attending another meeting but was absent deliberately.
- (b) She said that if HKRI was unwilling to face her questioning, the most direct solution would be to address residents' demands and resolve the problems immediately after receiving the complaints. She said that the Passenger Liaison Group meeting was the platform for liaising with the community, yet the residents who attended the meeting had been expelled by the HKRI staff. Moreover, it was against the rule to convene meetings at such short notices.
- (c) She said that she had caught HKRI making a fraudulent submission in her name to the Town Planning Board. HKRI also falsely claimed to the TD that it had collected signatures of support from more than a thousand residents. She reiterated that the residents did not have any channels to lodge their complaints, so they had no choice but to turn to her. The only thing she could do was to keep raising questions at the IDC meetings. HKRI should respond to residents' demands directly. Its absence from meetings would only deepen public resentment.
- (d) Even though the residents expressed their demands by voting or on social networking websites, the problem was still not yet resolved and the truth was distorted.

147. The Chairman said that if government departments did not attend meetings, the IDC could write to reprimand the departments. Commercial organisations, however, were not within the purview of the IDC, so the Secretariat could only write to express Members' views. He proposed writing to HKRI again, requesting the company to strengthen communication with the local community and arrange representatives to attend meetings.

148. Mr Sammy TSUI asked whether there was a government department responsible for examining the land grant and development conditions of Discovery Bay, which for example might prescribe that the developer had to provide public and transport services. He also opined that private developers should be regulated. As far as he knew, though the land title of Ma Wan was privately owned, it was still subject to the land grant conditions, and the developer of Ma Wan had to provide specified public facilities and public services. He asked in case developers did not

comply with their obligations, whether the TD or the DLO could take regulatory action to protect the residents' interests. He opined that government departments had the responsibility to regulate private developers. He believed that HKRI had sufficient resources for making improvements.

149. The Chairman enquired of the DLO whether there were relevant requirements under the land grant conditions of Discovery Bay. If the DLO did not have the information at the moment, it could provide the information to Members after the meeting.

150. Mr LING Ka-fai said that the Government could stipulate necessary requirements in the land grant conditions when granting lands. The government departments concerned could ask the LandsD to include relevant requirements in the land grant conditions for the developers to comply with. With reference to the traffic issue arising from the large-scale events held during holidays, he said that he would check the land grant conditions of Discovery Bay after the meeting to ascertain whether there were conditions requiring the developer to put corresponding traffic measures in place. The DLO would provide the information later.

151. The Chairman asked the DLO to go through the land grant information to see whether it was obligatory for the company to provide sufficient transport services for the local residents.

(Post-meeting note by the DLO:

The land grant conditions of Discovery Bay did not require the developer to put traffic measures in place according to the traffic situation in Discovery Bay. That being said, in general, organisers of large-scale events were required to apply for a Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in advance. The FEHD would consult the departments concerned when processing the application. When the DLO was consulted by the FEHD in the future, it would remind the FEHD to consult the TD on the necessary traffic arrangements.)

152. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She considered herself quite familiar with the issues of Discovery Bay. She had written to the DLO on the issues many times and even filed a lawsuit at her own expense. She had looked into the problem when it first arose and asked a number of departments for assistance but to no avail. The Audit Commission later revealed that the lands had been granted for residential use by Sir David Akers-Jones. The case was submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) but was not properly handled.
- (b) She said that she had been a DC member for 21 years. Her most important task was not to attend the IDC meetings or distribute materials to win favour but to look into amending the Building Management Ordinance (BMO) (Cap. 344) to remove the land grant

conditions that were unfavourable to small owners. Although provisions for regulating developers had been included, they would not come into effect until one to two years later. She believed that the DLO and the PlanD were aware of the full picture and the severity of the problem, but their powers were limited. In order to make legislative amendments, approval had to be sought from LegCo, but the parties with interests would definitely raise objections. She said that the problem lay in the dominance of land owners.

153. The Chairman asked Mr LING Ka-fai to provide Members with information on land grant or land sale conditions after the meeting.

XIII. Progress Report of Major Projects in Islands District
(Paper IDC 24/2021)

154. The Chairman welcomed Mr LO Siu-keung, Senior Engineer/15(Lantau) of the CEDD to the meeting to present the paper.

155. Mr LO Siu-keung briefly presented the paper.

156. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He asked whether the CEDD would report to the IDC after consulting the public and collecting views on “Improvement works at Mui Wo – Remaining Phases” (item no. 414RO).
- (b) He opined that “Studies Related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters” (item no. 5768CL) should cover the impact of the works on marine life and environment in the vicinity, especially Peng Chau, Mui Wo and Cheung Chau. The studies should also assess the impact of reclamation materials on the ecological system. He asked whether marine parks or conservation areas would be established in the area as compensation.
- (c) Regarding the “Engineering Study on Road P1 (Tai Ho–Sunny Bay Section)” (item no. 5782CL), he enquired about the construction schedule of the cycle track.
- (d) He said that the completion dates of the “Construction of San Shek Wan sewage treatment works, associated submarine outfall and Pui O sewerage works” and the “Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2 – South Lantau Sewerage Works (Remaining Works)” (item nos. 433DS and 331DS) were too far away. He worried that the works could not be completed on time because of the restrictions under the regulations, and asked whether they could be completed earlier. He said that he had proposed at a committee meeting that toilets or changing rooms should be built near or atop the Pui O Sewage Pumping Station for use

by soccer pitch users. As the area was a part of the conservation area, he asked whether the proposal was feasible.

(Post-meeting note by the DSD:

The DSD would arrange a site visit to the potential site of the Pui O Sewage Pumping Station with Members.)

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

- (a) He expressed his support to the “Outlying Islands sewerage stage 2 – upgrading of Cheung Chau sewage treatment and disposal facilities” (item no. 437DS) and the “Greening Master Plan (GMP) of the Southwest and Northeast New Territories – priority greening works” (item no. 5052CG) and called for their early implementation.
- (b) He said that the “Cheung Chau Development, improvement to existing roads and drains in Cheung Chau Old Town – Remaining Engineering Works” (item no. 415DS) had been delayed for years. He hoped that the DSD could give an explanation and report on the progress of the works.

158. Mr LO Siu-keung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The project information given in the Progress Report was provided by the departments concerned. He would try his best to answer Members’ questions at the meeting with all the information he had. After consulting the public on the “Improvement works at Mui Wo – Remaining Phases” (item no. 414RO), the CEDD would consolidate the views collected and revise the final layout plan. The department would report to the IDC when necessary.
- (b) Funding approval had been obtained from LegCo for the “Studies Related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters” (item no. 5768CL). The studies would assess and address the impact of the project on marine life and surrounding environment as well as other matters like reclamation materials.
- (c) He thanked Mr LEUNG for supporting the works in Cheung Chau. Regarding the completion date of the “Cheung Chau Development, improvement to existing roads and drains in Cheung Chau Old Town – Remaining Engineering Works” (item no. 415DS), he would relay Mr LEUNG’s views to the DSD.

(Posting-meeting note by the CEDD:

It would take time to complete the statutory procedures involved in item 415DS, such as the gazettal and acquisition of private lands. After completing all statutory procedures and obtaining the required resources, the DSD would commence the works as soon as possible.)

159. The Chairman said that the CEDD might not be able to give a consolidated response to Members' questions on behalf of other departments. Members hoped that the drainage improvement works in Cheung Chau, which was expected to be completed in 2028, could be expedited. He asked the CEDD to relay the views to the relevant departments and provide a written reply to the IDC. He pointed out that the "Engineering Study on Road P1 (Tai Ho – Sunny Bay Section)" (item no. 5782CL) in the report did not mention the construction of the cycle track. He asked whether it would be carried out simultaneously with the said works.

160. Mr LO Siu-keung said that he did not have the information, but as far as he knew, the cycle track and the carriageway would be built simultaneously.

161. The Chairman hoped that the departments could provide the information after the meeting.

162. Mr CHOW Yuk-tong said that he was disappointed with the lack of progress in the "Planning & Engineering Study on Future Land Use at Ex-Lamma Quarry Area – Feasibility Study" (item nos. 7100CX and 7D67CL). The project was carried out simultaneously with the Mui Wo project, but it had been falling behind. According to sources, the development of the area might be entrusted to private developers. He hoped that the Government would take follow-up action and not let residents of Lamma Island down. The residents would actively coordinate with the Government.

163. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that according to the Progress Report, the "Infrastructural Works for Development in Area 54, Tung Chung" (item no. 781CLA) should have been completed in December 2020. According to his observation, the footpath works outside The Visionary had been completed, but the drainage works underneath the flyover at Yi Tung Road were still ongoing, so he would like to know the progress.

164. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Regarding the "Engineering Study on Road P1 (Tai Ho–Sunny Bay Section)" (item no. 5782CL), the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint promulgated by the Government in June 2017 proposed the construction of a cycle track from Tung Chung to Sunny Bay and the extension of the Tai Ho to Sunny Bay section of Road P1. The works were gazetted and authorised to proceed.
- (b) As for the "Construction of San Shek Wan sewage treatment works, associated submarine outfall and Pui O sewerage works" (item no. 433DS), Members proposed that toilets and changing rooms should be provided near Pui O Soccer Pitch at a District Facilities Management Committee meeting, but the proposal was not implemented because the location was within the Coastal Protection Area. Now that sewage

treatment facilities would be built nearby, he hoped that the DSD would provide toilets and changing rooms atop or near the facilities.

- (c) The Government commenced the “Planning & Engineering Study on Future Land Use at Ex-Lamma Quarry Area – Feasibility Study” (item nos. 7100CX and 7D67CL) in August 2016 to further gauge the market’s interest in the development of the land and explore the feasibility of developing infrastructure and relevant facilities through public-private partnership in order to set out the way forward. Since the consultant completed the market sounding exercise in August 2016, he did not understand why the departments still had not yet reported the findings to the residents of Lamma Island. He suggested that Mr CHOW approach the departments to learn about the situation.

165. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that a number of the projects were related to the Tung Chung New Town Extension project. She hoped that the departments would not neglect to improve the sewerage design of the old villages. The “Minor Improvement Works at Ma Wan Chung” (item no. 7E91RG) included beautifying and renewing the facilities in the village. She requested the relevant departments to arrange a site visit with Members and discuss how to carry out the works.

166. Mr LO Siu-keung said that the “Infrastructural Works for Development in Area 54, Tung Chung” (item no. 781CLA) was completed in late 2020. The works included the construction of the cycle track and infrastructure works.

167. Mr Alfred WONG supplemented as follows:

- (a) The construction of roads and sewerage facilities under the “Infrastructural Works for Development in Area 54, Tung Chung” (item no. 781CLA) had been substantially completed. The works being carried out at the location were rectification works of road facilities such as planters.
- (b) Regarding the works of Road P1, the road to be built comprised two sections, namely the Tung Chung to Tai Ho section and the Tai Ho to Sunny Bay section. The funding for the works of the Tung Chung to Tai Ho section was approved by the Finance Committee of LegCo in February this year. The works were expected to commence in the second or third quarter of this year together with the works of the associated cycle track. The “Engineering Study on Road P1 (Tai Ho–Sunny Bay Section)” (item no. 5782CL) would also commence in the second or third quarter of this year.
- (c) As for the “Minor Improvement Works at Ma Wan Chung” (item no. 7E91RG), it had already been completed.

168. Mr LO Siu-keung said that the project teams of the CEDD and the PlanD were studying the overall development of the Ex-Lamma quarry area. There were no updates to report at the moment.

169. The Chairman said that the works had stagnated and hoped that the CEDD could provide the IDC with the progress of the study and the works in writing, so that Members could follow up on them.

170. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that Mr CHOW Yuk-tong had raised the project concerned with the Secretary for Development in a briefing session. At that time, the Secretary for Development said that the project was still under consideration. She hoped that the CEDD could follow up and report on the progress as soon as possible.

171. Mr Eric KWOK said that according to IDC Paper no. 16/2018, the consultant commenced the market sounding exercise in August 2016. He hoped that the departments could present the findings to Members and residents.

172. Mr CHOW Yuk-tong said that he enquired about the subject works at every Area Committee meeting, but no follow-up action had been taken so far. He requested for the works schedule and said that the Government should not shelve the project because of the low rate of return.

173. The Chairman requested the CEDD to provide supplementary information about Members' follow-up questions after the meeting.

XIV. Report on the Work of the Islands District Management Committee (February 2021)
(Paper IDC 34/2021)

174. Members noted the contents of the report.

XV. Proposed Islands District Council Funds Allocation in 2021/2022
(Paper IDC 35/2021)

175. Mr Eric KWOK said that Mr LEE Ka-ho had requested to set up a youth activity working group at a CACRC meeting. The Chairman said at that time that the addition of a working group might reduce the resources of other working groups under the CACRC. So instead, he proposed that the Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group under the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee (TAFEHCCC) reserve some of the youth camp funding to provide one or two additional youth activities, saying that it was more feasible than setting up a working group. Mr Eric KWOK now would like to take the opportunity to confirm Members' preference regarding the funding allocation.

176. The Chairman agreed that he had put forward the proposal at the CACRC meeting. Some of the \$480,000 funding reserved for the Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group could be used to organise some small-scale activities in addition to the youth camp. It would also be feasible for the IDC to partner with the Hong Kong Jockey Club in the name of a working group.

177. The paper was put to the vote and 15 Members voted in favour of the paper.

(Members 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 HO Chun-fai, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Amy YUNG, Ms Josephine TSANG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho.)
(Mr HO Siu-kei left the meeting temporarily.)

XVI. Reports on the Work of the IDC Committees
(Paper IDC 36-39/2021)

178. The Chairman asked the committee chairmen if they had anything to add to the papers.

179. The committee chairmen had nothing to add.

180. The papers were put to the vote and 15 Members voted in favour of the papers.

(Members 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 HO Chun-fai, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Amy YUNG, Ms Josephine TSANG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho.)
(Mr HO Siu-kei left the meeting temporarily.)

XVII. Approval for Using DC Funds by circulation from 1 February to 31 March 2021
(Paper IDC 40/2021)

181. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho asked whether the funding for the employment of IDC contract staff had been used up and whether it was possible to request a pay-rise for the front-line staff of the 18 DCs. He said that there was room for raising the salaries of the staff and that he was willing to write to the IDC chairman to make a request.

182. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that the IDC had approved a football programme by circulation, but the organisation had not submitted any activity reports. He said to the Secretary that the organisation must provide its past activity records for Members' careful consideration, but the programme was approved before he received the

documents due to some processing problems. He considered the situation less than ideal. He suggested that in the future when similar cases arose, approval should not be given until the IDC had collected all documents.

183. The Secretary said the salaries of IDC contract staff were set by the HAD, so there was no room for adjustment.

184. The Chairman said that with regard to the football programme mentioned by Mr LEE Ka-ho, it was understood that the wishes of the organiser were that the IDC could become the supporting body of the programme and approve its use of the IDC's logo, instead of applying for funding support from the IDC. Mr LEE Ka-ho asked the organiser to provide the IDC with the details of the programme so that Members could consider whether to continue supporting it.

185. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho would like to ask the HAD to consider raising the salaries of the contract staff of the 18 DCs by writing to the department personally or through the Chairman. He opined that the work of the DCs' front-line staff was hard, so he hoped that their salaries could be adjusted.

186. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's question had been discussed last year, and he himself would also like to see the Secretariat staff get a pay rise. The conclusion last year was that the matter would be dealt with later, and the same question was raised again this year.

187. The Chairman said that other Members present also valued the front-line staff of the Secretariat. It was very tough for the staff who had been working since this morning, but Members had already learnt from the last discussion that the possibility of raising their salaries was very low. However, since Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho had such idea, the Chairman suggested him to write to the HAD and give further consideration after receiving a reply.

XVIII. Date of Next Meeting

188. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 28 June 2021 (Monday) at 10:30 a.m.

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