

**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of
Yuen Long District Council in 2019**

Date : 3 September 2019 (Tuesday)

Time : 9:30 a.m. – 5:50 p.m.

Venue : Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council, 13/F., Yuen Long Government Offices,
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Withdrawal</u>
Chairman: Mr SHUM Ho-kit, JP	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Vice-chairman: Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(4:45 p.m.)
Members: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP	(Beginning of the meeting)	(4:30 p.m.)
Ms CHAN Mei-lin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr CHAN Sze-ching	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr CHING Chan-ming	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(4:50 p.m.)
Mr CHOW Wing-kan	(Beginning of the meeting)	(3:25 p.m.)
Mr KWOK Hing-ping	(Beginning of the meeting)	(10:45 a.m.)
Mr KWOK Keung, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(4:00 p.m.)
Hon KWONG Chun-yu	(9:40 a.m.)	(4:30 p.m.)
Ms LAU Kwai-yung	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP	(Beginning of the meeting)	(4:45 p.m.)
Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen	(Beginning of the meeting)	(4:30 p.m.)
Mr LEUNG Ming-kin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(5:15 p.m.)
Mr LUI Kin, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Ms MA Shuk-yin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr MAK Ip-sing	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr MAN Mei-kwai, Jimmy	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr MAN Ka-koy	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr SIU Long-ming, MH	(9:35 a.m.)	(End of the meeting)
Mr TANG Cheuk-him	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr TANG Cheuk-yin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr TANG Hing-ip, BBS	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr TANG Ka-leung	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr TANG Yung-yiu, Ronnie	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr TO Ka-lun	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Ms WONG Wai-ling	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)

Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Mr YOUNG Ka-on	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the meeting)
Ms YUEN Man-yee	(Beginning of the meeting)	(5:05 p.m.)

Secretary:	Ms PANG Ka-fong, Cindy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Yuen Long District Office
Assistant Secretary:	Ms WONG Man-ting, Mandy	Executive Officer I (District Council), Yuen Long District Office

In Attendance

Mr YUEN Ka-lok, Enoch, JP	District Officer (Yuen Long)
Mr NG Lak-sun, Nixon	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 1
Ms POON Wai-yi, Joanna	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 2
Mr FONG Kai-kit, Frankie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Yuen Long District Office
Mr NG Kai-tung, Absalom	Senior Liaison Officer (3) (Acting), Yuen Long District Office
Mr LAM Chi-keung, Desmond	Chief Engineer/West 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms KEE Wing-yin, Fionn	Chief School Development Officer (Yuen Long), Education Bureau
Mr TSOI Ka-wai	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yuen Long), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms LEE Lai-ha, Liza	Assistant District Commander (Administration) (Yuen Long), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHUNG Ho-ying	Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long District) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LAM Yat-kiu	Senior Housing Manager/Yuen Long, Housing Department
Ms CHAN Ching-han, Peggy	District Lands Officer/Yuen Long (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Mr NG Ping-tong, Gordon	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Mr WONG Shu-yan, Francis	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories North), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LUNG Lai-seung, Wendy	District Leisure Manager (Yuen Long), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr NG Yuk-man, David	District Planning Officer (Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West), Planning Department
Ms CHU Wing-yin, Diana	District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long), Social Welfare Department
Ms YUEN Miu-chun, Christine	Chief Transport Officer/New Territories North West, Transport Department

Item II

Mr MA Sen-ching	Senior Engineer/Yuen Long, Drainage Services Department
Mr LAU Sui-lung, Jimmy	Senior Property Services Manager/Tuen Mun and Yuen Long, Architectural Services Department
Mr TSE Chun-wa	Property Services Manager/Yuen Long, Architectural Services Department

Item XI

Mr HUI Kwai-shing	Manager/Squatter Control (New Territories West 2) (Squatter Control/New Territories West (2) Office), Lands Department
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Absence

Mr LAI Wai-hung	Absent with apologies
Mr TANG Chi-keung	Absent with apologies
Mr TANG Ho-nin	Absent with apologies
Mr TANG Lai-tung	Absent with apologies
Mr TANG Sui-man	Absent with apologies
Mr WONG Cheuk-kin, MH	Absent with apologies

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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and department representatives to the fourth meeting of Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2019.

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr MAN Ka-koy, the newly elected Member of the San Tin constituency to the meeting. He congratulated Mr YIU Kwok-wai and Mr WONG Cheuk-kin on being awarded the Medal of Honour, and Ms MA Shuk-yin and Ms LAU Kwai-yung on being awarded the Chief Executive’s Commendation for Community Service.

3. The Chairman welcomed Ms YUEN Miu-chun, Christine, the new Chief Transport Officer of the Transport Department/New Territories North West, who had taken over from Mr KWONG Ka-yin. On behalf of YLDC, he extended his thanks to Mr KWONG Ka-yin for his assistance to the Council in the past.

4. The Chairman also welcomed the following department representatives to the meeting:

Yuen Long District Office Acting Senior Liaison Officer (3) (Stood in for Ms OR Lai-kum, Christina, Senior Liaison Officer (3))	Mr NG Kai-tung, Absalom
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Hong Kong Police Force Assistant District Commander	Ms LEE Lai-ha, Liza, Superintendent
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(Administration) (Yuen Long)

Hong Kong Police Force

Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long District)

Ms Chung Ho-ying, Acting Chief Inspector

Housing Department

Senior Housing Manager/Yuen Long

(Stood in for Mr WONG Pui-chun, Chief

Manager, Estate Management (Tuen Mun & Yuen Long))

Ms LAM Yat-kiu

5. As for the agenda, the Chairman proposed that Items IV to X and XII be discussed together. The eight items were concerned with review requests and suggestions vis-à-vis the recent violent incidents in Yuen Long triggered by the opposition to the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance.

6. On the other hand, the Chairman said that, in the wake of the attack at the Yuen Long West Rail Station on 21 July (“721 incident”), a Member called for a special meeting to discuss the incident. He subsequently sought Members’ views by circulation of papers through the Secretariat on 30 July 2019 in accordance with Order 46 of the Standing Orders, as to whether they would agree to have a special meeting to discuss the incident. The Secretariat received a total of 35 written replies from Members in a specified period. More than half the Members of the Council indicated in the replies that they disagreed to have a special meeting, and only six Members agreed. Given the result of the circulation, the Chairman decided not to call a special meeting. Subsequently, the relevant Members called for a special meeting again in mid-August. He said that the agenda of this meeting had largely covered the issues that the Members wished to discuss through a special meeting, and believed that Members could share their views in the discussion of agenda items.

7. The Chairman said he had replied in writing prior to the meeting to Mr LEE Yuet-man’s request for the rationale behind the rejection of his call for an emergency session.

8. The Chairman said that Mr Zachary WONG, Mr TO Ka-lun, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr MAK Ip-sing and Hon KWONG Chun-yu had also proposed a discussion on two items, namely “Discussion on a regional turmoil caused by the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance” and “Police’s practices in handling mass gathering activities”. While the two items were not included in the agenda because of their submissions after the deadline, the Chairman suggested that Members express their views on the items during the discussion, citing their relevance to the items on the agenda of this meeting.

9. The Chairman suggested that the item proposed for discussion by Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, namely “Tin Shui Wai Hospital should free up all its hospital beds and unveil plans for its second expansion phase”, be referred to the Culture, Recreation, Community Service and Housing Committee for follow-up.

10. The Chairman said that Mr TO Ka-lun and Mr Zachary WONG had informed the Secretariat prior to the meeting that they wished to make oral statements during the meeting. He suggested that they be called upon to do that after Item XII, saying that the arrangement had been made according to the

chronological order of agenda items received.

11. Mr Zachary WONG said that, as the Chairman just said, he had submitted the request as early as 22 July this year for a special meeting to discuss related incidents. The Secretariat informed him at the end of July that more than half of the Members had disagreed to have a special meeting arranged to discuss the incident. He requested disclosure of data about Members' votes, but in vain. It was not until one day before this meeting that Members were informed that 29 of them disagreed to have a special meeting and only six agreed. He said that this suggested that there should be one more Member who had also voted in favour, apart from the five pan-democratic Members of the Council. However, as quite a number of Members had said to the media that a special meeting should be held to address the issue, there should be more than six Members of the Council who had cast an aye vote. As he was doubtful whether anything had gone wrong during the vote-counting process, he wrote to the Secretariat, asking for verification of the votes. His request was rejected, however. He hoped that the Chairman would disclose details about the vote at this meeting to ensure accurate results.

12. Mr TO Ka-lun said that truth was very important. As Mr Zachary WONG said that the number of Members who wanted a special meeting as reported in media reports did not agree with the six votes as just disclosed by the Chairman, he believed that it was necessary for the public to know the truth, and thus requested the Chairman to disclose details about Members' voting preferences at the meeting. On the other hand, the Chairman suggested that Mr Zachary WONG and he make their oral statements after Item XII, saying the agenda of this meeting had been set according to the time of receipt of the items for discussion. He hoped the Chairman could change his decision as the practice was deemed inappropriate during discussions of previous meetings.

13. Mr MAK Ip-sing said that the Secretariat had asked Members in writing whether they would agree to have a special meeting to discuss the 721 incident, but more than half of them disagreed. However, quite a number of Members had raised questions about the 721 incident for discussion during the meeting, arousing his curiosity about how they voted earlier. He pointed out that quite many members of the public, especially those living in Yuen Long, were highly concerned about the 721 incident, which was followed by a clash between the Police and civilians at an MTR station on 31 August. As there had been a growing concern as to whether law enforcement actions taken by the Police would pose a risk of injury to the public, he opined that there was a need for the Chairman to disclose Members' votes at this meeting to clear their names.

14. The Chairman said that details about the vote on whether a special meeting should be held had been made known to Members through an email sent by the Secretariat one day before this meeting.

15. Mr CHING Chan-ming said he had no comment on whether details about the vote should be disclosed, and that he would respect the Chairman's decision. He asked whether Members should put it to a vote at this meeting on whether their voting preferences should be disclosed.

16. Mr Jimmy MAN said that the topic of whether a special meeting should be held was not on the agenda of this meeting. He opined that if Members requested disclosure of their votes, then all of their votes cast since April this year should also be disclosed. However, he did not think that there would be enough time at the meeting.

17. Mr Ronnie TANG said he did not think that disclosure of Members' votes should be the focus of the discussion, saying that when a few Members called for a meeting on 22 July after the attack on 21 July, the public had probably learned different information from different newspapers. It took time to collect and analyse such information. He said that it was untrue that the District Council tended not to discuss the 721 incident, but the discussion should only commence after the information was collated.

18. The Chairman said that Order 46 did not provide any clear answer as to whether Members' voting preferences should be disclosed when a matter had to be determined by circulation of papers, which was quite different from how ballot papers should be handled. Regarding the issue of whether a special meeting should be convened, quite a number of Members relayed to him that they did not wish disclosure of their votes. The Chairman and the Secretariat informed the Members of the results of the circulation one day prior to the meeting, and would continue to follow up on the matter. During the meeting, the Chairman announced the results again, saying that he had received written replies from 35 Members, of whom 29 disagreed to have a special meeting convened and only six agreed.

19. Mr Zachary WONG said that he did not make his comments based on the Standing Orders, so it was inappropriate for the Chairman to respond by quoting the Standing Orders. The Chairman's remarks suggested that five of the six Members who voted aye were from the pan-democratic camp and the sixth one was from the pro-establishment camp. However, as he had enquired of other Members about their wish to have a special meeting, one of them answered the reply in the affirmative had been sent by fax during the circulation period and three others also said they had expressed consent in their response to media enquiries. In other words, there should be at least nine Members who had agreed to have a special meeting convened, but the circulation results showed a mere six aye votes. He reckoned that some of the Members might have only declared their consent through the media and failed to do the same in the vote. He demanded verification of the votes in the belief that something might have gone wrong in the vote-counting process.

20. The Chairman said he knew some of the Members had revealed their voting preferences to the media. If Members considered it necessary to disclose their voting intention, they could also make a disclosure or clarification through the media. However, the Secretariat and he would only handle the matter in accordance with the Standing Orders.

21. Mr Zachary WONG asked whether Members could disclose at the meeting their voting preferences in the vote, saying he had voted aye at that time.

22. The Chairman said that, as he just said, he did not object to Members disclosing their voting preferences, but it was time to get the meeting started. He advised Members who wished to disclose their voting preferences to the media to do that during the recess or after the meeting.

23. Mr Zachary WONG said that he had noticed that Item XII had been included in the revised agenda. As the Chairman said just now, his oral statement and Mr TO Ka-lun's had been scheduled after Item XII, although the latter was received only one day prior to the meeting and after their oral statements. He hoped the Chairman could decide again, saying that their oral statements should be scheduled before Item XII in accordance with the Standing Orders, which stated that agenda items should be scheduled in the chronological order of their receipt. Moreover, Mr LEE Yuet-man was not the Member who raised the question in Item XII. Given that Mr LEE Yuet-man had appeared as one of the Members who made a

statement in the paper of a previous meeting and he denied this subsequently, he hoped that Mr LEE Yuet-man could confirm whether he was one of the Members who raised the question in Item XII.

24. The Chairman said that Item XII had been scheduled for discussion before the oral statements as it would be discussed along with Items IV to X.

25. Mr TO Ka-lun said that the Chairman approved the inclusion of Item XII in the agenda for discussion but rejected two questions from him.

26. The Chairman said that, in accordance with the Standing Orders, he could approve the inclusion of an item in the agenda, if with the consent of more than half of the Members. The Chairmen of the past terms of the District Council, and he himself, had all along used the method. He did not approve the inclusion of the two questions raised by Mr TO Ka-lun, as they had not secured the consent of a majority of the Members and they were sent after the deadline for submission. Regarding the issue of whether Mr LEE Yuet-man was one of the Members who raised the question in Item XII, the Chairman said that he had not received any relevant information indicating any omissions in the paper while the Secretariat had made a list of all the Members who raised the question based on the paper received for the meeting. It would be up to Mr LEE Yuet-man to decide whether to make a response, but the Chairman would not invite Mr LEE Yuet-man to clarify the matter as there had been no information showing any omissions in the paper.

27. Mr Zachary WONG said that he, as the Chairman had just said, had twice called for a special meeting, and enquired why the agenda did not include his two calls for a special meeting. He reckoned that the Chairman should have included the two requests in the agenda although no special meeting was held eventually.

28. The Chairman said he had decided not to call a special meeting because of the Members' opinions. As the Members calling for a special meeting, including Mr Zachary WONG, had raised questions on the issue for discussion at this meeting, the questions raised by Mr Zachary WONG replaced the questions concerning his two calls for a special meeting. After consideration, the Chairman decided not to include the question on the two calls for a special meeting into the agenda of this meeting, so as not to affect the discussion. He also assured Members of sufficient time for discussion and asked them to rest assured. If any Member found there was not enough time for discussion, he would be pleased to deal with the issue flexibly.

Item I: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Third Meeting of YLDC in 2019

29. The Chairman asked the Secretary if there had been any proposed amendments.

30. Secretary Ms Cindy PANG said that Mr LEE Yuet-man had requested to have his time of withdrawal amended as "End of the Meeting".

31. The Chairman asked Members whether they had any other proposed amendments to raise to the minutes of the third meeting in 2019.

32. Members confirmed the minutes of the third meeting in 2019 and the proposed amendments.

**Item II: Question from DC Member: Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH proposed to discuss “the recovery and restoration after Typhoon Mangkhut”
(YLDC Paper No. 54/2019)**

33. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 54 on the question raised by Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH: “the relief and recovery work after Typhoon Mangkhut”. He also referred Members to the replies from the Development Bureau (“DB”), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), the Highways Department (“HyD”), the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”), the Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”), the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”), the District Lands Office, Yuen Long (“DLO(YL)”), and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”). The Chairman said that DB and HyD representatives were unable to attend the meeting because of other official commitments, and invited the following department representatives to respond to questions that Members might put to them:

Architectural Services Department

Senior Property Services Manager/Tuen Mun & Yuen Long Mr LAU Sui-lung, Jimmy
Property Services Manager/Yuen Long Mr TSE Chun-wa

Drainage Services Department

Senior Engineer/Yuen Long Mr MA Sen-ching

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yuen Long) Mr TSOI Ka-wai

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Chief Engineer/W1 Mr LAM Chi-keung, Desmond

District Lands Office, Yuen Long

District Lands Officer/Yuen Long Ms CHAN Ching-han, Peggy
Administration Assistant/Lands Mr NG Ping-tong, Gordon

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Chief Leisure Manager(New Territories North) Mr WONG Shu-yan, Francis

34. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH said that the abovementioned question was related to people’s livelihood and was noteworthy. He said that one year had elapsed since the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, which jeopardised people’s livelihoods and caused extensive damage to the environment and facilities of the district. He hoped the Departments could again review the progress in repairing community facilities, such as trees, drains, lamp posts and others. Although the Departments had replied to him that many of the facilities had been repaired, he found during a site visit of the district that quite a number of park facilities and lamp posts remained unrepaired and the trees that had been replanted were withering and perishing. This gave the residents the impression that the recovery work had not been carried out in a satisfactory way. Regarding this, he enquired whether the Government would coordinate the recovery work with relevant Departments. On the other hand, he reckoned that the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut last year exposed a lack of coordination among the Departments. For example, the FEHD did not have enough tools to clear fallen trees, while the HyD was not aware of the blockage

problem in manholes located between drain pipes, which could not divert rainwater during a heavy rainfall or might result in flooding. He appreciated the efforts of the relevant Departments, such as the FEHD, Hong Kong Police, the Fire Services Department (“FSD”), the HyD and the LCSD, in clearing fallen trees, but opined that there was a lack of coordination among them. As the typhoon season was around the corner, he hoped that the Departments could learn from the experience last year and review their preparedness and response work for typhoons.

35. Mr CHOW Wing-kan said that he was to analyse the response work for Typhoon Mangkhut from two aspects. The first was the preventive measures. He pointed out that rather many trees might have been infected with fungal diseases and thus could not withstand strong typhoons. He also pointed out that the roots of the fallen trees were shorter, and thus asked the Departments whether their collapse had been due to the selection of unsuitable species or to the use of inappropriate planting methods. He suggested that the Tree Management Office (“TMO”) and the LCSD carry out thorough inspections and replace trees posing hazards with stronger typhoon-resistant species in the advent of cyclone season, or follow the practice of Tin Yiu Estate by installing recreation facilities at places where trees had collapsed. Secondly, he appreciated the presence of District Officer (Yuen Long) and the incumbent District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yuen Long) of the FEHD in post-typhoon cleanup activities. He also considered members of the public a powerful force in the fight against typhoons, saying that they had not only provided equipment but also volunteered to form cleanup teams. He suggested that Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”) keep their contact details, so that the Government could mobilise them in times of typhoon in future to help expedite clearance work.

36. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen said that he enquired whether the Departments had conducted reviews of their response work for Typhoon Mangkhut, as the onslaught had happened a long time ago. He opined that Yuen Long had played the most active role among the 18 districts in activities to keep the environment clean, saying that citizens of any background in the district were highly involved in community cleanups and donated resources. However, he pinpointed the problems of poor inter-departmental coordination and inadequate cleaning equipment, and hoped the Departments could learn from the experience and examine the preventive measures for typhoons in future as well as the methods for coordinating the relief work carried out by members of the public and private businesses.

37. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH said that the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut exposed inadequacies in the Departments’ preparedness, response and relief work for the typhoon. One year had elapsed since the passage of the typhoon, but there were still community facilities that had not been repaired. He cited Tin Yat Estate as an example, saying that there were quite a number of fallen trees that had not been removed or restored. However, the Departments’ relief work was only about removal of fallen trees, while the Housing Department (“HD”) said it had inadequate resources to replant the trees. This suggested the relief work of the Departments was slow and insufficient. He hoped the Government could upgrade its disaster preparedness, response and relief efforts with a view to providing a stable environment for residents.

38. Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam said that one year had passed since the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, but there were still many vacant tree pits throughout the district after the powerful typhoon felled many trees. He reckoned that the Departments needed time to replant the trees. He said the Government stayed vigilant before Typhoon Mangkhut struck and the Chief Executive (“CE”) reminded the public to take precautionary measures, which he considered deserved commendation. However, the lack of coordination among the Departments in conducting tree removal and restoration work in typhoon-hit areas rendered their cleanup operations very time-consuming. While the Departments and the public had devoted considerable effort to cleaning roads after the passage of the typhoon to help resume public

transport and townscape, the problem of blocked drains in rural areas persisted and flooding occurred whenever it rained. He hoped the Departments could follow up on the problems. On the other hand, he expressed approval of residents' efforts to clear fallen trees, and he believed this could enhance community cohesiveness. He hoped that the Government could provide more information about what precautionary measures the public should take during typhoon season, while calling upon residents to stay united and make concerted efforts to restore operation in the community and give play to the spirit of "Under the Lion Rock".

39. Mr KWOK Hing-ping said that many residents were unable to go to work amid traffic disruptions caused by the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, but the majority of the department representatives attending this meeting were not involved in the issue. Although the HyD was responsible for road management, it sent no representatives to attend the meeting. He was of the view that the Departments had failed to work in collaboration to remove fallen trees and would only clear those under their purview. For example, the CEDD was only responsible for tree planting, the LCSD was responsible for management, and the FEHD was only responsible for environmental hygiene in the community. He said the Departments had not yet to embark on any tree-pruning work, although the majority of the trees along Tin Ying Road were either leaning to one side or lying on the ground in the aftermath of the typhoon. On the other hand, any tree collapse cases in the district would not be attended to until requests had been made with multiple departments. For example, if he requested the LCSD to clear fallen trees, it would say that it should be the TMO's duty, but when he turned to the TMO, it would not take any follow-up action until three months later.

40. Hon KWONG Chun-yu said that he would like to take this opportunity to express his gratitude to YLDO staff for the coordination work they had done through the night when Typhoon Mangkhut struck. What impressed him the most was that Yuen Long residents were pulling together to face the typhoon. For example, they volunteered to remove fallen trees and those residing in rural areas lent chainsaws to others to cut fallen trees. Yuen Long District suffered more extensive damage than any other districts at that time, but its recovery period was shorter thanks to the residents' efforts. However, he reckoned that the Departments needed to review their response work for Typhoon Mangkhut again. He had visited Lei Yue Mun, another hard-hit district, where local residents had relayed to him that there was no department playing a coordination role in the fight against the typhoon. He opined that the Secretary for Home Affairs should be held liable as he should, for example, have provided residents with sandbags before the typhoon arrived to reduce the risk of flooding or should have coordinated public transport services. During the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, he pointed out that power outages had occurred at about seven villages. He also opined that the Emergency Relief Fund Ordinance, Cap. 1103 of the Laws of Hong Kong, was outdated, saying that it took months to approve a subsidy for residents in accordance with the law. He hoped that the Secretariat could follow up on the issue.

41. Mr Ronnie TANG said that the Government should develop a mechanism to handle future typhoons. He cited Pat Heung North as an example, saying that Lam Kam Road in the area was the only shaded road section in Hong Kong, where on both sides of the road were paper-bark trees of about 60 years old - close to the usual lifespan of the species. He said that if a typhoon hit, the area would be badly affected and trees there were prone to collapse. He hoped that the Departments, such as the LCSD and the TMO, could inspect the physical condition of the trees there. He also said that he had relayed to the Departments a few times that double-decker buses would get scratched by tree branches when passing the road section, and hoped that the Departments would trim tree branches there.

42. Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP said that the Departments had replied in writing that the recovery work was underway and the District Council had also discussed after the passage of

Typhoon Mangkhut last year the emergency response and recovery work that had been carried out by the Departments. However, he was of the view that the relief work had not progressed satisfactorily. Although members of the public were pulling together to tackle Typhoon Mangkhut, the Government lacked resourcefulness in handling the situation. Subsequent to a heavy rain two months before, flooding occurred at quite a number of villages and Tin Yiu Estate, where drain channels got clogged with mud and fallen leaves. During the discussion of the relief work in the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut last year, he suggested that the Departments clean up drain channels more regularly to avoid blockages, but their performance as a whole was unsatisfactory. He suggested that the DSD and the HyD proactively handle clogged drains and take measures to fully resolve the problem, and that follow-up action should not be taken after blockage occurred. At last, he commended the FEHD and the LCSD for their relief efforts.

43. Ms MA Shuk-yin said that Typhoon Mangkhut caused tree collapse everywhere. Tin Yiu Estate was also a badly affected area, where fallen trees not only caused closure of an entire road but also impeded access to a car park. There were also false fire alarms at a school that lasted for hours. She thanked YLDO staff for their prompt assistance in turning off the alarm. In the early morning of the day after the typhoon, when all Departments were too busy to clear fallen trees at Tin Yiu Estate quickly, residents volunteered to clear six large fallen trees lying in the estate and managed to open one of the roads for ambulances to pass. This reflected that problems could be resolved through the solidarity among residents and local personalities. On the other hand, she had requested the TMO to clear hanging branches, but the Office said it was understaffed and could not take action immediately. She enquired whether the TMO had increased manpower in the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut, and whether it had coordinated community cleanups with the YLDO or the HD.

44. Ms WONG Wai-ling said that, although the Departments were fully committed to the relief work in the wake of Typhoon Mangkhut, their slow progress prompted some members of the public to clear up fallen trees on their own initiative. When she learned that the matter would be put for discussion at this meeting, she thought that the Departments would give an account of their future preventive measures. She found, however, that their replies were mainly concerned with the relief work that had been undertaken after the passage of the typhoon. As residents remained worried that some more trees would collapse after the typhoon, she suggested that the Departments step up inspections of the physical condition of the trees and organise workshops to alert residents to the risk of tree collapse. She also learned that the HD did not have sufficient tools to clear fallen trees, and thus suggested the Departments allocate additional resources for tool acquisition to get poised for action. She hoped the Departments could respond to the points just raised.

45. Mr MAK Ip-sing said that one year had elapsed since Typhoon Mangkhut struck. He thanked the FSD and the Civil Aid Service (“CAS”) for their assistance at that time, while highlighting the problem of insufficient resources at the Departments. He said that there was a typhoon season every year but typhoons got stronger one after another. Residents were mainly concerned about the problems of tree collapse and flooding caused by blocked drains. While Members had always requested the DSD, the HyD and the YLDO to regularly clear debris such as dried leaves at drainage inlets in Yuen Long Town and rural areas to ensure no blockages, he suggested that the Departments conduct regular inspections of the drains, which got clogged again after a heavy rain a few days before. As a year had passed since the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, the Departments should have not only finished the relief work in the district, but also a review of their preventive measures. He hoped the Departments could finish such work earlier. At last, Yuen Long covered a vast area and thus required more resources, but it seemed that the Government had not increased resources for the district. He hoped the Departments could allocate more resources to the district.

46. Mr TANG Cheuk-him said that Typhoon Mangkhut wreaked havoc on the community. He thanked frontline cleaning workers for their efforts to help the community get back on track, but opined that the lack of coordination among the Departments had affected the recovery speed. He said that, whenever a tree had collapsed, the Departments would first check their record to see whether the tree was located in an area under their purview. He pointed out that the plants in the flower-bed in front of Vianni Cove had yet to be replanted after being destroyed in the typhoon while there were still fallen trees awaiting clearance in Tin Shui Wai. He believed the Departments had yet to develop any clear-cut policy on how to address future typhoons, and hoped that they would review the issue.

47. Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP said that the recovery work could be divided into two stages - short-term and long-term. As far as the short-term recovery work was concerned, the fact that members of the public had to resume work the next day after the typhoon added difficulties to the Departments' work of clearing fallen trees. At a Legislative Council meeting, he presented the "Arrangements for Suspension of Work During Natural Disasters and Emergency Situation Bill" on behalf of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, and hoped that the Departments could respond to the issue. On the other hand, a written reply by the DB said that the removal of trees that collapsed during the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut had been completed in May this year, but he queried why Hong Kong, as a modern city, had to spend about half a year clearing up fallen trees while having yet to handle or replant fallen and leaning trees. He enquired whether the Government would allocate more resources to the Departments after the passage of the super typhoon, so that they could increase manpower to expedite the handling of the relief work. He also enquired whether the Government would grant allowances to its current staff who had assisted in the recovery work. At last, he requested the Departments to respond whether they had increased manpower in Yuen Long to handle the relief work.

48. Mr SIU Long-ming, MH said the community returned to normal quickly after the typhoon thanks to the cooperation between the Departments and residents. However, the recovery work had not progressed satisfactorily so far this year and failed to meet the residents' expectations. He cited a tree collapse case at Sau Fu Street as an example, saying that the Departments had spent weeks clearing up debris in the vicinity and had yet to embark on tree planting, so tree pits remained there. Whenever it rained, the tree pits would be filled up with rainwater and put members of the public at risk of slips and trips. He hoped the Departments could expedite the handling of the recovery work.

49. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin said he opined the TMO had failed to discharge its duties effectively, as reflected by the withering paper-bark trees along both sides of Fan Kam Road. On the other hand, he said that the designs of the drainage systems of old roads in the district, such as Castle Peak Road, were already obsolete as passers-by would get splashed by roadside accumulated water in times of a typhoon or heavy rains. He thanked CAS personnel for rendering practicable assistance to affected residents during the typhoon, and pointed out that an accident occurred when a resident volunteered to clear fallen trees with a chainsaw. He, therefore, suggested that the Departments assign people familiar with the use of chainsaws to clear fallen trees to avert accidents. At last, as he was informed that the Departments would deliver fallen trees to the temporary wood waste collection area in Kai Tak Development Area, he suggested the Departments use resources in the area to convert the remains of fallen trees into compost.

50. Mr TANG Hing-ip, BBS said that Typhoon Mangkhut posed a daunting challenge to Hong Kong, but the Government should stay vigilant and guard against future typhoons, which he believed would get increasingly ferocious. He said that the Government should conduct an inter-departmental review of the emergency response efforts for Typhoon Mangkhut, while at the same time suggesting the District Officer (Yuen Long) coordinate the response efforts in the district. He said that it was reasonable

for the Departments to put trunk roads in the district on their cleanup priority list in the wake of the typhoon, and it was also natural for residents in rural areas to organise cleanup actions on their own initiative. However, he agreed with Mr TANG Cheuk-yin that the Departments should alert and educate the residents on the proper use of chainsaws to avoid accidents. He thanked CAS personnel for their work and commended the Departments for the assistance they had rendered in clearing up fallen trees both on private and Government land. He hoped that the Departments would continue to do so in the future.

51. Ms CHAN Mei-lin said that Typhoon Mangkhut felled trees and caused road obstructions. Regarding this, she, along with several Members, submitted a motion in October last year to suggest the Government set up a task force dedicated to handling typhoons and emergencies. She believed that Typhoon Mangkhut served as a warning to all the Departments that they should not let their guard down when performing daily routines, such as pruning and planting trees and keeping drainage channels free from blockage. As for many trees uprooted by Typhoon Mangkhut, some experts said the trees were prone to collapse as their roots were planted under concrete and thus had limited space to grow. She pointed out that after the typhoon last year, she had to contact several departments, such as the FEHD, the LCSD, the LandsD and the YLDO for clearance of fallen trees. She said this was a time-consuming process that not only wasted human resources but also affected the recovery speed. Therefore, she hoped the Government would set up a task force to expedite enforcement actions and ensure the effective use of resources in the event of emergencies, such as typhoon and flooding. On the other hand, she opined that the Departments should seek additional resources to address unforeseen circumstances, saying that cleaning contractors did not have sufficient staff manpower to keep up their daily task of street cleaning, and thus it would not be feasible to only rely on them to clear up fallen trees. She commended residents of rural areas for clearing fallen trees voluntarily. However, she pointed out that as trees in public housing estates were properties of the Government, they had to be handled by the HD and the TMO. She expected the cleanup to be completed in six months or later. As meteorologists analysed that global warming would render typhoons even stronger in the future, she hoped that the Departments could learn from experience and set up a task force to take proper preventive measures.

52. Mr Zachary WONG said although Typhoon Mangkhut that had caused the damage last year was a natural disaster, the department's response actions, such as checking whether the drains were blocked, should be reviewed. During his inspection of the drainage manholes at Shap Pat Heung Road and Tai Tong Road, he discovered that they were fully covered with mud as if they had not been cleared for a very long time. Moreover, he found that the Department had not removed the plastic wrap around the tree roots when planting the trees. This had restricted the growth of tree roots. What made the public most discontented was that many pupils had to find their way to school among fallen trees on the following day of the typhoon. In light of that, he enquired why the Department did not announce the suspension of classes and work on the next day. At that time, the CE said she had no power to announce class and work suspension, but he considered that the CE could suggest schools and organisations to make flexible arrangements. Given the working group to review the handling of Typhoon Mangkhut set up by the Government last year had not given any details of the report, he enquired the Department about measures in the face of typhoons which were as severe as, or more severe than, Typhoon Mangkhut, and whether it would announce the suspension of classes and work on the day after the typhoon so that public members would not risk their lives to go to school or work. He believed that the impact of typhoons on the public could be greatly reduced if the department response work was adequate.

53. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin said Hong Kong had been hit by Typhoon Hato and Typhoon Mangkhut the year before last and last year. After Typhoon Mangkhut had swept a large number of trees down, Chung Yeung Festival following the typhoon was fortunately a rainy day, preventing fallen trees from

escalating the hill fire if any. He said the Government had set up the Tree Management Office (“TMO”) subsequent to a fatal accident caused by a collapsed tree in Stanley to coordinate inter-departmental tree management work and make prompt decisions. However, he considered that the work of TMO at present was unsatisfactory. He took Shap Pat Heung Road as an example, saying that nine Departments were involved in dealing with drain blockages and collapsed trees and the TMO could play a role in it. As for tree management, he proposed that, by drawing on overseas experiences, white paint should be used on trees. There were three benefits of its use: firstly, white paint was reflective, making trees more visible to drivers. Secondly, white paint could prevent pest infestation. Lastly, faded white paint could serve as a reminder of inspection. Moreover, he recommended that the Government register and number each tree, record the inspection progress, and enhance training of arborists. In closing, he said power outages lasted for a week in some villages as maintenance personnel could not enter the villages and high voltage electric cables were blown down by strong wind, and suggested using underground cables combined with overhead lines.

54. Mr MA Sen-ching from the DSD gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) Typhoon Mangkhut was the most severe super typhoon to hit Hong Kong in decades. Prior to the typhoon season, the Department would step up inspection of drainage facilities along with regular checks. Before the hit of Typhoon Mangkhut, the Department had conducted more inspections on around 150 major drainage facilities in Hong Kong to reduce the impact of flooding. The DSD would cooperate with various Departments such as the HyD and the YLDO to manage the drainage facilities in the district;
- (2) For local drainage problems at many old roads such as Castle Peak Road and Kam Tin Road as pointed out by Members, he said that there were difficulties in carrying out on-site alterations to the drains. However, the Department would provide technical advice for the enhancement of the drainage system during the HyD’s road improvement works;
- (3) When the Hong Kong Observatory (“HKO”) issued Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above, the Department would activate its Emergency Control Centre (“ECC”) and deploy the ECC contingency teams to deal with flooding incidents. When the HKO made an announcement projecting the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 would be cancelled, the Department would check if drainage systems at selected locations were affected by the storm and carry out emergency clearance to ensure normal operation of the drainage systems;
- (4) In response to the flooding threats brought to the Northwest New Territories by storm surges caused by Typhoon Mangkhut, the Department had established a storm surge alert system with the YLDO and HKO. When Hong Kong was under the threat of tropical cyclones and the water level of Deep Bay was forecast to reach the alert threshold in 24 hours, the HKO would notify the YLDO and DSD to warn residents of low-lying coastal areas in the northwest of Yuen Long timely. Also, the Department would place sandbags at designated locations for residents in need to reduce the impact of flooding; and
- (5) As regards dealing with flooding in rural areas, the Department had been planning improvement works for the stormwater drainage system in Yuen Long District, including Tai Tseng Wai and Shan Ha Tsuen. The works projects were planned to commence next year.

55. Mr TSOI Ka-wai from the FEHD said that the Department was concerned about the environmental hygiene problems in the district arising from Typhoon Mangkhut. FEHD suspended its refuse collection service when the typhoon struck and, after the typhoon, priority was given to handling household waste accumulated at refuse collection points (“RCPs”) during the period and removing waste on trunk roads and accesses to RCPs. As roads were blocked by collapsed large trees at many locations, the Department had made an effort to allocate resources to remove the collapsed trees, such as procuring 270 extra times of grab lorry services.

56. Mr Desmond LAM from the CEDD thanked Members for their views. He said that the Department had taken preventive and recovery measures on local construction sites in response to the typhoon in coordination with other works departments such as the YLDO. For instance, the CEDD would complete tree inspections and pruning of branches prior to the typhoon season every year. Besides, after Strong Wind Signal No. 3 was hoisted, the resident site staff of the CEDD would conduct inspections and instruct contractors to remove or strengthen structures that could be blown over or blown away easily. As stated in the written reply, the CEDD had completed the recovery work in respect of Typhoon Mangkhut. The Department was willing to follow up any other enquiries or comments from Members.

57. Ms Peggy CHAN from the LandsD said removal of withered branches and tree debris on government land was within the ambit of the DLO(YL). The DLO(YL) had completed action on all requests for removal of such obstructions after the hit of Typhoon Mangkhut. For trees on unleased and unallocated government land and outside the purview of other government departments, the Special Duties Task Force (“Task Force”) under the LandsD would, based on the information received from complaints or referrals, allocate resources to inspect those trees that might pose potential hazards in order of priority and implement mitigation measures. Besides, the Task Force would expeditiously complete the tree maintenance work that had already commenced and remove trees that had endangered public safety before the typhoon.

58. Mr Francis WONG from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) said that the recovery work following super typhoon Mangkhut that had caused massive district-wide tree damage would take quite some time. In the course of work, the LCSD, together with other Departments, DC Members, local personalities and organisations, had cleared collapsed trees and broken branches at various sites. As regards replanting, the works commenced in the beginning of this year were expected to complete in the fourth quarter of the year. The LCSD had sought additional resources to purchase cleanup tools, arrange for staff to work overtime to do the cleanup and engage more manpower from contractors to conduct tree maintenance work. Before the typhoon season, the Department had completed tree risk assessments in the district and stepped up inspection of trees. The LCSD would reflect Members’ views on paper-bark trees along Fan Kam Road to the TMO for reference.

59. Mr Jimmy LAU from the ArchSD thanked Members for their views. The Department and the contractor had set up an emergency response team to deal with emergencies arising from typhoons. Subsequent to the hit of Typhoon Mangkhut, the Department had made a review and requested the contractor to provide more equipment and manpower resources, including more chain-saws, pumps and grab lorries to assist other Departments with their recovery work.

60. Mr Enoch YUEN, JP, the District Officer (Yuen Long) gave a consolidated response as

follows:

- (1) He thanked Members for their suggestions and encouragement. The YLDO would reflect their views on territory-wide policies to the Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre (“EMSC”) under the Security Bureau (“SB”);
- (2) During the passage of Typhoon Mangkhut in the previous year, inter-departmental cooperation and collaboration among the Government, business sector and the community had contributed to the speedy recovery of the district. When there was a typhoon, the YLDO would activate its District Emergency Coordination Centre (“DECC”) to strengthen the communication among Departments, DC Members and local individuals. Also, the YLDO had carried out maintenance works on its temporary shelters to ensure normal operation;
- (3) For drainage management, the YLDO would clear drains in rural areas under its management regularly and maintain communication with the DSD to improve the drainage system;
- (4) As mentioned by the DSD representative, a storm surge alert system had been set up by the YLDO, DSD and HKO after last year’s Typhoon Mangkhut in response to the flooding threats to the Northwest New Territories by storm surges. When there was a forecast that the water level of Deep Bay might reach the alert threshold in a short time, the YLDO would notify rural representatives and rural committees so that residents could take preventive measures; and
- (5) Regarding tree failures, the YLDO understood Members’ great concerns over collapsed trees and broken branches. Therefore, the YLDO had coordinated the work of Hong Kong Police and the FSD to address Members’ requests for removing the collapsed trees. It was noted that other Departments, such as the LandsD, the LCSD, the HyD and the HD would attend to the fallen trees in areas within their purview. Apart from that, the YLDO lined up volunteers and service contractors to remove collapsed trees, and collected and relayed to relevant Departments the locations with fallen trees to be cleared from Members through the Environmental Improvement Committee (“EIC”) in January and February 2019.

61. Mr CHOW Wing-kan said the Department’s current standard of the discharge capacity was to withstand rainstorms of a 50-year return period. However, it was set with reference to the rainfall data more than a decade ago when there were no reported extreme climate changes linked to global warming. With more frequent rainfall at present, he considered a review on the standard necessary. On the other hand, as Yuen Long was located near Deep Bay, storm surges and astronomical tides would affect the discharge capacity of the main drainage channels in the district such as the nullahs in Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long Town and Kam Tin River, leading to water back flow. In light of that, he suggested that the Department construct an underground flood storage tank as buffer.

62. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH said having discussed drain blockages with the Director of Drainage Services, he noted that the DSD only administered major drainage channels in Hong Kong and the rest were maintained by other Departments. Not until the Development Bureau (“DevB”) started coordination work did he realise that the cleansing of drainage manholes, areas between manholes, and the drainage channels beyond the manholes were maintained by the FEHD, HyD and DSD respectively. In other

words, the drainage channels might not be free from blockage after the FEHD had taken action on its part. He also made an enquiry on what follow-up action would be taken on the replanted tree that had withered. Lastly, he pointed out that he had mobilised quite a number of volunteers to assist in the cleanup the area last year after the strike of Mangkhut last year, noting the Department did not have enough manpower for the work. At that time, he was very worried that the volunteers might run into accidents, and fortunately, no one was injured last year. He said he did not wish to see manpower shortage again when the typhoon came this year.

63. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen said Typhoon Mangkhut was the most intense typhoon since Typhoon Wanda in the 1960s. Members recognised that all Departments spared no effort in the relief work and hopefully, they would continue to improve their response measures. On the other hand, the bypass floodway was to prevent the tidal wave of Deep Bay from hitting the district and a flood storage pond was also constructed at that time to cope with the situation. He hoped the Department would continue to enhance the infrastructure.

64. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH hoped the HD would respond to his speech in the first round. He held that the discharge standard of Hong Kong as a modern city could no longer meet today's requirements. Also, he took the opportunity to commend the District Officer (Yuen Long) for his effort in coordinating the work of the Departments and attended the cleanup of collapsed trees and withered branches in person. However, he hoped the Department would overcome the problem of resource and equipment shortage in the previous year.

65. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin acknowledged the YLDO's work in preparation for Typhoon Mangkhut, such as its arrangement for sufficient fresh water, food, blankets and illumination devices in advance. Additionally, he suggested the Department to assign staff to station at the YLDO's temporary shelter at Kam Tin Rural Committee, and provide more guidance on matters such as how to assist wheelchair users.

66. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin praised the YLDO for its work in response to Typhoon Mangkhut, such as forming volunteer teams in rural areas. He also agreed that the collaboration among the Government, business sector and the community helped alleviate the impact of Typhoon Mangkhut. Apart from that, he proposed that flexible working hours on the following day of the typhoon be introduced, and said collapsed trees should be handled carefully and converted into compost.

67. Ms LAM Yat-kiu from the HD remarked that frontline staff had been reminded to pay more attention to the surrounding environment and take all preventive measures before typhoons. During typhoon, HD staff would be on duty. She said that HD staff had swiftly removed a large number of fallen trees obstructing the thoroughfares after Typhoon Mangkhut and now tree replanting was underway. As the District Officer (Yuen Long) had said earlier, an inter-departmental liaison team would be set up to take active action in response to the views of Members and residents.

68. Mr MA Sen-ching believed that everyone understood that extreme weather would put pressure on drains and the drainage system. To cope with heavy rainfall and sea level increase brought by extreme weather, the Department conducted drainage master plan studies and drainage studies from time to time to review the strategies in the face of extreme weather. In the future, the DSD would continue to improve the drainage system in three ways, i.e. stormwater interception at upstream, flood storage, and drainage improvement at downstream. Moreover, as the drainage system had to do with other Departments such as the HyD and the YLDO, the DSD would reflect the comments on the drains

received to relevant Departments for follow-up.

69. The Chairman said that since some Members were concerned how broken branches would be converted into compost, he asked the Secretariat to write to the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) for its response.

70. Mr CHING Chan-ming enquired when the LCSD would use the three stump grinders purchased earlier. Also, he believed that since a drainage channel was managed by multiple departments as mentioned by a Member before, referrals among Departments might take time and lead to delays in solving flooding problem. He said the DSD should review the situation.

71. Mr KWOK Keung, MH hoped the HyD, the DSD and the FEHD would pay attention to blockages of roadside drains. He believed that materials such as tree leaves swept by cleaning workers into the drains had accumulated and blocked the drains during heavy rainfall. He hoped Departments would coordinate their work with one another.

72. Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam said many large trees on private land in rural areas posed a danger of collapse during Typhoon Mangkhut but government departments were not responsible for those trees on private land, and expressed his concern on accidents and the need for a policy review. Moreover, he reflected that many decaying paper-bark trees in the district were prone to failure, asking the TMO to follow up because public safety was at risk.

73. Mr Enoch YUEN, JP gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) The YLDO would relay the proposals in relation to the territory to the SB and the TMO under the DevB;
- (2) Regarding inter-departmental coordination, trees collapsed out of Typhoon Mangkhut were cleared with the concerted effort of all Departments in the district. There was no differentiation in responsibilities among different Departments which undertook the cleansing work when resources were available, resulting in greater efficiency. He believed that all offices would continue to seek more resources from their headquarters; and
- (3) In view of the vast expanse of the district, the YLDO borrowed rural committee offices or village offices as temporary shelters for the convenience of nearby residents. Having reviewed last year’s policy, the YLDO would consider setting up temporary shelters in areas with more pooled resources in the future.

74. The Chairman concluded that, despite the preparatory work for Typhoon Mangkhut by various Departments, the Government’s response mechanism to deal with last year’s typhoon was flawed. The YLDC had discussed matters in respect of Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018 and at this meeting, the YLDC was informed that Departments had generally completed the cleanup. He hoped the Government would learn from the experience in the past year and enhance the measures and precautionary work in response to typhoons, such as tree management, flood prevention and drain clearance. It was hoped that the Government would enhance inter-departmental coordination among Departments and make proper

arrangements for employees and students. Members hoped the Government would step up the response measures during typhoons to safeguard the lives and property of the people.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat wrote to the EPD to relay Members' views on the collapsed trees and broken branches caused by the typhoon on 27 September 2019. The EPD's reply was referred to Members for perusal on 29 November 2019.)

**Item III: Question from DC Member: Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH proposed to discuss “business strategies of mega shopping malls play a major role in turning residential districts into hotspots for Mainland individual visitors”
(YLDC Paper No. 55/2019)**

75. Mr Zachary WONG said he moved a procedural motion, given that quite a number of members of the public who observed the meeting were concerned about the discussion on the 721 incident. He wished to ask through the Chairman the Member who raised the question under this item whether he would agree to have the discussion on the item postponed to give way to the question concerning the 721 incident.

76. The Chairman did not think it was appropriate to adjust the order of business on the agenda. He said he had sought Members' views about the agenda prior to the meeting and they said nothing about it.

77. Mr Zachary WONG said that he was not asking the Chairman to adjust the order of business on the agenda, but asking through him Mr LEE Yuet-man whether the latter would agree to have the order of the items adjusted.

78. The Chairman opined that the Member who raised the question did not have the power to change the order of business on the agenda. He agreed with Mr Zachary WONG that the public had great concern about the discussion on the 721 incident. He believed that Members could discuss the issue efficiently, although he could not tell the time required for the discussion. The Chairman also said that, unless more than half of the Members present at the meeting consented to adjust the order of business on the agenda, he would consider it more appropriate to commence the discussion as early as possible.

79. Mr Zachary WONG said he called upon the Chairman to ask Mr LEE Yuet-man whether the latter would agree to have the order of his item adjusted on the agenda.

80. The Chairman said that there might be other Members who wished to discuss the question although Mr LEE Yuet-man was the Member who raised the question. As he said just now, Members could suggest adjustment to the order of business on the agenda before the commencement of the discussion at the meeting, but it would not be appropriate to put forward any related suggestions afterwards.

81. Mr Zachary WONG said that he could not have predicted before the commencement of the earlier discussion on the question concerning Typhoon Mangkhut that the discussion would last nearly two hours. He tabled a procedural motion, requesting that the discussion on Item III be postponed and give way to the question concerning the 721 incident.

82. The Chairman asked the Secretary to reply whether adjusting the order of business on the agenda was in conformity with the Yuen Long District Council Standing Orders (“Standing Orders”).

83. Mr Zachary WONG said that a procedural motion could be moved at any time during a meeting, and that there had been procedural motions in the past for Members to vote on the order of business on the agenda.

84. Secretary Ms Cindy PANG said that, under Order 13(2), “Subject to the consent of more than half of the members of the Council present at the meeting, the Chairman may at the commencement and in the course of the meeting approve the inclusion of an item in the agenda or adjustment of the order of business on the agenda.” She said that this Order could also apply to the procedural motion moved by a Member just now, provided that more than half of the Members present at the meeting gave consent.

85. Mr TO Ka-lun said that he seconded the procedural motion moved by Mr Zachary WONG.

86. The Chairman said that Mr Zachary WONG moved the procedural motion in accordance with Order 13(2): “Subject to the consent of more than half of the members of the Council present at the meeting, the Chairman may at the commencement and in the course of the meeting approve the inclusion of an item in the agenda or adjustment of the order of business on the agenda.” He said that the motion moved by Mr Zachary WONG was “Request that the question and motion concerning the 721 incident be discussed first”.

87. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH expressed no objection to Mr Zachary WONG’s motion, but would not cast an aye vote. He understood that DC Members, members of the public and reporters who observed the meeting were highly concerned about any discussions on the 721 incident, but they should also observe meeting rules. The agenda items and their order for discussion at the meeting had already been set. If the order was changed as one pleased, it would constitute a breach of meeting rules. The Members had a duty to understand how a meeting agenda was set.

88. Hon KWONG Chun-yu said the procedural motion should also be dealt with first as it was moved in accordance with the Standing Orders. He suggested that any questions pertaining to the 721 incident be discussed as early as possible as members of the public of different opinions who observed the meeting had waited a long time.

89. In response to Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH’s view that the agenda had been set and should not be revised at will, Mr Zachary WONG said that Order 13(2) was designed simply to allow the Members to propose adjustments to the order of business on the agenda during the meeting. Moreover, Mr Zachary WONG said he did not understand Mr YIU Kwok-wai’s remarks that he would not object to his motion but would not cast an aye vote.

90. Mr TANG Hing-ip, BBS said that as the agenda included discussion of the 721 incident, it might as well be better to discuss the question concerning it as early as possible, if with the consent of more than half of the Members present.

91. Given that there was a Member who had just returned to the conference room, the Chairman repeated that Mr Zachary WONG, in accordance with Order 13(2), had moved a procedural motion, which was seconded by Mr TO Ka-lun, to request that the question and motion pertaining to the 721 incident should be discussed first.

92. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH enquired how Order 13(2): “Subject to the consent of more than half of the members of the Council present at the meeting” should be interpreted.

93. The Chairman said that, as the provision stated “Subject to the consent of more than half of the members of the Council present at the meeting”, he would first count the number of Members attending the meeting. He said there would be no vote on negative and abstaining votes if more than half or less than half of the Members voted in favour.

94. Mr Zachary WONG said that decisions used to be made according to the numbers of votes in favour, against and abstaining.

95. Mr TO Ka-lun said that Members had different opinions about the issue, and that the issue should be handled according to the usual procedures.

96. Mr Jimmy MAN expressed his objection to the procedural motion, saying that it would change the order of other agenda items.

97. The Chairman called upon those Members to raise their hands if they were in favour of the procedural motion.

98. Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr CHOW Wing-kan, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr TO Ka-lun and Mr Zachary WONG voted in favour of the procedural motion.

99. The Chairman said that there were 37 Members at the conference room and seven of them voted for the motion. The Chairman announced that the procedural motion could not be passed, saying that no more than half of the Members present at the meeting gave consent.

100. Mr Zachary WONG enquired whether the Chairman would make a decision according to the numbers of votes against and abstentions.

101. The Chairman said that Order 13(2) was different from other ways to vote on a motion, as it stipulated “if with more than half of the Members present at the meeting.” It would mean that the procedural motion would be negated, if with the consent of less than half of the Members present.

102. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 55 vis-à-vis Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH’s request to

discuss “business strategies of mega shopping malls play a major role in turning residential districts into hotspots for Mainland individual visitors”. The Chairman also referred Members to replies from the Customer Care Centre of Yoho Mall under Kai Shing Management Services Limited and the Customer Service Centre of Yuen Long Plaza, along with a reply in circulation at the meeting from Link Asset Management Limited (“Link”). The Chairman said that the Customer Care Centre of Yoho Mall, the Customer Service Centre of Yuen Long Plaza, and the Link were unable to attend the meeting due to business-related reasons. If the Members had any questions to ask them, they could call upon the following department representative to respond:

Transport Department

Chief Transport Officer/NT North West

Ms YUEN Miu-chun, Christine

103. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH said that large shopping malls in a few neighborhood areas of the district attracted parallel traders to shop there, thereby causing nuisances to nearby residents. He pointed out that a few shopping malls, operated by the same developer, had introduced policies to entice Mainland tourists, such as setting up retail counters in the stores and offering discounts and transport convenience to shoppers, while providing services in cooperation with the Kowloon Motor Bus Company. The policies drew large numbers of Mainland tourists but hindered the daily lives of local residents. He hoped that the developer could take into account local residents’ needs when developing their marketing strategies, lest residential areas would be turned into gathering areas of parallel traders. He cited shopping malls in Tin Shui Wai as an example. He said they could meet local residents’ daily needs although customer flows in the malls were not large, but worried that other developers, such as the Link and Cheung Kong Property Development Limited, would follow the practices of Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited. He hoped that his views could reach the developers although they sent no staff to attend the meeting.

104. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH said that parallel traders did cause nuisances to local residents, but he reckoned that the problem had been relieved, as reflected by some recent societal conditions. For instance, when he ate out at Yoho Mall in the evening, there were still plenty of empty tables in the restaurants there. He hoped that this situation could offer the Members a lot of food for thought.

105. Ms Christine YUEN of the Transport Department thanked Members for their views, saying that the Department had been making efforts to keep up with population growth and demands arising from the commissioning and completion of infrastructure projects, while at the same time arranging the most suitable means of transport to serve control points. The Department would keep abreast of the situation and conduct timely reviews.

106. The Chairman concluded that the majority of the shopping malls in the district were private businesses. He understood that businesses only cared about making profits but the public tended to place more importance on corporate social responsibility and conscience today. As shopping malls were mostly located near or at lower levels of residential buildings, they played a major part in the everyday lives of residents, including their leisure activities. Therefore, a few Members suggested developers adopt livelihood-focused marketing strategies and maintain a balance between meeting residents’ needs and earning profits. As no developer representatives attended this meeting, the Chairman requested the Secretariat to write to developers with their business presence in the district to convey Members’ views on the issue.

(Post-meeting note: On 27 September 2019, the Secretariat wrote to Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited,

Link and Cheung Kong Property Development Limited to convey the Members' views for their reference.)

Item IV: Question from Member: Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH proposed to discuss “the fireworks attack on passers-by outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 56)

Item V: Question from Members: Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH and Mr WONG Cheuk-kin, MH proposed to discuss “Yuen Long’s dark night on 21 July and fireworks attack on passers-by outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 57)

Item VI: Question from Member: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP proposed to discuss and follow up on “the violent attack that left innocent citizens wounded at Yuen Long West Rail Station on 21 July and fireworks shot that caused injuries outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station on 31 July”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 58)

Item VII: Question from Members: Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH proposed to discuss “Requesting a discussion on the violent incident at Yuen Long Station on 21 July, while urging the Police to explain the operations that day and what measures would be taken to strengthen their manpower and improve the law and order in Yuen Long District”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 59)

Item VIII: Question from Members: Mr MAK Ip-sing, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary, Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Mr TO Ka-lun proposed to discuss “a question regarding the terror attack at Yuen Long West Rail Station on 21 July”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 60)

Item IX: The following motion was moved by Mr MAK Ip-sing and seconded by Ms CHAN Mei-lin: “This Council strongly requests (1) the Government form an independent inquiry commission to investigate the 21 July terror attack at Yuen Long West Rail Station and whether there had been any dereliction of duty on the part of Police officers, which caused serious consequences; and (2) that the Police set up a special task force to apprehend persons involved in the terror attack at Yuen Long West Rail Station on 21 July.”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 61)

Item X: The following motion was moved by Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary, and seconded by Mr TO Ka-lun: “a request for the establishment of a working group to ‘review the 21 July terror attack at Yuen Long West Rail Station, where a mob of men dressed in white assaulted civilians indiscriminately’.”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 62)

Item XII: Question from Members: Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam, Mr CHING Chan-ming, Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH, Mr KWOK Keung, MH, Mr LAI Wai-hung, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen, Mr LEUNG Ming-kin, Mr CHAN Sze-ching, Mr LUI Kin, MH, Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Mr MAN Ka-koy, Mr MAN Mei-kwai, Jimmy, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Mr TANG Che-keung, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr TANG Cheuk-yin, Mr. TANG Hing-ip , BBS, Mr TANG Ho-nin, Mr TANG Ka-leung, Mr TANG Lai-tung, Mr TANG Sui-man, Mr TANG Yung-yiu, Ronnie, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH, Mr YOUNG

**Ka-on and Ms YUEN Man-ye proposed to discuss “a spate of violent incidents in Yuen Long arising from the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance as well as their economic and livelihood consequences for the district”
(YLDC Paper 2019/No. 72)**

107. The Chairman asked Members to refer to Papers No. 56 to 59, Paper No. 60, a revised document circulated at the meeting, and Paper No. 72. They were about Members’ recent reviews and recommendations regarding a violent incident in Yuen Long arising from the opposition to the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance. The Chairman also asked Members to refer to the replies of the Hong Kong Police Force. He asked the following representatives of Yuen Long Police District to respond to questions from Members, if any:

Assistant District Commander
(Administration), Yuen Long
The Police Community Relations
Officer

Superintendent Ms Liza LEE,
Acting Chief Inspector Ms CHUNG Ho-ying

108. Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH suggested the Chairman allow Members more time to speak on the consolidated agenda. He also asked the Police representatives whether they would respond to questions from Members at the meeting regarding the attack at the Yuen Long West Rail Station on 21 July (“721 incident”), saying that the Police had replied in writing that it was not appropriate for them to comment further at this stage because of the ongoing legal proceedings for the case.

109. The Chairman said that as there were many items combined for discussion at the meeting and with general agreement among Members, he would exercise his discretion in allowing them more time to speak. Moreover, it would be up to the Police representatives to decide how to respond to questions regarding the 721 incident.

110. The Chairman said he had received at the meeting an amendment moved by Mr TANG Ka-leung, Mr MAN Ka-koy, Mr Ronnie TANG, Mr TANG Hing-yip, BBS, Mr LUI Kin, MH and Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH, to the motion on Agenda Item IX, (which was moved by Mr MAK Ip-sing and seconded by Ms CHAN Mei-lin), and was seconded by Mr LAU Kwai-yung, Mr Tang Cheuk-him, Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP, Mr TANG Cheuk-yin, Mr Jimmy MAN, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr KWOK Keung, MH, Mr CHOW Wing-kan, Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH, Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen, Mr CHING Chan-ming, Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam, Mr CHAN Sze-ching, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Mr YOUNG Ka-on, Ms YUEN Man-ye and Mr LEUNG Ming-kin. Details of the amended motion were as follows:

Amended motion:

“This Council supports the Police in stopping violence and curbing disorder in accordance with the law, while urging the Government to take effective measures immediately to calm the unrest and restore social order as soon as possible in order to avoid injuries or even loss of life among the public. On the other hand, this Council urges the Government:

- (1) To pledge full support for the Independent Police Complaints Council (“IPCC”) to conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations made against the Police in order to render justice to all sides;
- (2) To instruct the Police to set up a working group to apprehend offenders involved in

multiple violent incidents in Yuen Long;

- (3) To build dialogue platforms online and offline as soon as practicable to sincerely communicate with all sectors of the community and different stakeholders, in order to find out ways to resolve the disturbances arising from the opposition to the proposed legislative amendments and to mend social rifts;
- (4) To form a working group mainly formed by scholars to conduct thematic studies on the deep-rooted conflicts of Hong Kong society through extensive contacts with various stakeholders of the community, and to make recommendations to the Government.”

111. Mr Zachary WONG said that the amended motion should not be regarded as an amendment, but a new motion, saying that its details were entirely different from those of the original motion. He requested the Chairman to rule that the amended motion was a new motion, citing a provision in the “Yuen Long District Council Standing Orders” (“Standing Orders”) that an amended motion should not constitute a direct negation of the original motion with respect to their details.

112. Mr MAK Ip-sing said that the subject matter of the original motion moved by him was very straightforward: “This Council (1) urges the Government to form an independent inquiry commission to probe the 21 July terror attack at the Yuen Long West Rail Station, as well as whether there had been any dereliction of duty on the part of Police officers, which caused serious consequences; (2) demands the Police set up a task force to apprehend persons involved in the 21 July terror attack at the Yuen Long West Rail Station.” While the original motion focused on Yuen Long District, the amended motion aimed to take the issue to a territory-wide level, and it looked like Questions from Members in Agenda Item XI. He opined that the Chairman should rule that the amended motion was a new motion.

113. Mr TO Ka-lun said the amended motion was entirely different from the original motion, and requested the Chairman to rule that the amended motion was a new motion.

114. Mr CHOW Wing-kan opined that the amended motion could co-exist with the original motion, saying that the request in the amendment for the arrest of the persons involved in the 721 incident was also found in the original motion. He said there was no conflict between the Independent Police Complaints Council (“IPCC”) and the independent inquiry commission despite their different functions.

115. Ms CHAN Mei-lin said that the original motion demanded the Government set up an independent inquiry commission, and was completely different from the amended motion. She noted that the IPCC and the independent inquiry commission were different in respect of powers and authorities and the latter had the power to summon witnesses and could provide more comprehensive investigation results. Therefore, she disagreed with the amended motion.

116. The Chairman said that, in accordance with Standing Order 21, “The Chairman shall determine whether a motion accepted for amending the original motion constitutes a direct negation of the original motion. If this is the case, the Chairman shall ask the meeting to vote against the original motion and prepare a new motion at or after the meeting.” Therefore, he said he had to consider whether the amended motion constituted a direct negation of the original motion. He did not think that it could be determined by how many terms in the original motion were retained in the amended motion but should be considered according to the actual meaning of the amended motion. He pointed out that the two motions both requested investigation, except that the investigation methods requested were different. Moreover,

the scope of investigation requested by the amended motion was larger, as it demanded the Police set up a task force to investigate violent incidents, including the 721 incident. Therefore, he ruled that the amended motion did not constitute a direct negation of the original motion.

117. Some Members did not agree with the Chairman's ruling. Mr Zachary WONG said he would move a motion to amend the amended motion.

118. The Chairman requested Members to take turns to speak, saying that Mr Zachary WONG would spend time to draft a motion to amend the amended motion.

119. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH said that he felt upset and disturbed by a spate of recent incidents. Although he was not in Hong Kong on 21 July, he received a large number of mobile phone text messages from friends asking him to help the young people suffering in the incidents. When he had grasped the situation, he requested the Chairman in writing the next day to call a special meeting at YLDC. He also wrote to the CE, requesting the formation of an independent inquiry commission, while at the same time writing to the IPCC, requesting a thorough investigation. He said he had disseminated a large number of leaflets, posters and banners, asking the Government to address the incident properly. While some people thought that he had reacted too strongly, he opined that he should take on this major issue without hesitation, and find out the truth expeditiously. However, there were doubts about the safety of Hong Kong after some members of the public were injured by fireworks deliberately shot at them outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station on 31 July. When he had learnt that a special meeting could not be convened at YLDC, he submitted a relevant agenda on 2 August together with Mr WONG Cheuk-kin for discussion of the incident at this District Council meeting. He was upset about Mr WONG Cheuk-kin's decision of not running in the next District Council election because of pressure. He hoped Hong Kong people could identify the way forward, and did not want to see the community plagued by intensifying dissension and mounting contradictions.

120. The Chairman reminded Members to be more mindful when discussing the 721 incident, saying that some people involved in a sequence of incidents for discussion had been arrested or prosecuted, and the legal proceedings for some of the cases were already underway. If Members commented on or described the incident, they might cause prejudice to judicial proceedings or even get themselves into legal trouble. He reminded the audiences to show respect when Members were speaking, and not to prevent the continuance of the meeting.

121. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP, said that he had written to the Chairman in the wake of the 721 incident, urging for a special meeting at YLDC but in vain. Discussion of the incident had been postponed until the meeting. He pointed out that the 721 incident had a material impact on Yuen Long. Many innocent people got wounded in the incident, and many shops in Yuen Long were closed early the following day, rendering the whole town a ghost town. He opined that there were deficiencies in how the Police handled the incident. Yuen Long Police District had an establishment of more than 1 000 officers. Although some of them had been deployed to handle the demonstrations in Western District on the night of the 721 incident, there should be sufficient numbers of police officers for deployment to the Yuen Long West Rail Station to handle the incident. When the Police received a report call, Emergency Unit officers should also head to the scene immediately. However, he learned from news clips that two uniformed police officers, who were the first to arrive at the scene that night, left after being called to provide assistance. He opined that they did not perform their duties properly. He said that police officers were professionally trained and equipped with a gun and their duty was to fight crime and protect citizens. It was obvious that the two officers lacked courage and failed to fulfill their responsibilities, in

comparison with their counterparts who bravely engaged in a gun battle with AK-47-wielding “King of Thieves” Yip Kai-foon in Kwun Tong. He did not think that the two officers would be attacked or subsequent disturbances would occur if they had stayed there to separate the two groups of people. He had written to the CE, requesting the establishment of an independent inquiry commission to investigate the incident, and to the IPCC, requesting the establishment of a task force on the incident.

122. Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH strongly condemned the violent attack on members of the public at the Yuen Long West Rail Station on 21 July. He remarked that the 721 incident aroused wide public concern in Yuen Long as the Police’s manpower deployment and work on that day far fell short of the expectations among the public. The Police should actively explain manpower deployment that night to the public and Members through the District Council as a platform to allay public concerns. He expressed his great regret and disappointment over the Police’s failure to give further comments on the 721 incident. A Member moved a motion asking the Government to set up an independent inquiry commission. He believed that the Government should be open-minded and consider all options that could help resolve the civil unrest. Moreover, under Section 7 of the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance, “Use of evidence in civil and criminal proceedings”, evidence given by any person before the Commission shall not be admissible against him in any civil or criminal proceedings by or against him. That meant the evidence and testimony used against the person could not be used again to pursue legal action against the witnesses in the future. He opined that the Ordinance suggested that the establishment of an independent inquiry commission might not help future prosecutions. He suggested that the mover of the motion provide a more detailed, specific proposal, so as not to affect follow-up approaches that could be adopted in the future. Also, the IPCC said earlier that it had invited five experts from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand to join it to study issues, such as the Police’s on-the-spot command and control from a macro perspective. He opined that if the IPCC conducted an investigation on its own initiative, it could also help to uncover the truth about the incident. As this approach had its own merits, the IPCC’s role should not be repudiated utterly. When the IPCC completed its investigative report on the incident, the Government could gauge public reaction and feedback and then decide whether to establish an independent inquiry commission or take other methods to probe the incident, with a view to meeting public expectations. There was no conflict or inconsistency between the two approaches. There had been concerns about the impartiality and terms of reference of the IPCC. He opined that this could be resolved by including more people from different political spectrums to expand the IPCC’s terms of reference. This could not only enhance the credibility of the investigative report, but facilitate the IPCC in the performance of its monitoring role in the long run. He opined that Members should also support the suggestion of setting up a task force if it could facilitate investigations and the arrests of people involved in the case. He pointed out that Hong Kong should not turn a blind eye to any unlawful acts and the Police should bring all violent lawbreakers to justice as soon as practicable.

123. Mr MAK Ip-sing branded the 721 incident as a terror attack, saying that he told the Police several times the intelligence which he received at about 10 a.m. on 21 July – some people would assault black-clad people and members of the public in the evening. The Police replied to him that they would have relevant deployment plans, but there were still more than 100 men dressed in white gathering in Fung Yau Street North and a cook passing by was severely beaten. The incident became international news. At 10:40 p.m. that night, when he had been told by members of the public that some white-clad men were attacking people at the Yuen Long West Rail Station, he immediately rushed to the scene and shouted at them to stop. They did not listen and intimidated him instead. Eventually, a reporter was beaten and no police officers were there until more than half an hour later. As the Police failed to deal with the 721 incident in a timely manner after repeated reports from the public, he moved a motion demanding the Government set up an independent inquiry commission to conduct thorough investigation into the incident. The Police condoned gangsters attacking civilians in the 721 incident, while assaulting passengers inside Prince Edward MTR Station on 31 August, in breach of their oath of office. The public had completely lost their confidence in them. He opined that the Police had to offer their apologies.

124. Mr Zachary WONG said that the 721 incident had made international headlines and the Police had become notorious for the “police-triad allusion”. According to CCTV footage, a large number of white-clad men armed with wooden rods gathered at the Kai Tei area in Yuen Long. The public found it outrageous that they did not even care about Police vehicles passing by nearby. He pointed out that the ranks of the Police representatives attending the meeting today were different from those in the past with the presence of only a “low-ranking Police official”. He wondered if both the Government and the Police had attached importance to the 721 incident. Moreover, he expressed his dissatisfaction with the Police for not responding to his earlier questions in writing about the 721 incident until one or two days prior to the meeting. He said the Police said nothing else in the reply, except for the number of persons arrested on the grounds of ongoing judicial proceedings. He had also prepared 30 additional questions concerning the 721 incident, and most of them requested the Police to make factual statements. He did not think the questions would affect the relevant legal proceedings, and hoped the Police could answer them.

125. Ms CHAN Mei-lin called the 721 incident shocking to the entire Hong Kong community, with innocent civilians assaulted by thugs. She demanded a full investigation of the incident. She said that the two trained, uniformed police officers put public safety at risk that night as they opted to leave the scene, although there were a lot of people at the Yuen Long West Rail Station in danger. She believed that if the two police officers stayed there, the thugs would have restrained themselves and civilians, such as elderly people and pregnant women, would not have suffered injuries in the attack. She opined that it would be unfair to Hong Kong people if the Government and the Police did not investigate the 721 incident thoroughly. She pointed out that it was quite reasonable to request the District Council to discuss the 721 incident and to demand the Police stringently enforce the law and apprehend the thugs. She hoped the public could analyse the incident with common sense. Whenever any members of the public felt physically threatened, the Police should uphold law and order and protect them, she said. She had requested YLDC to call a special meeting, but to no avail, although many residents had relayed to her that they still had fears for using the Yuen Long West Rail Station. She hoped the Police could give an account to the public and safeguard public safety.

126. Mr Jimmy MAN said that several Members had talked a lot about the white-clad people in their speeches while just casually mentioning the black-clad people. They were far from unbiased and objective, giving the impression of flavouring a particular side. He did not think that the Members should ask Police to enforce the law while at the same time accusing them of using excessive force, saying: “When you need help, you call Police; when you don’t need them, you call them black cops.” He opined that the existing severe dissension in the community was probably due to the misdirection of young people, students, parents and teachers. He had met with some mainland Chinese officials, one of whom revealed that the SAR Government was not allowed to use heavy weapons or live ammunition, nor to deploy the Chinese PLA Hong Kong Garrison when handling processions and demonstrations. He believed that if the Police inflicted casualties while taking law enforcement actions, it would deal a serious blow to investor confidence and, in a worst-case scenario, invite foreign financial predators to seize the chance to launch speculative attacks on Hong Kong. This would be detrimental to Hong Kong’s economy and financial market.

127. Ms WONG Wai-ling said that many things had happened in the community recently, such as violent incidents, and the situation was getting worse. She said that people of different stances had felt upset, worried and powerless. Apart from the 721 incident, violent activities, such as vandalism of Government facilities and offices of councillors, happened from time to time. She said that all forms of violence had to be stopped and the culprits had to be brought to justice as soon as practicable. On the other hand, she noted that a tense atmosphere had filled the community and the public had rarely talked

about politics or expressed their views for fear of hurting relationships. She said that the Government should seek to change the situation in Hong Kong, and that the Police had to strictly and fairly enforce the law in handling violent incidents, regardless of their scales, in order to restore public order.

128. Ms MA Shuk-yin said many members of the public had relayed to her that they had been affected by the recent social atmosphere. For example, an old lady reminded her family not to disclose to others that her daughter-in-law was a policewoman for fear of being doxxed or harassed. She also said a mother had accompanied her daughter in every single procession and demonstration lest she would commit radical and illegal acts. She believed that everyone should say no to violence and the Police should strictly enforce the law against all violent and illegal acts and arrest every offender. She suggested that the Government create platforms to mend social rifts and resolve problems in a peaceful and rational manner. She also said that the Police should take resolute enforcement actions against crimes and strengthen manpower to uphold law and order so that the public could live a safe life.

129. Mr LUI Kin, MH said the 721 incident was shocking, leaving dozens of people injured. He opined that any illegal and violent incidents, no matter what their motivations, should be given the severest form of condemnation, saying that there would be no social order if violence spread. He demanded that the Police arrest culprits behind the 721 incident, follow up with thorough investigation, and prevent similar occurrences in the future, so as to ensure public safety. He opined that, apart from white-clad men, black-clad people should also be condemned for their illegal acts. He pointed out that the demonstrations and disturbances arising from the opposition to the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance had not yet subsided since their eruption in June this year, causing great harm to society and widespread panic among the public. The situation in Yuen Long was no less serious. On the day after the 721 incident, shops in the district were closed earlier amid rumours that black-clad people might go on a rampage in Yuen Long. During the “Reclaim Yuen Long” rally on 27 July, almost all shops in Yuen Long Town were closed and residents were very concerned about the safety of their lives and properties. He believed that if Hong Kong was to get out of the woods, curbing all illegal, violent acts would be of paramount importance. Therefore, he supported the law enforcement actions by Police, and hoped that the disturbances would be put down expeditiously. On the other hand, he suggested that the Police set up a special task force to arrest the offenders involved in the multiple violent incidents in Yuen Long, including the assaulters in the 721 incident. He pointed out that the public queried the Police’s performance in handling the 721 incident, and opined that the IPCC had to find out the truth expeditiously. At last, he hoped that all sides would let go of their differences and find solutions to the political storm, such as setting up a dialogue platform to identify deep-rooted conflicts, so that Hong Kong could get back on the right track.

130. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen said that Hong Kong was being tormented by an unprecedented turmoil and social dissension. He pointed out that deep-seated conflicts had been simmering in Hong Kong even before the handover, but few people seemed to have noticed this. Prior to the 721 incident as well as other processions and demonstrations, he had reminded rural residents to exercise restraint and abide by the law to avoid conflict. He opined that political issues should be resolved politically, and that the Government should build a platform for dialogue to quell chaos. As social dissension was intensifying to affect family relationships, he hoped that all segments of the community would exercise tolerance and avoid an attitude of confrontation.

131. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP said the nature of the movement against the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance had evolved from peaceful expression of opinions into violent acts and even lingering social unrest, stoking fears among the public of black-clad people more than their white-clad counterparts. He, therefore, opined that condemning violence should be the

direction of the discussion at this meeting. He said that he had condemned the acts of the thugs in the 721 incident on different occasions, while the Police had publicly said they always stood against triads and would strive to track down the culprits. He criticised certain lawmakers for their labelling remarks about the Police, which caused the public to put the blame on the Police, while at the same time rationalising acts, such as attacks and vandalism of MTR facilities by black-clad men. He feared that violence might continue to escalate. On the other hand, he said that, in the live coverage of the night of 21 August, some Members were spotted at the Yuen Long West Rail Station, where the unrest occurred. Their presence might arouse suspicion that they might be associated with protesters or they were there to tip off protesters as to the Police's whereabouts, so that the latter could flee the scene. If that was true, it would be inappropriate. He opined that as District Councillors, they should maintain personal integrity and uphold the spirit of service to the community, and should not harbour lawbreakers.

132. A relevant Member demanded that Mr LEUNG Che-cheung produce evidence and clarify and retract his remarks. Mr LEUNG Chee-cheung responded that he had just reflected what he had seen in a live news report, saying that it was they who should clarify the matter themselves.

133. The Chairman said that the District Councils Ordinance had the effect of protecting Members in making speeches, but they should still abide by the laws of Hong Kong. He had carefully listened to Mr LEUNG Che-cheung's speech just now, and found it constituted no offence or insults. He said the so-called accusation by Mr LEUNG was only about some Members' presence at the scene, and that he suspected the Members of taking part in a demonstration. He said the Members could clarify the matter in the second round of speeches, and suggested that, if they believed Mr LEUNG had made a false allegation, they should seek legal advice and then decide whether to take further legal action.

134. Mr Ronnie TANG expressed great support for the Police. He said people with different political views had vilified the Amendment Bill for the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance, causing great fear in society. He believed that any dispute should be resolved through dialogue, and that no people with different political views should be labelled to avoid intensifying dissension within society. Furthermore, he pointed out that the city's 30 000-strong police force was not strong enough to cope with confrontations in various districts. He believed that, as long as the demonstrators did not gather to cause trouble, the Police did not need to show up to enforce the law. At last, he condemned all violent acts.

135. Hon KWONG Chun-yu said that on the night of the 721 incident, Police officers took more than 40 minutes to arrive at the scene after members of the public filed Police reports over the incident. One member of the public even received an impolite reply from a report room operator. He considered it very reasonable for him to request at the meeting the Police to clarify the incident. He remarked that CE Carrie LAM should be held fully responsible. People of different political stance all opined the Government had attempted to use the Police to solve political problems and torment frontline police officers, and not all police officers agreed with the Police's existing approach to dealing with demonstrators. On the other hand, he said that RTHK TV programme *Hong Kong Connection* had showed a clip of three police vehicles passing by a mob of men dressed in white on the night of the 721 incident but the police officers did not disembark to conduct surveillance. He queried if the Police had complete knowledge of the situation and deliberately created "A Day Without Policemen" that night. He hoped that the Police would remember their oath of office: "without fear of or favour to any person and with malice or ill-will toward none". The primary duty of the Hong Kong Police Force was fighting crime and protecting citizens, but he believed that some Police officers had breached their duty in the 721 incident. At last, he requested the Police to explain their failure to arrive at the scene of the 721 incident that night after many members of the public alerted them to this.

136. Mr KWOK Keung, MH said that demonstrators shouted slogan “Five demands, not one less”, but it was impossible for the Government to satisfy four of the demands. They were seeking to push Hong Kong into an abyss of destruction, which was a colour revolution with the aim of subverting the Chinese Communist Party regime. It would take a toll on many businesses and disrupt livelihoods, leaving many people unable to make ends meet. He believed that the public should no longer focus on the issue of who was right or wrong, and should instead work together and endorse the efforts made by the Government to continuously achieve effective governance, and by the Police Force to end violence and curb disorder. He called on all news media outlets in Hong Kong to uphold their professional standards of conduct and maintain impartiality, objectivity and truthfulness in reportage. They should not have their stands on issues or distort the truth to make stories newsworthy. Otherwise, they would undermine the Police’s law enforcement authority and create barriers for the Police in stopping violence and curbing disorder. He said that the riots, if not stopped, would give a hard blow to the economy and ruin the future of Hong Kong people, including young people.

137. Mr CHOW Wing-kan said that he, as a District Councillor, should show concern about how to restore peace to Yuen Long after the 721 incident, and about how to reduce violent confrontations between the Police and citizens and quell public anger at the Police Force. He pointed out that the wide coverage of the 721 incident by the international media had affected visitors’ desire to travel to Hong Kong and cast a negative impact on Hong Kong’s economy. On the other hand, he pointed out that the 721 incident had thwarted the peaceful reunification with Taiwan. He said the extensive coverage of the incident by Taiwanese media had affected confidence in “One Country, Two Systems”, while tarnishing Hong Kong’s international image. He suggested that the Police set up a task force to apprehend the thugs involved in the 721 incident and identify the culprit to allay public resentment. On the other hand, he said it was imperative to restore public confidence in the Police, and opined that each and every clash between the Police and citizens was avoidable.

138. Mr CHING Chan-ming said that he was upset about the 721 incident, saying that there had been online rumours before the 721 incident that black-clad people would rampage through villages in Yuen Long. While villagers stepped up efforts to defend against disturbances, the rural committee appealed to them to exercise restraint. After the 721 incident, it was the court that could decide who was right or wrong. On the other hand, he said that it was unfair that the media branded white-clad men involved in the 721 incident as gangsters and thugs, and opined that the media coverage was biased. He said that, in the wake of the 721 incident, some vehicles in a surrounding village were vandalised that night and some people almost lost their lives. The rural committee later called on the villagers to stay in Nam Bin Wai, exercise restraint and avoid clashes with others. On the other hand, he opined that news reporting should be fair and balanced and should not branded police officers as “black cops”. He believed that the Police could manage to stop rioters from causing further damage in Hong Kong. He opined that it was imperative to calm tensions, otherwise young people in Hong Kong would encounter thorny problems in the future.

139. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin said that he was not in a position to comment on a spate of violent incidents, including the 721 incident, because of their ongoing legal proceedings. He opined that nothing could be done about the situation, other than “stopping violence and curbing disorder”. He believed that something had to be done to de-escalate the situation as no one wished to see any casualties. On the other hand, he pointed out that restaurants in Hong Kong were the first to take the hit while retail, tourism and transport sectors had also been affected amid surges in unemployment and negative equity cases, coupled with extensive business closures, as a result of political instability. He suggested that the Government direct more resources to infrastructure projects and improve the environment in the community. He said that District Councillors served as links between the Government and local community, and he would be

committed to promoting harmonious ties between urban and rural residents, in the hope that peace would return to Hong Kong.

140. Ms YUEN Man-ye said that the turmoil arising from the opposition to the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance had lasted for more than two months. It had not only affected the daily life and mood of the public, but also the initiatives to improve the livelihoods of people. She pointed out that Yuen Long residents near Long Tin Road would continue to be disturbed by noise as the Legislative Council could not approve funding for retrofitting of noise barriers after vandalism on 1 July led to the suspension of its operations. She said that these political movements were having a direct impact on the daily lives of the public, and hoped that Members of the Legislative Council would show more concern about the problem of people's livelihood and serve the community.

141. Mr TO Ka-lun said that the 721 incident cast doubt on whether Yuen Long and even Hong Kong as a whole was still safe. He pointed out that a civilised society was built on fairness, impartiality and justice, but it was unfortunate that fairness and justice disappeared from Hong Kong. He believed that the Hong Kong Police Force was executing political tasks while acting as a shield to protect the SAR Government. The cause of the incident was politics, which would in turn affect people's livelihood. Jesus Christ said, "Man shall not live on bread alone." Regarding the 721 incident, some residents relayed to him that there were two police vehicles at Kam Tin Road near Ko Po Tsuen at about 10:00 p.m. that night. There were also about 10 police officers intercepting vehicles there. However, upon leaving Ko Po Tsuen at 10:15 p.m. they were not heading to the Yuen Long West Rail Station, but in the opposite direction. He hoped the Police would clarify the matter. He opined that this political turmoil began with CE Carrie LAM so she had to be held accountable and step down. Her governing team also had to be held accountable and they should assume the responsibility of investigating all incidents thoroughly. He called on the Police to exercise restraint in taking law enforcement action in order to avoid escalating violence.

142. Mr MAN Ka-koy said that some members of the public relayed to him that the demonstrations had affected their livelihoods and there were employees forced to take unpaid leave. If the wave of protests persisted, they might even face the risk of unemployment. He suggested that the Government introduce measures to boost employment. Moreover, as CE Carrie LAM earlier proposed the creation of a dialogue platform, he suggested that the plan be launched at the level of District Councils. When 18 District Councils had solicited views from members of the public, DC Members could relay the views to the CE. He believed that this could be more efficient than holding closed meetings, and allow District Councils to perform their functions more effectively.

143. Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH pointed out that peaceful demonstrations in recent months had turned violent. She opposed all violent acts and said that recent incidents had disrupted the values that Hong Kong people cherished in the past. She hoped the incident would come to an end shortly and peacefully. She pointed out that the public had queried the ways Police had resorted to in handling the 721 incident, and demanded the Police give an account. She believed the public still had some trust in the Police. For example, Members would still call the Police for help when their offices had been splashed red paint. On the other hand, she suggested the Police enhance manpower to cope with future confrontations, while at the same time creating a platform for dialogue to end conflicts peacefully.

144. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH said that the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions had taken a clear stance against violence and supported the Police in stopping violence and curbing disorder. He opined that it was inappropriate for the District Councils to discuss any incidents related to the opposition to the

proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance, saying they could not offer the right time or the right place to solve the problem amid escalating antagonism in society. Even if a special meeting was held, it could not help resolve conflicts. Moreover, he opined that there was room for performance improvement on the part of the Police and they could not be blamed unilaterally. The Police also had their own difficulties and concerns. On the night of the 721 incident, for example, the Police had to deal with large-scale demonstrations in other districts while the Police Hotline was too busy to answer calls for help. At last, he pointed out that DC Members' responsibility was to build communities but recent vandalistic acts had escalated to reach the community level. He believed that vandalism could not help the fight for demands.

145. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin said the Police maintained the rule of law and peace in Hong Kong and thus should not be condemned unreasonably. He believed that members of the public should take into account the difficulties encountered by the Police. For example, they had to put on full-body armour to maintain law and order. Bullying occurred among their family members, while police living quarters became targets for violent attacks. He pointed out that if the Police failed to enforce the law as usual, Hong Kong society would descend into chaos. On the other hand, he said that the cause of the 721 incident had rarely been talked about, and he learned from live news channels that some people, including a Legislative Councillor, had provoked white-clad men there. As many people had been arrested for the 721 incident, he believed they could not elude justice. He opined that if no one spoke up for the Police, the future of Hong Kong would become unthinkable.

146. Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP said that the most important thing to do in Hong Kong at the moment was to stop violence and curb disorder. He believed that people of different stances did not want violence to spread further, other than some people with ulterior motives who wanted Hong Kong to perish with themselves. He opined that society should not tolerate any violent acts and fully support the Police in strictly enforcing the law. He pointed out that the fierce and unlawful protests arising from the controversy over the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance had been going on for more than three months. In the face of numerous disturbances, the Police encountered difficulties in taking enforcement actions. Therefore, it was inevitable that their efficiency in law enforcement fell short of public expectations. He opined that the public should not discredit or point the finger at the Police at will, or they would cause great harm to Hong Kong. He pointed out that more than 30 people had been arrested since the 721 incident, with some of them charged with rioting. This reflected that the Police had enforced the law swiftly and fiercely. He hoped that the public would take a balanced view of the Police's performance in law enforcement. At last, he said the amended motion submitted just now was about opposition to any violence.

147. Superintendent Ms Liza LEE gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) As a representative of Yuen Long Police District, she hoped the effect of her speech would not be affected by her rank;
- (2) Most of the Members expressed concern about the 721 incident, and requested the Police to spare no effort to arrest the culprits, set up an independent inquiry commission and pay attention to the Police's manpower. As far as the 721 incident was concerned, the Police had so far arrested 32 suspects, four of whom had been charged with rioting. Investigation of the case had been referred to the Regional Crime Unit of New Territories North. On the other hand, as some members of the public had lodged applications for judicial review ("JR") in relation to the incident, the judicial proceedings for the incident had been underway. Therefore, speeches of Members might have an impact on the case, and it was not appropriate for the

Police to make further comments at this stage. She believed that details of the incident would be disclosed during court trials in the future;

- (3) During a large-scale demonstration in Yuen Long District on 27 July, 13 people were arrested for the offences of unlawful assembly, possession of offensive weapons and wounding. The Regional Crime Unit of New Territories North would follow up on the case;
- (4) The District Crime Squad of Yuen Long District was in the course of investigating a case involving the deliberate discharge of fireworks outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station on 31 July resulting in injuries to members of the public, and three suspects had been apprehended;
- (5) She said that the Police's bounden duty was to spare no effort to arrest offenders, and they would not relent in their fight against crime. Some Members' claim about collusion between Police and gangsters was a very serious and unfair accusation. Yuen Long Police District had done their utmost to combat triad activities. In the first half of this year, 461 persons were arrested in anti-triad operations for operating unlicensed gambling establishments, selling liquor without a licence and contravening the conditions of stay. A number of anti-triad operations were also launched in February and March respectively, leading to the arrests of 87 and 497 persons in connection with triad activities.

148. Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH expressed support for Members' request for the formation of a working group to investigate the 721 incident, saying that the District Council should give full play to its role and follow up on issues concerning Yuen Long residents. However, he pointed out that certain technical issues had to be addressed if a working group was established. First of all, as the current term of District Council was ending, its operation would be temporarily suspended. Therefore, there was simply not enough time to hold a meeting for discussion of the issue. On the other hand, as the working group had no statutory powers, it would have difficulty obtaining relevant information and would encounter difficulties in operation. As the legal proceedings for the incident were underway, he did not think the Police would disclose further details about the incident in a short period of time. If the technical problems mentioned above were resolved, he would support the formation of a working group to find out the truth about the incident.

149. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP said that the Police had so far arrested 32 persons in relation to the 721 incident and charged four of them with rioting. He enquired whether the remaining ones would also be charged with rioting. Moreover, regarding the fireworks attack outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station on 31 July, he requested the Police to charge people involved with offences that imposed a heavier penalty, saying that launching fireworks into a crowd was a serious crime. On the other hand, he expressed his opposition to any violent acts, saying that violence was not a solution to problems. As frequent violence outbreaks could push Hong Kong to a point of no return, all violent incidents had to be stopped with conflicts and disputes resolved through dialogue.

150. Mr Chow Wing-kan said that he had served the role as a mediator during a few confrontations in Yuen Long District, and believed that many Police-civilian clashes could be avoidable. He said if there were excessively high numbers of police officers at the scene or if they committed provocative acts, this would only aggravate tensions. For example, during the incident outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station on 31 July where fireworks were let off causing injuries, some Police officers received praise from people at the scene after politely asking them to dispel as far as possible to facilitate evidence search by the Police.

He believed that if the Police deployed appropriate manpowers and remained polite, there would be fewer Police-civilian clashes.

151. Mr KWOK Keung, MH clarified that he did not support “Five demands, not one less”, but agreed that the Government should stop the legislative amendment exercise regarding the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance to heed public views. He said the remaining four demands were unreasonable, and that he did not want the opposition camp to continue to take this opportunity to throw the city into chaos.

152. Mr Ronnie TANG requested the Police to investigate the 721 incident, saying white and black-clad people should both be the targets of the investigation. He pointed out that some black-clad people that night pretended to be ordinary people after changing their clothes and scolded white-clad people, led by a Legislative Councillor. This was followed by a scuffle between the two sides. Moreover, he cited a rumour that a reporter’s identity card could be obtained for \$150. He objected to calls for a special meeting at the Yuen Long District Council right after the 721 incident, saying that the public needed time to grasp and analyse a large volume of confusing information circulating widely online. Lastly, he opined that the “five key demands” were not practicable.

153. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH hoped that the Police would closely follow the incident of fireworks shot outside the Tin Shui Wai Police Station on 31 July causing injuries. He opined that the consequences of the incident could be serious, as things might get out of hand if the Police wrongly believed that the fireworks had been caused by firearms. Discharge of fireworks at the crowd might bring about a stampede. He said that the attack had been evidently premeditated as the suspect was driving a vehicle with a fake licence plate. He asked the Police to charge him with offences imposing a heavier sentence, in order to reassure the public. On the other hand, he wrote to the CE and the Independent Police Complaints Council (“IPCC”) after the 721 incident, explicitly requesting the formation of an independent inquiry commission and the apprehension of culprits. He would not support any amendment motions that did not include the two requests.

154. Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP said that demonstrators had taken to the streets and gone on a rampage in Yuen Long several times. He enquired about the number of demonstrators arrested by the Police so far and whether they outnumbered the assaulters arrested for the 721 incident. On the other hand, he opined that it was less useful for the District Council to set up a working group to probe the 721 incident, as the IPCC would do the job and hire overseas experts to assist them. Moreover, it would become less appropriate to set up a working group as the District Council would suspend operations soon.

155. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen said that he hoped the Government would create a dialogue platform, stop violence, curb disorder and restore calmness in society as soon as possible. He said that as demonstrations would affect Hong Kong’s economy, the Government and citizens had to join hands to safeguard the rule of law in order for the city to stabilise and prosper continuously.

156. Mr MAN Ka-koy said that the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”), as a bridge between the Government and the public, should relay his suggestion to the Government, that is, the District Councils of different districts should solicit the views of the public and relay them to the Government. Moreover, he suggested that the Police make improvements in the collection and dissemination of information so that the public could get real information. Otherwise, the Police might fail to provide satisfactory answers to questions from reporters at media sessions.

157. Mr Jimmy MAN said that external forces precipitated dissension within the community, and prevented China from taking back Taiwan by attacking “One Country, Two Systems”. Because of this, the United States could continue to sell arms to Taiwan to make profit while at the same time continuing to control Southeast Asia. He hoped young people in Hong Kong would not fall for it.

158. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH said that it was not the right time to convene meetings to address the current situation in Hong Kong. He hoped that social order could be restored as soon as possible to welcome the new school year, so as not to affect students’ learning.

159. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin said that some members of the public reported that the system for verifying the identity of journalists was too lenient, and hoped that there were other ways to verify their identity. On the other hand, he supported the Government's enactment of the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation.

160. Mr TO Ka-lun enquired about the criteria adopted by the Police to decide whether to record the identity card number of a person. He also asked whether the Police would do a review about the bad manners of a commander who was asked questions by the media on the night of 21 July. Moreover, he hoped the Police would respond how they thought some police officers branded protesters as “cockroaches”. On the other hand, he alleged that police officers had disrespected women while taking law enforcement actions. He also urged the Police to prevent the occurrence of sexual violent acts. He also said some parents relayed to him that some students had been intimidated by police officers as if the city were poised on the brink of declaring a curfew. He demanded the Police address the issues.

161. Mr Zachary WONG said the Police representatives at the meeting were unwilling to disclose details about the 721 incident on the grounds of ongoing legal proceedings. However, he believed that it was due to their ranks, saying that whenever the Police were holding a media session, there would be a chief superintendent who would respond to questions pertaining to cases whose legal proceedings were in progress. Moreover, he requested the Police representatives at the meeting to read out the Hong Kong Police oath: “I do solemnly and sincerely declare that I will well and faithfully serve the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region according to law as a Police officer, that I will obey uphold and maintain the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, that I will execute the powers and duties of my office honestly, faithfully and diligently without fear of or favour to any person and with malice or ill-will toward none, and that I will obey without question all lawful orders of those set in authority over me.”

162. Mr CHAN Sze-ching said, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.” Hong Kong people were lacking confidence and succumbing to fear-mongering. In the midst of fear, people would get angry and attack others, as only irrational anger could help them self-medicate against fear. Ingrained fear of mainland China among many Hong Kong people arose due to exaggerations from education, politics and the media, and could not be overcome in the short term. Even if the turmoil could be temporarily calmed, the problem could not be resolved at its roots. Friedrich Nietzsche said, “Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And if you gaze long enough into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.” Demonstrators, law enforcement officers and members of the public with different stances had all fallen into a cycle of hostility and irrational revenge. He cited the community where he resided as an example, saying that rumour-

mongering and smearing had happened almost every day. He said some people kept inciting hatred and made the community not the one as it was before. When you became evil to fight evil, you would become a greater evil than the evil itself, harming others through violence, destruction and rumours. He condemned all kinds of violence, including the 721 incident, and supported the Police in acting in accordance with the law, as well as the rule of law. He did not blindly support the Police, but supported the Police in upholding their professionalism while enforcing the law in accordance with the law. He said that rebuilding the rule of law was the only way to save Hong Kong. If the Police Force was disbanded or lost its law-enforcing capacity, or if the so-called “Hong Kong Communist Government” was toppled, there would be only one consequence: the Chinese Government would deploy the People's Liberation Army to safeguard sovereignty. If this happened, things would go out of hand and all sides would be losers. He remained open-minded on the establishment of an independent inquiry commission to investigate the turmoil, but first of all, any acts in breach of public peace had to be stopped and any violent illegal incidents had to be probed impartially.

163. Superintendent Ms Liza LEE gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) Some Members hoped the Police could severely punish persons arrested. To initiate a prosecution, the Police had to consider all evidence obtained by searches and consult the Department of Justice when necessary;
- (2) Regarding the incident on 31 July that the fireworks attack outside Tin Shui Wai Police Station left members of the public wounded, some Members suggested that the Police might have managed to ease public sentiment as long as appropriate manpower had been deployed to the scene. The Police said that about 200 people were besieging Tin Shui Wai Police Station that night, but the commander at the scene made relevant arrangements after having regard to the actual circumstances;
- (3) Police arrested a total of 104 people in the demonstrations in Yuen Long District on 27 July, 31 July, 5 August, 14 August and 21 August. As many as 78 people were arrested on 5 August alone. The Police would endeavour to stop violence and curb disorder and bring rioters to justice;
- (4) With regard to the suggestions for the Police to improve the collection and dissemination of information, the Police would strengthen communication with the public;
- (5) The effect of the speeches she made today on behalf of Yuen Long Police District would not be affected because of her rank, and the contents of speeches made by the Police would not be affected because of the ranks of the representatives;
- (6) Under the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 115, a police officer had power to inspect the proof of identity of any person; and
- (7) She clarified that it was not police officers who first called demonstrators “cockroaches” and emphasised that it was inappropriate to call others “cockroaches”, “black cops”, or “dog officials” by name.

164. Mr Enoch YUEN, JP thanked Mr MAN Ka-koy for his comments. The District Office served as a bridge for communication between the Government and the public, and would relay details of the meeting to relevant Government departments. If any relevant policy bureau hoped to create a local platform for dialogue in Yuen Long District, the District Office would make arrangements in due course.

165. Mr Zachary WONG pointed out that as the Police representative had just said that demonstrators would be “severely punished”, he enquired how the Police would “severely punish” them, although only judges could punish criminals. Moreover, as the Government was unwilling to set up an independent inquiry commission and the IPCC lacked credibility, he hoped that Yuen Long District Council would set up a working group to investigate the 721 incident. As the District Council would suspend its operations soon, some Members were worried that they would not have enough time to meet and discuss the 721 incident. He opined that as long as Members were determined to do so, they could get it done even if only one month was left.

166. Mr TO Ka-lun said he had been shocked by the Police’s claim that they would “severely punish” the people arrested, which seemingly implied that the Police would recklessly make arrests and use violence. He pointed out that Hong Kong people’s respect for police officers was subject to their performance, but according to different news clips, when members of the public yelled out “black cops”, police officers would throw back the insult and call them “cockroaches”. Some young people were even badly beaten by riot police. He requested the Police to explain such acts.

167. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH said that he could share the fear and anger with one of the victims of the 721 incident during their chats. The victim hoped that the Government would set up an independent inquiry commission to probe the 721 incident. He opined that there was more than one solution to a problem, while hoping the public could deepen reflection on the issue. He reiterated his support for the Police in stopping violence and curbing disorder.

168. Ms CHAN Mei-lin said that the social upheaval that erupted in Hong Kong society caused anxiety among the public, while the Police’s handling methods brought great fear to the public. For example, a member of the public relayed to him that her son suffered from a mood disorder because of the verbal rudeness and ill manners of police officers who stopped and searched him. She pointed out that the public had lost confidence in the Police because their absurd law enforcement performance had caused panic across the city. She demanded the Police stop using abusive force on subdued protesters, otherwise conflicts in society would not end.

169. Mr Ronnie TANG said that the Hong Kong Police Force was one of the world’s finest in terms of performance ability. He said the police acted with a high degree of restraint and tolerance in law enforcement at all times. He hoped that the public would not make sweeping statements about the Police.

170. Superintendent Ms Liza LEE gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) For the Police, as law enforcement officers, “severe punishment” referred, of course, to punishment by means of laws. She believed that the Members at the meeting who had mentioned “severe punishment” of people arrested all referred to the same thing;
- (2) She understood that not everything under the sun would go as one wished and the Police had done their utmost to deal with all relevant incidents. She said that the Police’s past efforts and everything achieved could not be dismissed just because of this particular incident, and hoped that the public would show understanding of the stress and challenges facing the Police;

- (3) She pointed out that the crime rate in Yuen Long District continued to decline, thanks to the efforts of her colleagues in Yuen Long Police District; and
- (4) She reiterated that the Police would strictly enforce the law and make every effort to arrest culprits.

171. The Chairman said that he had received an amendment to the amended motion, which was moved by Mr Zachary WONG and seconded by Mr TO Ka-lun. Details of the amendment to the amended motion were as follows:

"This Council strongly requests that:

- (1) The Government set up an independent inquiry commission to conduct thorough investigations into both the "anti-extradition to China" movement and the law enforcement of the Police since 9 June this year;
- (2) The IPCC conduct a full investigation into all accusations made by the Police to do justice to all sides;
- (3) The Police set up a task force to apprehend offenders involved in multiple violent incidents in Yuen Long, especially the indiscriminate attack on civilians at the Yuen Long West Rail Station on 21 July;
- (4) The Government create a dialogue platform as soon as practicable to sincerely communicate online and offline with different stakeholders from all sectors of the community, while exploring how to resolve the turmoil arising from the fugitive law amendment exercise and how to mend social rifts; and
- (5) A task force mainly composed of scholars be formed to conduct thematic studies on deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong society through extensive contacts with various stakeholders in the community and to make recommendations to the Government."

172. Mr LUI Kin, MH said that, in accordance with Standing Order 23, "The member who moved the motion but is unable to attend the meeting may appoint in writing another member to move the motion on his or her behalf with the approval of the Chairman." In accordance with the Standing Orders, therefore, the original motion could not be moved (or put to a vote) at the meeting as the original mover was not present at the meeting.

173. Mr Zachary WONG said that the amendment to the amended motion included "a request for the establishment of an independent inquiry commission", otherwise it was the same as the amended motion. If the Members who moved the amended motion opposed the amendment to the amended motion, it meant they were opposed to the formation of an independent inquiry commission.

174. Mr LUI Kin, MH said that if the original mover was absent from the meeting, it meant the original motion no longer existed and no amendment could be moved. He requested the Chairman to make a ruling to allow the amendment to be moved as a new motion.

175. Mr Zachary WONG said that as the Chairman had decided before the meeting to combine the

two original motions with other agenda items, it meant that the Chairman had accepted motions moved by Members before he would accept amended motions and further amended motions moved by other Members. When the original movers were present at the meeting, the Chairman accepted their motions before the discussion began. In the past, discussion and voting had also been conducted in the absence of the Members who moved the motions.

176. The Chairman said that it was a grey area that the Standing Orders did not clearly stipulate how an amendment moved would be dealt with in the absence of the Member who moved the original motion. He opined that there was no need to badger about procedural issues as the Secretariat had just notified him that the mover of the original motion, Mr MAK Ip-sing, would return to the meeting shortly.

177. Mr Zachary WONG opined that, in the absence of the original mover when the motion was to be put to the vote, Members could still proceed to voting. Standing Order 23 only required Members to be present at the meeting when they moved a motion.

178. Mr LUI Kin, MH opined that the process of moving a motion could be divided into two steps by reference to the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council. The first was to place the motion on the agenda, and the second was to put the motion to a vote. According to the Standing Orders of the District Council, a motion could be placed on the agenda and would be discussed at the meeting as long as notice of it was given to the Secretariat 14 working days prior to the meeting. Regarding the current procedure for putting a motion to a vote, as the original mover absent from the meeting did not appoint in writing another Member to put the motion to a vote on his behalf with the approval of the Chairman, there would be no Members who could propose a vote on the motion. Therefore, neither the original motion nor any amended motion could be put to a vote.

179. Mr Zachary WONG said that there were no provisions in the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council which required Members who moved a motion to be present at the meeting when the motion was put to a vote, but Members who proposed an amendment to the motion had to be present at the meeting before the amendment could be moved.

180. The Chairman opined that the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council did not apply to District Council meetings, and no reference of it was needed.

181. Ms WONG Wai-ling enquired whether there were any provisions in the Standing Orders that required Members who moved a motion or an agenda not to be away from a meeting for a certain period of time.

182. The Chairman said that there were no such restrictions in the Standing Orders, and whether such restrictions should be imposed would be left for discussion in the next term of the District Council.

183. Mr MAK Ip-sing said that he opposed the amended motion, saying that nothing in it came from the original motion moved by him. He then read out his original motion, and hoped that Members would support it.

184. Mr LUI Kin, MH said that he agreed with the Chairman that the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council did not apply to District Council meetings. However, he hoped that Members could read the District Council Standing Orders carefully. According to the provisions in the Standing Orders pertaining to motions, the provisions for moving a motion and voting on a motion were set out in Orders 18 and 23. In other words, the Chairman needed to have the relevant motion discussed at the meeting in accordance with Order 18. However, as the original mover was absent from the meeting and he failed to appoint another Member to move the motion, the Chairman should have immediately cancelled voting on the original motion together with any amendments in accordance with Standing Order 23. He opined that the Chairman failed to make a timely decision regarding this.

185. Mr Zachary WONG opined that as Members of the pro-establishment camp were very afraid of voting on the motion, they might as well be honest, and voice their objection to the formation of an independent inquiry commission. However, none of them had the courage to say it.

186. The Chairman ruled that the amendment to the amended motion did not constitute a direct negation of the amended motion. He said that the amendment to the amended motion would first be put to a vote.

187. Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH requested Members to discuss the amendment to the amended motion, so that Members could express their views on the motion more clearly.

188. The Chairman believed that the biggest difference between the amendment to the amended motion and the amended motion was: “the Government set up an independent inquiry commission to conduct thorough investigations into both the ‘anti-extradition to China’ movement and the law enforcement of the Police since 9 June this year.” He said that if Members found it necessary to discuss this, he would allow each of them to speak for one minute.

189. Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH thanked the Chairman for allowing Members to speak. He supported the view that the IPCC should complete an investigative report on the incident so that the Government could gauge the public’s response and opinions and consider the formation of an independent inquiry commission. He did not oppose the formation of an independent inquiry commission, but opined that the IPCC should first perform its functions of investigating each and every complaints and accusations against the Police. He said he would abstain from voting on the amendment to the amended motion.

190. Mr CHAN Sze-ching reiterated his openness to the establishment of an independent inquiry commission in response to the turmoil, as long as the community returned to peace. He hoped that the Members who moved the amendment to the amended motion would agree to include this opinion in the motion.

191. Mr LEE Yuet-min, MH proposed to change “anti-extradition to China” in the amendment to the amended motion to “opposition to proposed amendments to Fugitive Offenders Ordinance”. He enquired about the scope of the investigation of the independent inquiry commission as mentioned in the motion.

192. Mr Zachary WONG said that the amendment to the amended motion which he moved did not propose when the independent inquiry commission should be set up, but he only considered it necessary in principle to form such a commission to conduct a thorough investigation into different incidents. He reiterated that the amendment to the amended motion came with an additional clause of “requesting the formation of an independent inquiry commission”, and the other parts of it were no different from the amendment. If any Member who moved the amended motion voted against the amendment to the amended motion, that meant that they opposed the formation of an independent inquiry commission. On the other hand, he said that Members of the pan-democratic camp would vote against the amended motion when it was put to a vote if the amendment to the amended motion was voted down.

193. Mr YIU Kwok-wai MH said that he considered “stopping violence and curbing disorder” a matter of urgency, but in the amendment to the amended motion, the important part of “support the Police in stopping violence and curbing disorder” was deleted. He said he would vote against the amendment to the amended motion.

194. Mr LUI Kin, MH pointed out that the amendment deleted a paragraph from the amended motion, which was: “This Council supports the Police in stopping violence and curbing disorder in accordance with the law, while urging the Government to take effective measures immediately to calm the unrest and restore social order as soon as possible in order to avoid injuries or even loss of life among the public.” As this core message had been deleted from the amendment to the amended motion, he would not support it.

195. The Chairman invited Members to vote on the amendment to the amended motion by a show of hands with their names recorded. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr TO Ka-lun and Mr Zachary WONG supported the amendment. Mr CHING Chan-ming, Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH, Mr KWOK Keung, MH, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen, Mr LEUNG Ming-kin, Mr LUI Kin, MH, Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Mr MAN Ka-koy, Mr Jimmy MAN, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr TANG Cheuk-yin, Mr. TANG Hing-ip, BBS, Mr TANG Ka-leung, Mr Ronnie TANG, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH, Mr YOUNG Ka-on and Ms YUEN Man-yea opposed the amendment. Mr CHAN Sze-ching and Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun MH abstained from voting.

196. The Chairman announced that the amendment to the amended motion had been voted down by an absolute majority of votes with seven in favour, 22 against and two abstentions.

197. The Chairman invited Members to vote on the amended motion by a show of hands with their names recorded. Mr CHAN Sze-ching, Mr CHING Chan-ming, Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH, the MH, Mr KWOK Keung, MH, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen, Mr LEUNG Ming-kin, Mr LUI Kin, MH, Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Mr MAN Ka-koy, Mr Jimmy MAN, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr TANG Cheuk-yin, Mr TANG Hing-ip, BBS, Mr TANG Ka-leung, Mr TANG Yung-yiu, Ronnie, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH, Mr YOUNG Ka-on and Ms YUEN Man-yea supported the motion. Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr TO Ka-lun and Mr Zachary WONG opposed the motion. Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH abstained from voting.

198. The Chairman announced that the amended motion had been passed by an absolute majority of

votes with 23 in favour, six against and one abstention. In accordance with Standing Order 20, the amended motion, after being passed, would replace the original motion, and the original motion would not be put to a vote.

199. The Chairman said that the consolidated agenda included another motion which was moved by Mr Zachary WONG, and was seconded by Mr TO Ka-lun. The full text of the motion was as follows:

“Requesting the formation of a working group to review the 721 terror attack where white-clad thugs launched an indiscriminate attack on civilians at Yuen Long West Rail Station”

On the night of 21 July this year, a mob of white-clad thugs indiscriminately attacked members of the public at the Kai Tei area of Yuen Long District and inside and outside Yuen Long West Rail Station, causing great panic among the public. At that time, members of the public and we alerted the Police several times, but no police officers arrived there. According to CCTV clips of a nearby shop as broadcast by a television station, some police officers passed the Kai Tei area on police vehicles three times (when a large number of white-clad men armed with wooden sticks and rattan canes gathered there) and brushed past the white-clad men. It was baffling why the police officers did not get out of the vehicles to conduct surveillance. A few hours later, the white-clad thugs attacked twice commuters who had taken West Rail trains and alighted at Yuen Long Station, before they left the scene unhurriedly. Then, a large number of anti-riot police officers arrived. This caused an uproar among Hong Kong public, followed by allegations of collusion between the police and triad members. The Police’s subsequent explanations and officer attitudes have rendered the incident even incomprehensible. Therefore, we move a motion that the District Council set up a provisional working group to follow up and discuss the case.”

200. Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH expressed support for YLDC to set up a working group to investigate the 721 incident, but opined that there were many unproven descriptions or opinions in the original motion.

201. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH expressed support for YLDC to form a working group to investigate the 721 incident, but did not endorse the descriptions and opinions in the motion on the 721 incident. He said that if conclusions were drawn before investigation was conducted, it would be against the original intent of setting up an investigative working group.

202. The Chairman said that he had just received a motion for amendment which was moved by Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, and seconded by Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun, MH. The full text of the amended motion was as follows:

“This Council requests Yuen Long District Council to set up a working group to review the 721 violent incident at Yuen Long West Rail Station”

203. Mr Zachary WONG requested Members who moved the amended motion to explain the purpose of setting up a working group.

204. Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP opined that as judicial proceedings for the 721 incident were

underway, coupled with the possibility of perverting the course of public justice, there was no room for discussion on the incident, even if a working group was formed.

205. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH suggested that a working group be set up to follow up and understand the details of the 721 incident, such as the white-clad men's motive of attacking members of the public, in the hope of finding out the truth and dispelling doubts among the public. He did not think the amended motion clashed with the original motion.

206. Mr Zachary WONG Wai-yin, said that although the amendment deleted most of the details in the original motion, their demands were the same: a working group should be set up to investigate the 721 incident. He said Members of the pan-democratic camp would support the amended motion.

207. The Chairman invited Members to vote on the amended motion by a show of hands with their names recorded. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr TO Ka-lun, Mr Zachary WONG and Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun MH supported the motion. Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam, Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen, Mr LEUNG Ming-kin, Mr LUI Kin, MH, Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Mr MAN Ka-koy, Mr Jimmy MAN, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr TANG Cheuk-yin, Mr. TANG Hing-ip, BBS, Mr TANG Ka-leung, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH, Mr YOUNG Ka-on and Ms YUEN Man-yea opposed the motion. Mr CHAN Sze-ching, Mr CHING Chan-ming and Mr Ronnie TANG abstained from voting.

208. The Chairman announced that the amended motion had been voted down by an absolute majority of votes with eight in favour, 20 against and three abstention. As the amended motion was rejected, the original motion would be put to a vote.

209. The Chairman invited Members to vote on the original motion by a show of hands with their names recorded. Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr TO Ka-lun and Mr Zachary WONG supported the motion. Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam, Mr CHING Chan-ming, Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen, Mr LEUNG Ming-kin, Mr LUI Kin, MH, Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Mr MAN Ka-koy, Mr Jimmy MAN, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr TANG Cheuk-yin, Mr. TANG Hing-ip, BBS, Mr TANG Ka-leung, Mr Ronnie TANG, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH, Mr YOUNG Ka-on and Ms YUEN Man-yea opposed the motion. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH and Vice Chairman Mr WONG Wai-shun MH abstained from voting.

210. The Chairman announced the original motion had been voted down by an absolute majority of votes with five in favour, 22 against and two abstentions.

211. The Chairman concluded that YLDC condemned any violent incidents, and hoped that the Police would enforce the law strictly. As a sequence of violent incidents had affected Hong Kong people's livelihood and the economy, and if this situation persisted, tides of business closing down and unemployment would appear one after another. Therefore, the majority of Members hoped the Government could calm the unrest, resolve contradictions and achieve consensus through dialogue as soon as practicable.

Item XI: Question from DC Members: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr LUI Kin, MH, Mr KWOK Keung, MH, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Ms WONG Wai-ling and Ms MA Shuk-yin proposed to discuss “a request that the Policy Address offer all-round support for the public”

(YLDC Paper No. 63/2019)

212. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 63, which was “a request that the Policy Address offer all-round support for the public” proposed for discussion by Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP, Mr LUI Kin, MH, Mr KWOK Keung, MH, Mr SIU Long-ming, MH, Ms WONG Wai-ling and Ms MA Shuk-yin. The Chairman also asked Members to take note of the replies from the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (“FSTB”), Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”), Development Bureau (“DevB”), Transport and Housing Bureau (“THB”) and Labour and Welfare Bureau (“LWB”). The Chairman said that representatives from the FSTB, FHB and THB were absent from the meeting due to other official commitments. He invited the following department representatives to respond to Members’ questions:

Social Welfare Department

District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long)

Ms CHU Wing-yin, Diana

Lands Department

Manager/Squatter Control (New Territories West2) (Squatter Control/New Territories West (2) Office)

Mr HUI Kwai-sing

213. Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP said the Government would announce the Policy Address in October and the CE was now collecting public views from various channels. He hoped department representatives would relay the suggestion in this question and the details of discussion to the CE. He held that some people showed discontent and distrust towards the Government amid the worsening social atmosphere, but he hoped the Government would not ignore the livelihood of the people, and would heed the views of the local community. In Yuen Long, there were relatively more squatters which were mainly scattered in rural areas. Squatter occupants often received notifications from the LandsD on unauthorised extensions and change of building materials of their squatter structures. However, most squatter occupants were elderly people who were unable to take follow-up action because they did not understand the existing squatter control policy. As a result, the Squatter Control Survey records were cancelled. With the demolition of more than 6 000 squatters in the New Territories regardless of housing scarcity, residents would lose their homes or the need for housing resources might emerge, intensifying housing shortage in Hong Kong. In his opinion, the Government should improve the squatter control policy to allow squatter occupants to make alterations using more quality building materials or give them sufficient time to remove the extensions.

214. Mr LUI Kin, MH said the controversy over the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance had not yet been settled. He held that not only was it a political controversy, it also reflected the economic and social conflicts that had existed for along. Therefore, the Government should step up efforts to tackle livelihood issues. With a population influx of younger age groups into Yuen Long District, the housing demand would be higher. He advised that the Government develop land to increase housing supply. On the other hand, he proposed that the Government provide “living allowance for public rental housing (“PRH”) applicants” for private accommodation tenants who had been on the waiting list for more than three years and passed the asset tests, but the THB had indicated that the suggestion would not be adopted. He said the Government should take the advice because failing to tackle housing problems would only cause public discontent. Furthermore, he was concerned about people aged 60 to 64 (“silver-aged”) in the society. Pointing out that the general retirement age in the

society was 60 and elderly people aged older than that had difficulty seeking jobs, he suggested that the concession of Senior Citizen Cards be extended to cover the silver-aged. Lastly, he suggested that the Government implement measures so that young people would line up with the community and acknowledge the work of the Government.

215. Ms WONG Wai-ling said the recent social events reflected that the public from all camps considered Government's administration unsatisfactory and there was much room for improvement. Therefore, the Government should listen to public demands and voices from the community to introduce corresponding measures. Having to wait for six years or more for a PRH flat, many people were forced to live in a crowded area or even sub-divided units with their family. In light of this, she held that the Government had to increase housing supply and provide allowances. Also, she pointed out that the Government made slow progress in implementing district-specific policies. For example, the Departments took much time to build a public market in Tin Shui Wai and the walkway cover from Tin Shui Estate to Tin Wah Estate were yet to be finalised after a long time. She advised that the Government expedite the processing of district works to meet the demands of residents. She also hoped the Government would implement the policies in the Policy Address and all Departments would support to the Government's initiatives.

216. Mr MAK Ip-sing said he had raised that the amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance would affect the economy of Hong Kong when the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury ("SFST") met with YLDC Members during his visit in April 2019. The SFST's failure to listen to his voice eventually sparked the recent series of social events. The economic downturn in Hong Kong was mainly attributable to the Sino-American trade war. He said the Government should have foreseen the economic downturn but had not taken any remedial measures. In view of that, he made two suggestions. Firstly, the Government needed to revive the economy by providing a cash allowance of \$10,000 to the public to stimulate spending. He said that some people had not yet received the allowance of \$4,000 from the Caring and Sharing Scheme introduced by the Government earlier on, so the allowance should be granted speedily and efficiently this time. Next, the solution to the current social problems was to announce the reactivation of constitutional reform and the implementation of dual universal suffrage in the Policy Address to resolve social conflicts out of different opinions by voting. He opined that Hong Kong could not stay immune to democratic development which was prevalent in the international arena.

217. Ms LAU Kwai-yung said a series of protests and violent incidents triggered by the amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance had brought unease and dissension within the society. She noted recently that some people were laid off and were worried about their mortgage repayments, so they hoped that measures to relieve the burden of the people would be announced in the Policy Address. She also suggested that the Government set up home starter loan to address the concern of some parents on the difficulty their children encountered in buying houses. Besides, she proposed that the Government increase housing supply, saying that many people were struggling with housing problems which might lead to other social problems. Apart from the above, she pointed out that many young people would like to rent an accommodation themselves but they found the rents hardly affordable. Hence, she recommended that the Government consider making the "living allowance for PRH applicants" available to relieve their financial burden. In response to the living needs of senior citizens, she proposed that the eligible age for Old Age Allowance be lowered to 65 and Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme be extended to cover other mainland cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. She believed that this would help alleviate the pressure on the healthcare system in Hong Kong.

218. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH said, as stated by another Member earlier, some citizens had to take no-pay leave or even became unemployed. Therefore, he believed that the Hong Kong economy would

enter a recession, which should be tackled by the Government. The recent social events mirrored the problems faced by young people currently and he, as a member of the Youth Development Commission, considered that the demands of young people from various age groups and backgrounds differed. He pointed out that there was a dire need for the Government to step up its district work, citing transport challenges faced by young people who were required to travel a long way to work and made to labour for long hours. They even had to go home by more expensive overnight buses that spent more time on the road. Although he had repeatedly voiced out the problem, the bus operators had not improved the services, claiming that patronage was low. He considered that the people would be discontented with the Government if it failed to satisfy their demands. The Government should provide multi-facet support to the people by a change in its policy strategies to overcome hardship together.

219. Mr CHING Chan-ming said that amid the territory-wide housing problem, squatter occupants did not compete for housing resources with other people. However, when their squatters were demolished, the LandsD did not provide them with any public rental housing (“PRH”) or allowances. Therefore, he hoped the LandsD would put the squatter control policy on halt. In its last year’s Policy Address, the Government announced that modular housing would be built to increase housing supply, but at the same time squatters would be demolished, running counter to the policy of increasing housing supply. He hoped to meet with DevB representatives to discuss how to handle the squatter issue as soon as possible. In addition, the Heung Yee Kuk had discussed with the CE and understood that she intended to develop modular housing in the New Territories to ease people’s temporary housing needs shortly. As the PRH waiting time was ten years, he hoped the Government would address the housing problem expeditiously. In the face of land shortage, he opined that the Government should not rely on reclamation only because it could resume land if land owners were offered reasonable compensation. The Government should also improve the planning of infrastructure such as transport network when carrying out land development.

220. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin hoped short term and medium term measures could be introduced in the Policy Address. In Yuen Long District, several problems had to be addressed, including planning of ancillary transport facilities and building of international schools and tertiary institutions. In support of PRH development by the Government, he suggested that the Government draw on the design of urban villages under public-private partnership in Shenzhen and discuss with villagers the feasibility of jointly developing PRH and village houses in rural areas. At present, the Government had started revitalising village schools but most of these schools were sold for residential development. For instance, a developer had constructed high-rise residential buildings on the bid site of a village school in Shap Pat Heung. He held that the Government should turn the village school site into a recreation centre to connect people of different age groups in the society. Moreover, he proposed that the Government launch policies to support small and medium enterprises (“SMEs”) in tourism, retail and public transport industries. He also supported the Government to undertake to construct youth hostels expeditiously. Lastly, the squatter control policy formulated by the Government in 1982 had become obsolete. He proposed that the Government conduct a new round of registration of the squatters’ area and building materials.

221. Ms YUEN Man-yee said the current PRH waiting time was five years or more and most families relied on only one member as the single source of income. Therefore, she suggested that the Government set up a “living allowance for PRH applicants”. Apart from that, she was concerned about the needs of the silver-aged between 60 and 64. While most of them were no-income elders more vulnerable to diseases but not yet eligible for health care vouchers (“HCVs”) and withdrawal of Mandatory Provident Fund (“MPF”), she believed that extending the concession enjoyed by elderly people aged 65 or above to the silver-aged could help alleviate their financial burden.

222. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH hoped the Policy Address in 2019 could provide sufficient economic support for the public. Although this might not be able to resolve the current political issue, but could possibly calm people's minds. Also, he hoped to reflect the following views to the CE for her reference through the DC. Firstly, Tin Shui Wai Hospital was understaffed so the hospital beds were not fully utilised. Secondly, there was room for improvement for HCVs. Thirdly, the Department had not finalised the details of the public market in Tin Shui Wai. Fourthly, he suggested that residents in remote areas be granted more transport fare subsidies. Fifthly, he proposed that allowances be provided for PRH applicants who had waited for more than three years to reduce their burdens. Lastly, since the Government had sufficient surplus, he proposed that asset tests for Normal Old Age Living Allowance be exempted. He hoped the CE would take his advice and implement measures that would benefit the public.

223. Mr Zachary WONG supported the recommendation in the question and agreed with Mr MAK Ip-sing's suggestion of increasing the cash allowance to \$10,000. However, he held that political issues should be politically resolved. Providing cash allowance for the public could not solve any political problems. At present, different groups in the society, such as Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong ("DAB"), shared the same view that political problems should be addressed through political means. He believed that the current political issue could not be resolved if the Government did not address the five demands by the people. On the other hand, the CE was supposed to be the highest decision-maker of Hong Kong but as revealed in the recently leaked recording, she neither had the choice to quit nor to withdraw the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance, and he was puzzled. Lastly, he agreed that the Government had to introduce policies that could benefit the people, but reiterated that political problems needed political solutions, urging the CE to think carefully again.

224. Ms CHAN Mei-lin said the Hong Kong's economic downturn was not newly emerged. In recent years, the high rents of properties and shops led to a surge in prices. However, wages that could not catch up with inflation and increased rates of public utilities had caused people hardship. She opined that the foundation of the prosperity of Hong Kong was a stable society but the current political environment had made people's lives difficult. Therefore, she called on the CE for addressing the root cause of the political issue expeditiously. As regards housing, the number of public housing built by the Government decreased to some 10 000 in the previous year, far from meeting the demand for the PRH. In short, the Government should increase housing supply, re-launch the Tenants Purchase Scheme, and provide rent allowances for PRH applicants as soon as possible. On the other hand, rates and government rents became burden to elderly people residing in private properties without any income. For elderly people aged 60 to 64 who were ineligible for Old Age Living Allowance, she suggested that the Government extend the elderly welfare benefits to cover this group. Regarding medical services, she pointed out that all hospitals reaching saturated capacity put those healthcare professionals under great stress. She proposed that the Government increase resources and staffing to ease the pressure on the medical staff and cope with the medical needs of the ageing population in the future. Lastly, she raised the problem of high transport fares between Yuen Long and the city centre, proposing that the Government adjust the Public Transport Fare Subsidy to support the public.

225. Mr TO Ka-lun had further comments on the measures proposed in the question. Regarding the housing problem, he recommended that PRH applicants who had waited for more than a year be eligible for the "living allowance for PRH applicants". He also suggested adjusting the average waiting time ("AWT") target from around three years to one or two years and extending the support coverage of the Operation Building Bright 2.0 from buildings aged 50 or above to buildings aged 25 or above. Since he was worried that sub-divided units would be getting smaller in the future, he proposed that the Government set a minimum standard for per capita floor area of accommodation. In terms of financial support, he suggested that the amount of cash allowance for the public be raised from \$8,000 proposed in

the question to \$ 32,000 and the tax deduction limit for home rental for taxpayers without any self-owned properties be increased from \$100,000 proposed in the question to \$200,000. To address the difficulties encountered by students in repaying financial assistance, he suggested that repayment of tuition fee loans be waived. For medical services, he advised that overseas doctors have to pass examinations under the existing system and examinations of conduct before registration and practice in Hong Kong. As regards the proposal to raise the asset limits of Old Age Living Allowance and Higher Old Age Living Allowance to \$800,000 and \$300,000 respectively in the Members' question, he recommended raising them to \$1,500,000 and \$500,000 respectively, and lowering the eligible age for Old Age Allowance to 60.

226. Ms Diana CHU from the Social Services Department ("SWD") thanked Members for their advice and gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) The written reply from the LWB had mentioned the arrangements of the public transport fare concessions and social security for the elderly. For Old Age Living Allowance, the Government had introduced enhancement measures in 2017 and 2018;
- (2) At present, the Government provided elderly people aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities with public transport fare concessions that benefited about 1.3 million people. Considering that the Government would significantly increase in its future spending on coping with the ageing population, the Department would continue to pay close attention to the needs of the society and strike a balance between the two; and
- (3) The Department had noted and would relay to the Bureau Members' suggestion of extending the coverage of Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme to other mainland cities.

227. Mr HUI Kwai-sing from the LandsD said the DevB had given Members a written reply on the squatter control policy for their reference. He would also reflect Members' views on the squatter control policy to the LandsD for review.

228. Mr LUI Kin, MH said Mr Zachary WONG had mentioned DAB's proposal to address political problems with a political approach so that the Hong Kong Police would not be put in a dilemma. He clarified that DAB had not made the above speech, hoping that Mr WONG would retract his earlier remark.

229. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin said he had recently received a case from a five-member squatter family in Ng Ka Tsuen whose squatter had been extended. As they did not follow up the issue immediately after receiving the LandsD's letter, their squatter survey number was cancelled. He said the family had been on the PRH queue for seven years but had not been assigned a flat. He hoped the Department would exercise discretion in handling this case under the existing squatter control policy.

230. Mr TANG Ka-leung said that people lived in the unauthorised squatter houses, despite the poor environment, in order to be put on the PRH waiting list. At present, the PRH waiting time was 6 years or longer. Knowing that squatter occupants in Lau Fau Shan often received removal orders from the LandsD, he hoped the Department would review the squatter control policy based on a people-oriented approach and not to overlook the housing needs of residents. He also requested the Department to give an account of how to rehouse residents whose squatters had been abolished.

231. Ms LAU Kwai-yung said Mr Zachary WONG had indicated earlier that political issues should be addressed at a political level, but she said under the current political circumstances, it was difficult to solve the problems. She knew that the adversities faced by the people would be unemployment and economic recession, but these people did not want to live on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”). She opined that the measures proposed in the question would not genuinely solve the problems, saying that the Government should launch initiatives that could actually relieve the hardship of the people.

232. The Chairman concluded that Hong Kong was facing internal and external problems at the moment. The Sino-American trade war persisting for a year and the social unrest brought about by the proposed amendments to the FOO affected Hong Kong’s economy. During the discussion, Members had made suggestions in various aspects, including housing, healthcare, elderly services, personal allowances, etc. He intended to reflect Members’ views to the Government, and hoped the Government would announce pragmatic long-term policies and short-term measures in the Policy Address to alleviate people’s hardship.

Oral declarations by Members

(I) Oral declaration by Mr TO Ka-lun

233. The Chairman invited Mr TO Ka-lun to make his oral declaration within a time limit of two minutes.

234. Mr TO Ka-lun made an oral declaration as follows:

I would like to share a passage from the Bible with all of you. It was quoted from the Old Testament book of Habakkuk, and Habakkuk was a servant of God. The below was written in Habakkuk Chapter 1 Verse 2:

“How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted. Look at the nations and watch — and be utterly amazed. [...]Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?”

Five calamities were pointed out in one single chapter and one of them referred to the plundering of other nations by a territory and *“the peoples who are left will plunder you. For [...] you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.”*

(II) Oral declaration by Mr Zachary WONG

235. The Chairman invited Mr Zachary WONG to make his oral declaration within a time limit of two minutes.

236. Mr Zachary WONG made an oral declaration as follows:

The following was written in Psalm 1: *“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose*

delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.”

**Item XIII: “Yuen Long District Spring Reception 2020” co-organised by YLDC and Yuen Long District Office
(YLDC Paper No. 64/2019)**

237. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 64, which was about the invitation extended to the YLDC by the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”) to co-organise the “Yuen Long District Spring Reception 2020” to be held on the afternoon of 6 February 2020 (Thursday) (i.e. the thirteenth day of the Lunar New Year) at the hall of Yuen Long District Community Services Building. The total estimated expenditure was \$80,000. It was proposed that \$40,000 of the expenditure would be sponsored by the YLDC funds and \$40,000 would be covered by the YLDO. In addition, the YLDC was invited to nominate one or two Members to give advice on the preparatory work of the above event on behalf of YLDC. The Chairman asked for Members’ views on the above suggestion.

238. Mr Zachary WONG said as discussed earlier, there were many livelihood problems that had to be tackled with public money, so he recommended saving expenses on non-livelihood-related areas. He considered spending \$80,000 on a spring reception to be expensive. In the past, spring receptions were held by hiring the Yuen Long Theatre which had all along been operational. He held that the Government should not pay for the carpet cleaning fee at the venue. Besides, he enquired if it was feasible to lower the estimated expenditures on ceremonial items and stage and venue set-up, which were \$8,000 and \$15,000 respectively. He said the aim of organising spring receptions was to offer Members, local personalities and department representatives an opportunity to exchange their blessings, suggesting that the budget should be as low as possible to save spending.

239. The Chairman asked the Secretary to respond to the Member’s view.

240. Ms Cindy PANG, the Secretary said the budget was drawn up based on actual needs. She said the event could drive forward the economy and lobbied Members’ support for the event.

241. Mr CHING Chan-ming agreed with Mr Zachary WONG, but pointed out that the current budget set by the Department did not represent the actual expenses. He proposed that the budget be endorsed first and the Department should strive to cut down the expenses.

242. The Chairman said that if the above proposal could not be passed at this meeting, which was the last meeting of this DC term, the traditional new year event of the district could not be held next year. Moreover, the Chairman agreed with what was stated by Members. Apart from saving public money, he was concerned about environmental issues. He shared his experience of attending a paperless graduation ceremony at a school. For instance, no invitation cards or backdrops were printed and the programmes were accessed by scanning the QR code. The Chairman proposed that an allocation of \$40,000 to subsidise the event be endorsed first. In the meantime, he urged the YLDO to adopt suggestions to cut down the spending and promote environmental protection.

243. Mr Enoch YUEN, JP thanked the Chairman and Members for their views. He also agreed with the Chairman, saying that issuing some of the invitation cards electronically by YLDO would reduce the expenses on design and printing. Moreover, with the spring reception in 2020 taking place at Yuen Long District Community Services Building where an electronic backdrop would be provided, the Department would have saved the relevant expenses. Lastly, he said the expenditure items listed in the Paper were only estimations and the spending would be based on actual needs. He asked Members to support the event and endorse the allocation so that the traditional event would continue next year.

244. The Chairman sought Members' views on the proposals in paragraphs 3 and 4 in the Paper.

245. Members raised no objection.

246. The Chairman announced that the proposals in paragraphs 3 and 4 in the Paper had been endorsed. He reiterated that he hoped the events would be cost-saving and environmentally-friendly. The Chairman asked Members to nominate one to two Members to offer advice on the preparatory work of the above event on behalf of the YLDC. Since the DC would suspend its operation in the following month, he enquired whether the preparatory work would be carried out in September. He was concerned that Members could not take part in the preparatory work in the capacity of DC Members during the suspension of DC operation.

247. Ms Cindy PANG said Members needed to take part in the preparatory work in their personal capacity. It would be the same case for ex officio Members.

248. The Chairman suggested that Mr CHING Chan-ming represent YLDC in the preparatory work.

249. Members raised no objection.

250. Mr Zachary WONG said the capacity of DC Members remained the same even when DC operation had been suspended. In other words, Members could not attend meetings in their personal capacity.

251. The Chairman said according to the HAD guidelines on the suspension of DC operation, Members could not attend activities or discharge official duties in their official capacity during DC suspension. He asked the Secretariat to confirm it again after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: According to the guidelines issued by HAD, during the suspension of DC operation, Members could join the organising committees of special activities in their personal capacity. As Mr CHING Chan-ming was an ex officio member of the YLDC and did not participate in the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election, he was not subject to the Guidelines on Election-related Activities by the Electoral Affairs Commission).

Item XIV: Report on the work progress of the District-led Actions Scheme

252. The Chairman invited Mr Enoch YUEN, JP, District Officer (Yuen Long) and Mr Nixon NG, Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long)¹ to report the latest progress of the District-led Actions Scheme (“DAS”).

253. Mr Enoch YUEN, JP wholeheartedly thanked Members for their service and help over the four years, especially their support and advice to DAS.

254. Mr Nixon NG briefed Members on the work progress of DAS.

Item XV: Progress reports of Committees

- (i) **Yuen Long District Management Committee (YLDC Paper No. 65/2019)**
- (ii) **District Facilities Management Committee (YLDC Paper No. 66/2019)**
- (iii) **Culture, Recreation, Community Service and Housing Committee (YLDC Paper No. 67/2019)**
- (iv) **Environmental Improvement Committee (YLDC Paper No. 68/2019)**
- (v) **Finance Committee (YLDC Paper No. 69/2019)**
- (vi) **Town Planning and Development Committee (YLDC Paper No. 70/2019)**
- (vii) **Traffic and Transport Committee (YLDC Paper No. 71/2019)**

255. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper Nos. 65-71 for the progress reports of Committees.

256. Members noted the progress reports of Yuen Long District Management Committee and Committees under the YLDC.

Item XVI: Any other business

(i) Matters relating to Members joining the Committees under YLDC

257. Members endorsed the following Member’s applications for joining the Committees:

Mr MAN Ka-koy joined the Environmental Improvement Committee (“EIC”), Finance Committee (“FC”) and Town Planning and Development Committee (“TP&DC”)

(ii) Matters relating to the renovation of the conference room of the YLDC

258. The Chairman asked the Secretary to brief Members on the matters relating to the renovation of the conference room of the YLDC.

259. Ms Cindy PANG said there would be an addition of three seats in the next term’s YLDC. It was believed that the space would be smaller by then. Therefore, two proposals were raised for renovating the conference room of the YLDC. The first proposal was to set up a conference table in part of the public gallery area for department representatives and the second proposal was to accommodate a conference table with three seats by the existing conference table. Although the second proposal was easier to implement, the newly added table would obstruct Members’ access. In order to arrange for renovation during the suspension of DC operation, the Secretariat took this opportunity to consult Members.

260. Members gave their comments on the renovation and they were more prone to adopt the first proposal. They agreed to let the Secretariat follow up on the detailed arrangements.

261. The Chairman said this meeting was the last meeting of the Full Council of the current DC term. He sincerely thanked Members and department representatives for making the YLDC work smoothly to success with their cooperation and active partnership over the past four years. The Chairman said it was his first time to be the DC chairman, and was grateful for everyone's tolerance and guidance in spite of his inexperience. He had never imagined that he would encounter that many difficulties as the Chairman in the beginning but it was a pleasure to have served the YLDC as the Chairman and he was proud of all Members. Despite different political stands, Members took people's livelihood as their focus and participated in the discussions proactively. Even on highly controversial issues, Members' discussion was rational. Again, he extended his heartfelt gratitude to Members.

262. Mr Zachary WONG expressed his gratitude to the Chairman, District Officer (Yuen Long) and Assistant District Officers (Yuen Long) on behalf of the five pan-democratic Members of the YLDC. He said it was a pleasure to work with them most of the time and the Chairman had been conducting the business fairly at the meetings. If Members could continue to serve the DC in the same capacity in the next term, he hoped the Chairman could continue to strictly observe the Standing Orders when presiding at meetings. He also commended the District Officer (Yuen Long) and Assistant District Officers (Yuen Long) for being willing to communicate with Members on local affairs to work out solutions together.

263. The Chairman declared that the meeting adjourned and thanked department representatives and Members for their attendance.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
December 2019