

**Minutes of the 8th Meeting of
Yuen Long District Council in 2016**

Date : 20 December 2016 (Tuesday)

Time : 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 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	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Vice-chairman: Mr WONG Wai-shun	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Members: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Ms CHAN Mei-lin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr CHAN Sze-ching	(Beginning of the meeting)	(01:15 p.m.)
Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr CHING Chan-ming	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr CHOW Wing-kan	(Beginning of the meeting)	(01:15 p.m.)
Mr KWOK Hing-ping	(Beginning of the meeting)	(10:20 a.m.)
Mr KWOK Keung, MH	(09:55 a.m.)	(End of meeting)
The Hon KWONG Chun-yu	(Beginning of the meeting)	(10:05 a.m.)
Mr LAI Wai-hung	(09:45 a.m.)	(12:20 p.m.)
Ms LAU Kwai-yung	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen	(Beginning of the meeting)	(01:10 p.m.)
Mr LEUNG Ming-kin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr LUI Kin	(12:40 p.m.)	(End of meeting)
The Hon LUK Chung-hung	(09:35 a.m.)	(12:15 p.m.)
Ms MA Shuk-yin	(10:30 a.m.)	(End of meeting)
Mr MAK Ip-sing	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr MAN Ping-nam, MH	(Beginning of the meeting)	(12:20 p.m.)
Mr SIU Long-ming	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr TANG Cheuk-him	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr TANG Cheuk-yin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr TANG Hing-ip, BBS	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr TANG Ho-nin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(12:30 p.m.)
Mr TANG Ka-leung	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr TANG Lai-tung	(09:40 a.m.)	(12:30 p.m.)
Mr TANG Sui-man	(Beginning of the meeting)	(12:20 p.m.)
Mr TANG Yung-yiu, Ronnie	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr TO Ka-lun	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr TSANG Shu-wo	(Beginning of the meeting)	(12:45 p.m.)
Mr WONG Cheuk-kin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(01:15 p.m.)
Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr YIU Kwok-wai	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Mr YOUNG Ka-on	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)
Ms YUEN Man-yee	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of meeting)

Secretary: Mr KONG Kwok-piu, Bill Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Yuen Long District Office

Assistant Secretary: Ms LAM Ka-hing, Alexis Executive Officer I (District Council),
Yuen Long District Office

In Attendance

Mr MAK Chun-yu, Edward, JP District Officer (Yuen Long)

Mr WONG Chi-wah, Steve Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 1

Ms MAK Ka-ying, Carren Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 2

Mr CHAN Hon-kwan, Harris Senior Liaison Officer (Rural), Yuen Long District
Office

Ms CHEUNG Lai-wa, Senior Liaison Officer (Town), Yuen Long District
Michelle Office

Mr LAU Wing-kam Chief Engineer/New Territories West 1
(New Territories West), Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Mr KWONG Ying-wai Chief School Development Officer (Yuen Long),
Education Bureau

Mr CHEUNG Pui-chung District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent
(Yuen Long), Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

Mr AU Chin-chau District Commander (Yuen Long), Hong Kong
Police Force

Mr WONG Sze-pan Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long
District), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WONG Wing-hung, Stephen Chief Manager/Management (Tuen Mun & Yuen
Long), Housing Department

Ms CHIU Lee-lee, Lily District Lands Officer/Yuen Long (District Lands
Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department

Mr WONG Kin-wai, Kelvin 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

Mr LAM Chi-man, David District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun and Yuen
Long West, Planning Department

Ms LAM Wai-yip, Michelle District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long),
Social Welfare Department

Mr HUE Ka-yiu, Daniel Chief Transport Officer/New Territories North
West, Transport Department

Item II

Mr LO Wai-chung, Stephen, Commissioner of Police
PDSM, PMSM

Item III

Mr MA Siu-cheung, Eric, JP Under Secretary for Development

Mr FUNG Ying-lun, Allen Political Assistant to Secretary for Development

Miss LAU Bo-ye, Winnie Chief Town Planner/Strategic Planning, Planning
Department

Ms KUN Ka-yin, April	Chief Town Planner/Studies and Research, Planning Department
Ms CHAN Hau yin, Margaret	Senior Town Planner/Strategic Planning 5, Planning Department
Mr CHEUNG Kin-kee	Senior Town Planner/Studies and Research 2, Planning Department

Absent

The Hon LEUNG Che-cheung,
BBS, MH, JP
Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH
Mr MAN Kwong-ming
Ms WONG Wai-ling

* * * * *

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from departments to the 8th meeting of Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2016.

2. The Chairman especially welcomed the following government official to the meeting:

Commissioner of Police	Mr LO Wai-chung, Stephen, PDSM, PMSM
------------------------	--------------------------------------

3. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of departments to the meeting:

<u>Hong Kong Police Force</u> District Commander (Yuen Long)	Mr AU Chin-chau Chief Superintendent of Police (Successor of Mr FOK Lok-sang, Chief Superintendent of Police)
Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long District)(Atg)	Mr WONG Sze-pan Chief Inspector of Police (Atg) (Stood in for Ms WONG Lai-ying, Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long District))

4. The Chairman thanked Mr FOK Lok-sang, Chief Superintendent, for his assistance offered to YLDC. Besides, the Chairman also welcomed the teachers and students of the Yuen Long Public Secondary School to observe the meeting.

5. The Chairman said that Ms WONG Wai-ling would be on maternity leave and absent from the meeting from 24 October to 31 December 2016. On behalf of YLDC, he extended congratulations to Ms WONG for her new born baby.

6. Besides, the Chairman said that the Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP had taken

leave for body check whilst Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH and Mr MAN Kwong-ming had taken leave due to other commitments.

7. Members unanimously endorsed the above leave applications.

8. Regarding the agenda items, the Chairman said that Mr Zachary WONG, the Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Ms CHAN Mei-lin and Mr TO Ka-lun had submitted six items which were related to the concerns of relevant Committees. He proposed to refer three of those items, viz. “Stopping of hiking trails concretization”, “The origin of goods” and “Outsourced drivers of rental light goods vehicles being exploited” to CRCS&HC for follow-ups. Meanwhile, the remaining three items, viz. “Disabled persons could not use the public toilet on the mezzanine floor of Tai Kiu Market”, “FEHD contractors to provide rest facilities for cleansing workers” and “Tree grills be provided for big trees in Yuen Long town” were proposed to refer to EIC for follow-ups.

9. The Chairman supplemented that five Members proposed to discuss about “the request for government departments to use E-FAX”. Since the item was related to the mode of receipt and dispatch among government departments, he proposed to relay Members’ views to the departments concerned (such as the Director of Administration and Office of the Government Chief Information Officer) for reference.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat circulated the reply of the Director of Administration after consulting the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to Members on 16 January 2017.)

10. The Chairman enquired if Members had any views on the above arrangements. Members raised no objection.

Item I: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 7th Meeting of Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2016

11. The minutes of the 7th meetings of the YLDC in 2016 were confirmed.

Item II: Meeting with the Commissioner of Police

12. Once again, the Chairman welcomed Mr Stephen LO, PDSM, PMSM, Commissioner of Police to the meeting.

13. Mr Stephen LO, PDSM, PMSM said that he was honoured to attend YLDC meeting. He then briefed Members on Police’s work from January to October 2016. He said that YLDC was an important partner in the implementation of community policing in the district. All along, YLDC Members had been closely cooperating with the Yuen Long Police District and Yuen Long District Fight Crime Committee in building a safe and harmonious community. Members had also actively supported and participated in the crime prevention promotional activities organised by the Police in Yuen Long district. On behalf of the Police, he thanked YLDC for its continuous recognition and support for the work of the Police. Then he briefed Members on the crime situation of Hong Kong as summarised below:

- (1) The overall law and order situation in Hong Kong from January to October 2016 remained stable. A total of 50 353 cases of crime were recorded during the period, representing a decrease of 6 020 cases or 10.7 per cent over the corresponding period of 2015. There were a total of 8 420 violent crime cases recorded in the said period, a decrease of 649 cases or 7.2 per cent when compared with the same period of 2015. The crime detection rate was 58.2 per cent, representing a slight increase of 0.2 per cent;
- (2) Crimes recorded rises mainly included homicide and robbery. There were 22 homicide cases in the said period, an increase of one case or 4.8 per cent over the same period in 2015. There were 225 robbery cases, an increase of 30 cases or 15.4 per cent over the same period in 2015. All of the 22 homicide cases were detected, most of which involved disputes over money or other issues, emotional problems and conflicts among nursing home residents. No triad element was involved. Four homicide cases were recorded in Yuen Long district, all people involved were prosecuted and pending for trial. Apart from 2015, the number of cases of robbery was the lowest over the past two decades. Among 225 cases of robbery, more than half of them were street level robbery. No weapon was involved in 60 per cent of these cases of street level robbery and mainly cash and mobile phones were robbed. Twenty-four cases of robbery were recorded in Yuen Long district, representing a decrease of seven cases over the same period in 2015. The crime detection rate was 41.7 per cent, which was more satisfactory than the overall crime detection rate of the territory. The Police would step up inspection and take intelligence-led enforcement actions with a view to combating cases of robbery;
- (3) Many other types of cases recorded a downward trend, including deception cases (26 per cent), miscellaneous theft (13 per cent), wounding and aggravated assault (7 per cent), blackmail (18 per cent), serious drug offences (11 per cent), burglary (7 per cent), shoplifting (1.3 per cent), indecent assault (7 per cent) and rape (12 per cent);
- (4) Regarding crimes of interest such as deception, burglary, crimes committed by non-ethnic Chinese in Hong Kong and triad-related offences, there were 6 044 deception cases, being a decrease of 2 147 cases or 26.2 per cent. Though the overall number of deception cases had dropped, the Police noted that the number of telephone deception cases involving the modus operandi “pretend mainland officials” were on the rise. There were 247 cases and nearly 70 per cent of them involved pecuniary loss amounting to over \$58 million. The criminals even pretended to be immigration officials, Home Affairs Department officials and police officers. More than half of the victims were new arrivals who were not familiar with crime prevention information on telephone deception. In this connection, the Police had cooperated with the Hong Kong Mainland Students Association with a view to disseminating messages relating to prevention of telephone deception to over 25 000 Mainland students in Hong Kong. The Police also posted posters and broadcast video clips at control points, cross-border coach stations and railway stations to alert new arrivals on the above messages. The Police had set up task force to coordinate the investigation of telephone deception cases over the territory, strengthen intelligence gathering and combat this kind of crime in conjunction with enforcement agencies in the Mainland and overseas;
- (5) There were 24 car insurance deception cases, representing an increase of 14 cases

over the same period of 2015. These cases involved 195 victims and pecuniary loss of \$780,000. Fraudsters would pose as car insurance agents and place advertisements on the internet or car trading platforms, claiming that they could take out a car insurance policy with preferential rate. They might even provide forged insurance documents for victims. In view of this, the Commercial Crime Bureau progressively investigated into these cases and smashed a car insurance deception syndicate including the leader and core members in late October 2016. The syndicate had cheated more than 170 victims involving a loss of \$650,000 over the past two years. The Police also smashed a highly organised financial intermediary deception syndicate in early November 2016, closed down three unscrupulous finance companies, two deceptive telephone centres and one company alleged to have provided forged documents during the operations. Over \$5 million cash was also seized. The Police would continue to strengthen promotion and advise members of the public to borrow only from lawful and reputable banks and licensed money lenders.

- (6) There were 1 999 burglary cases, representing a decrease of 154 cases over the same period of 2015. Among them, 75 per cent were burglaries in domestic premises. An upward trend was observed for burglaries in domestic premises involving stolen items of a total value of \$500,000 or more. Forty-two cases were recorded, representing an increase of 14 cases. More than half of these cases were attributed to inadequate domestic security measures, unlocked doors and windows or on-going scaffolding works. Yuen Long Police District had recorded 183 burglary cases, representing an increase of 4 cases with over 80 per cent being burglaries in domestic premises. Locations of concern were Fairview Park, Nam Pin Wai, Shui Tsiu Lo Wai, Tin Liu Tsuen, Yuen Kong San Tsuen and Hung Shui Kiu. The Police had continued to work closely with owners' corporations, property management companies and village offices, etc. to combat burglary cases. Furthermore, the Police organised security equipment exhibitions with a view to disseminating information on prevention of burglary case to the public and property sectors. Meanwhile, the Police would step up patrolling and take intelligence-led enforcement actions. From January to October 2016, a total of 364 burglars were arrested, an increase of 33 people or 10 per cent over the same period of 2015. The Police had arrested 29 people in the Yuen Long Police District. Among them, 66 per cent were local people, 24 per cent were Mainlanders holding "two-way exit permit" and ten per cent were non-ethnic Chinese;
- (7) Regarding crime committed by non-ethnic Chinese in Hong Kong, from January to October 2016, 3 808 non-ethnic Chinese who had committed various kinds of crimes were arrested (representing 14 per cent of the total number of people arrested in the territory). It showed an increase of 116 people or 3.1 per cent over the same period of 2015. Among the non-ethnic Chinese being arrested, half of them were Hong Kong Identity Card holders while half of them were not. The ratio was similar to that over the same period of 2015. Furthermore, 1 214 non-ethnic Chinese holders of recognisance forms issued by the Immigration Department ("ImmD") which prohibited them from taking employment (commonly known as "going-out pass" or "Form 8") were arrested, an increase of 297 people or 32.4 per cent over the same period of 2015 and the upward trend was evident. From January to October 2016, 319 non-ethnic Chinese were arrested in the Yuen Long Police District, representing 14.4 per cent of the total number of people arrested. Half of these non-ethnic Chinese were holders of "going-out pass". Most of them had committed crimes such as shop theft, miscellaneous theft, wounding, assault and serious drug offences. The

Police would continue to pay heed to the crime situation involving non-ethnic Chinese in Hong Kong and take corresponding enforcement actions; and

- (8) There were 1 500 triad cases during the said period, representing a decrease of 46 cases or 3 per cent. The Police arrested 2 149 people and the detection rate was about 90 per cent. The cases mainly involved wounding and serious assault, serious drug offences and unlawful society offences. The Yuen Long Police District recorded 208 cases of triad-related crimes, an increase of 20 cases or 10.6 per cent. These crimes constituted 5.1 per cent of the total number of crime cases in the Yuen Long Police District. The Police arrested 314 people and the crime detection rate was 87 per cent. The rise in the number of these cases as opposed to the drop recorded in the territory was mainly stemmed from the stringent Police enforcement action against triad activities in the district. Combating triad, criminal syndicates and organised crimes were the top priorities of the Hong Kong Police Force. For many years, the Police had attached great importance to anti-triad tasks. Intelligence-led actions and undercovers were deployed to tackle the activities of identified triad members, as well as to cut off their source of income and confiscate their proceeds of crimes.

14. The Chairman thanked the Commissioner for giving the briefing. He believed that Members were very interested in the work of the Police and would have much to talk about on the subject. Since some Members reflected that the time of last meeting was rather long, he hoped Members would speak concisely this time.

15. The Vice-chairman thanked the Commissioner for visiting YLDO to exchange views with Members on law enforcement by the Police. He said that the population of Yuen Long would exceed 600 000 and many refugees lived here. The law and order situation had all along been a matter of concern. However, the manpower of Yuen Long Police District had not been increased accordingly in recent years. He hoped the manpower of Yuen Long Police District would be increased in the long term and proposed that more Auxiliary Police Constables would be deployed for patrolling duty in the district in the short and medium term. Besides, many residents had complained about the noise nuisance caused by illegal modified vehicles and illegal road racing in the district, in particular the residents in the vicinity of the Castle Peak Road. Apart from stepping up enforcement and issuing vehicle examination notices, he hoped the Commissioner would study the criminal liability of people involved in illegal modified vehicles, including the vehicle owners, garage technicians and suppliers of parts so that the problem could be dealt with more strategically.

16. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP enquired about the implementation of in various Police Districts in the territory. He said that there were 300 000 security guards holding security personnel permits in Hong Kong, of them about 150 000 were employed in the industry. The Police would make good use of this network to disseminate and collect fight crime information, with a view to assisting the Police to combat crimes such as deception cases in housing courts. There were cases that certain security guards successfully alerted the residents to guard against deception. Theses smart security guards were then awarded. If the project could be implemented effectively in the territory, the cooperation among the Police, property management industry and frontline security guards would be enhanced. Coupled with the publicity efforts and curbing deception cases at source by the Police, the enforcement effects would be greatly enhanced. On the other hand, the Police had earmarked a site in Tin Shui Wai North (Tin Shui Wai Area 101) for constructing a police station many years ago. However, the site was not being used to date.

Meanwhile, a site would also be earmarked for constructing a police station in the proposed Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area. He proposed the Police to use the site as the operational base of Police Tactical Unit or Emergency Unit, and if no police station or police facility would be built, the site should be released for other community uses such as provision of market.

17. Mr CHAN Sze-ching reflected that he had handled 4 or 5 cases of cessation or even termination of decoration works in which residents suffered pecuniary loss. The decoration firm received deposit from the client and started the decoration works. The works was stopped halfway and the client was forced to pay the decoration fee in full. After the fee was paid, the works was terminated. Since the decoration firm could be contacted by the victim, the Police suggested the victim initiate civil litigations. The victim won the lawsuit and the decoration firm went bankrupt. The owner then opened another decoration firm and cheated other residents in similar ways. He opined that it would be extremely difficult to mend the legislative loophole by amending the law. He hoped the Police would strengthen publicity and prevent the residents from suffering loss.

18. Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam thought that the Police was a strong and efficient force, and the performance of Yuen Long Police District was commended by the residents. He said that the rapid development of Hung Shui Kiu gave rise to an ever-increasing population, but the manpower of the Police was inadequate. He enquired whether Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area would be upgraded as an independent Police District, and the population required for such upgrading. He learnt from the news that the Police requested for an increase of 900 police officers in 2017, but he considered that inadequate. In the violent incident that broke out on the second day of the Chinese New Year, the rioters acted in an organised manner and the police officers were wounded severely. In view of this, he thought that manpower shortage had made it difficult for the police to cope with massive turmoil. He opined that the Police should recruit additional staff for the purpose of maintaining social order more readily.

19. Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH commended the performance of Yuen Long Police District which had efficiently maintained the law and order of as well as combatted crime in Yuen Long district. She said that non-ethnic Chinese holding “going-out pass” in the district engaged in recycling trade such as clothes recycling. She hoped the Police and the Immigration Department would coordinate their efforts to address the issues concerned. She also hoped the Government would amend the law with a view to resolving the problem of non-ethnic Chinese who lodged non-refoulement claims being detained in Hong Kong.

20. Mr CHOW Wing-kan opined that the law and order situation in Yuen Long remained good, but he was concerned about the organised crimes committed by non-ethnic Chinese in the district recently. He reflected that recently, some people with disabilities had engaged in begging at Light Rail Stops in the district in the evening which caused nuisance to the residents. Some North Vietnamese boat people told him that some gangs of Do Son, Hai Phong of Vietnam had arranged Vietnamese to commit crimes such as robbery in Hong Kong. The crime proceeds would be resold. There were even crime syndicates of Vietnamese which engaged in these illegal activities in Hong Kong. He hoped the Police and departments concerned would pay heed to such activities. He opined that stepping up patrolling by uniformed police would serve deterrent effect. He also praised Criminal Investigation Team of Yuen Long Police District for their detecting certain burglary cases committed by syndicates in Tin Shui Wai. Besides, he proposed the Police to introduce non-destruction equipment which serve deterrent effect with the aim of containing violent demonstrations more effectively.

21. Mr KWOK Keung, MH commended the performance of the Police and Yuen Long Police District. He said that the law and order situation of Yuen Long remained stable despite its vast area, dense population and presence of non-ethnic Chinese. In view of the shortage in police manpower, he hoped the Commissioner would deploy more staff to Yuen Long Police District so as to relieve the burden of police officers. He said that in the violent demonstration broke out on the second day of the Chinese New Year, the rioters threw bricks to police officers. If the police officer had not opened fire to disperse the crowd, the officers' lives would be at risk. He proposed the Police to shoot with rubber bullets to get control of similar situation in the future. If the situation went uncontrolled, the police should use loaded guns to cope with it. He said that for the purpose of maintaining social order, the Police should use strongest force to subdue the rioters if the latter attacked the Police with force.

22. Mr KWOK Hing-ping said that many residents reflected to him that they called the 999 hotline for assistance, and the police officers arrived at the scene only after 10 minutes. He opined that in the past, there were more uniformed patrol and the officers would arrive at the scene immediately after they received calls. He thought that the 999 hotline service quality had declined. He hoped the Commissioner would deploy more uniformed police to perform patrolling on streets so that they would arrive quickly to help the residents.

23. Mr Ronnie TANG said that there were more than a hundred villages in the rural area of Yuen Long, but the police manpower was definitely inadequate. Worse still, a Village Patrol Unit serving Pat Heung was deleted. He hoped the Commissioner would increase the manpower in Yuen Long especially the rural area. He also enquired if a non-ethnic Chinese holding "going-out pass" was imprisoned, whether or not he/she would stay in Hong Kong or be repatriated after being released from prison. If they were allowed to stay in Hong Kong even having committed crime, there must be loopholes in the relevant laws. Besides, he opined that the Police had exercised too much restraint during the aforementioned riot in Mong Kok. Though a police had opened fire to disperse the crowd, many police officers thought that police morale should be boosted further and tougher measures should be deployed to handle the rioters. He hoped the Commissioner would make greater efforts to boost the morale of the Police.

24. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen welcomed the Commissioner to visit YLDC and report the law and order situation of Hong Kong. He opined that the law and order situation in Hong Kong was very satisfactory. Though there had been trials and hardships and even violent demonstrations in the past few years, the crime rate had been dropping. It was evident that the Police had enforced the law impartially and efficiently. Yuen Long district including rural and town areas which were extensive, and the overall law and order situation remained good. Though some district in the territory had seen demonstrators occupy the streets or use force, Yuen Long remained unaffected. The villagers, residents and Police cooperated to maintain social order. He pointed out the Shap Pat Heung was located at the periphery of Yuen Long Town, many South Asians lived in squatters of low rental. The law and order situation was worrying. Thanks to the efforts of the Police Community Relations Officer of Yuen Long Police District who regularly liaised with rural committees and shared with them fight crime information, crime was prevented effectively. He hoped the Police would keep up its efforts and enforce law impartially with a view to protecting members of the public.

25. Mr MAK Ip-sing welcomed the Commissioner to visit YLDC, and commended the work of Yuen Long Police District. Taking the population of over 500 000 into account, he considered the manpower of Yuen Long Police District was inadequate. He hoped the Commissioner would increase the manpower of Yuen Long Police District so that fight crime tasks would be accomplished smoothly. Besides, there were many bars in Fung Cheung constituency where people visited late at night on Friday and weekend. The noise generated by the vehicles had caused nuisance to the residents. He hoped the Police would pay heed to that. Also, many political issues, demonstrations, processions and strikes in response to the Government administration and constitutional reforms emerged in Hong Kong in recent years. He found that the Police had deployed many officers to handle the situations. The atmosphere became tense and conflicts would be resulted easily.

26. Mr YIU Kwok-wai welcomed the Commissioner and the newly appointed District Commander. He said that he had reflected his concern about illegal gambling in housing estates at the meeting of Joint Conference on Fight Crime in 2016. The problem would give rise to numerous law and order issues such as loan-sharking and fight. Illegal gambling was particularly rampant in Grandeur Terrace, Tin Shui Wai. He hoped the Commissioner would pay heed to the problem and the Housing Department would strengthen the Demerit Point System with a view to addressing the issue thoroughly. Furthermore, he hoped the Commissioner would consider increasing the manpower of Yuen Long Police District and setting up an independent Police District at Tin Shui Wai or Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area in the long run. Regarding illegal parking in the district, he reflected that many drivers park their vehicles at double yellow line and totally ignored that it was a prohibited zone. Such illegal parking could be found in Grandeur Terrace, and he hoped the Police would strictly enforce law with the aim of maintaining good transport order. He earnestly hoped that the Commissioner could fight for more resources (in light of the rise in the number of traffic summons issued by the Police) and recruit more Traffic Wardens for the purpose of relieving the workload of police officers.

27. Mr SIU Long-ming thanked the Commissioner for visiting YLDC. He also thanked the efforts of the Police for reducing the crime figure and raising the crime detection rate. Since the population of Yuen Long was ever-increasing, he hoped the Commissioner would strengthen the manpower of Yuen Long Police District. Besides, there were many old buildings in Yuen Long Town, the flats inside these buildings were sub-divided for operating vice establishments. Some streetwalkers solicited on streets and caused nuisance to the residents. He hoped the Commissioner would address these issues. Also, traffic congestion and illegal parking were serious in Yuen Long Town. He proposed that more Traffic Wardens should be deployed to maintain traffic order at busy streets and ensure traffic flow was smooth.

28. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin welcomed the Commissioner to visit YLDC. He agreed with the views of Members that the manpower of police was inadequate. In the past four to five years, many non-ethnic Chinese moved to the rural areas of Yuen Long. The residents were concerned about the law and order situation. Having been a village representative for many years, he had seen traffic policemen patrol and sign on the beat record books in the villages. At that time, the relation between the police and the public was closer. He hoped the Commissioner would deploy more police officers to patrol the rural areas and gather intelligence on crime, with a view to maintaining law and order. Furthermore, he hoped the Police would strengthen crime prevention publicity, encourage the residents to install security systems, lock up doors and windows securely to prevent burglary.

29. Mr TANG Hing-ip, BBS welcomed the Commissioner to visit YLDC. He said that while the population of Yuen Long was ever-increasing, the crime figure had recorded a drop. It reflected that the Police had performed remarkably in respect of planning and enforcement. He hoped the police would keep up the good work. He praised the Community Relations Officers and Village Patrol Unit for performing their duties effectively. They had paid heed to the law and order situation in the rural areas and resolved the conflicts among residents. Besides, he agreed with Members' views that members of the public who called the 999 Hotline had to wait for a long time before the Police arrived at the scene. He hoped the Police would improve the service in this regard. He further reflected that illegal parking could also be seen in rural areas. The vehicles concerned obstructed the accesses and caused disturbance to villagers. He hoped the Police would pay attention to the issue and step up enforcement.

30. The Chairman said that as many Members had mentioned about increasing police manpower and illegal parking, he hoped Members would speak concisely and avoid repeating similar views.

31. Ms CHAN Mei-lin thanked the Commissioner for visiting YLDC. She particularly appreciated the Community Relations Officers who had closely liaised with Members and shared fight crime messages with them. She said that the manpower of Yuen Long Police district was hardly adequate to cope with the population of Yuen Long, which was about to reach 600 000. Frontline officers had to handle various issues raised by the public through 999 Hotline including noise nuisance at night, hawker disputes and traffic order. All these had brought pressure to the manpower deployment of uniformed police and the Village Patrol Unit. At previous YLDC meetings, she had proposed the Police to increase manpower and establish two independent Police Districts in Yuen Long Town and Tin Shui Wai. Regarding non-ethnic Chinese, she said that some of them had committed crime earlier in Hong Kong. The result was that some non-ethnic Chinese who grew up in Hong Kong had left a bad impression on the public and they faced difficulty in seeking jobs. She hoped the Government would speed up processing of non-refoulement claims and arrange repatriation of those who were ineligible to stay in Hong Kong. Moreover, she hoped the Commissioner to pay heed to noise problem caused by illegal road racing. She reflected that illegal racing was rampant at Tin Tze Road and Tin Ying Road, and the noise had caused nuisance to the residents.

32. Mr TO Ka-lun said that regarding the law and order situation in the rural areas, the Commissioner just mentioned that some cases of burglary were committed by Mainlanders. There were many cases of burglary at the Fairview Park. He enquired about what specific actions were taken by the Commissioner to combat such cases. Besides, he said that Yuen Long and Sheung Shui had experienced serious traffic congestion last year and the traffic had been paralysed for half a day. While the cause was just a minor traffic incident, the police officers at the scene failed to divert the traffic flow effectively. He hoped the Commissioner would pay heed to similar cases. He also hoped the Commissioner to pay attention to the problem of streetwalkers in the district, as well as the unlawful storage of marked oil, dangerous goods and foreign waste in the warehouses in Yuen Long and North District. Lastly, he hoped the work of the Police would not be politicalised.

33. Mr WONG Cheuk-kin thanked the Commissioner for visiting YLDC. He strongly supported the Police to launch publicity on the internet. He opined that subsequent to the occupation of streets by demonstrators and violent demonstrations that had taken place in Hong

Kong, the Police should boost the confidence of youngsters on it and enhance its efficiency, for the purpose of improving social order continuously. In recent years, the Police Public Relations Bureau launched publicity on the online platform actively. Over 100 000 browsers clicked “like” on its Facebook page and the number of visitors of the videos uploaded had exceeded 3 million. The promotional effect was very satisfactory. He opined that though launching online publicity might lead to criticism by individual browsers, the Police should not be discouraged. The Police should keep uploading video clips which were touching, entertaining or inspiring with the aim of attracting young people. To tackle abuse of “ice” by youngsters, he suggested the Police Public Relations Bureau produced more video clips to promote the damage brought by drug abuse as well as the criminal liabilities of drug traffickers. The Police should also make it clear that young people who engaged in drug trafficking would not only be cautioned under the Police Superintendent’s Discretion Scheme, but also have to bear criminal liabilities. He hoped the Police would adhere to the above orientation making publicity efforts and cultivate positive values among youngsters.

34. Mr Zachary WONG said that he wished to raise a question with Mr TSANG Wai-hung, the then Commissioner of Police, but he had failed to keep his promise to attend YLDC meeting for two times. He hoped to share three stories with the Commissioner so that the message of his question could be brought out. Firstly, he succeeded in assisting a charitable organisation to apply for using an abandoned village school a few years ago. One day when he was discussing the decoration matters with the organisation in the school, two men with tattoo in the village expelled and threatened them. The police officers who came to the scene said that they would only escort him to leave the village but did not take enforcement action. Secondly, someone removed the roadside barriers for making an access road leading to an open car park. When officers of the Highways Department (“HyD”) tried to reinstall the barriers, more than ten people who claimed to be villagers expelled them. The police officers who came to the scene only escorted HyD officers to leave. He enquired the then Commissioner of Police about the way the Police handled the above two matters. The then Commissioner replied that since the police officers did not wish to see any imminent collision between two parties, they had resolved the matter in light of the prevailing circumstances. Thirdly, staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) was about to prosecute an old lady engaging in hawking in Tin Shui Wai. This had roused public wrath and about a hundred residents attempted to stop the FEHD staff from prosecuting the lady. At last, police officers helped the FEHD staff to accomplish the task, even though the action might lead to clashes. He opined that the three matters would make people think that the Police bullied the good people and were scared of the evil ones. Coupled with the fact that individual police officers knew the law but broke it, the Police had left a negative impression on the public. In this connection, he asked the Commissioner if he had taken any measure or action to rebuild public confidence on the Police.

35. Ms YUEN Man-yee thanked the Commissioner for visiting YLDC to listen to Members’ views. She commended the officers of Yuen Long Police District for their dedication to duty, owing to which the crime figure kept dropping and public safety being protected. She said that according to the Commissioner’s report, the number of crime cases committed by non-ethnic Chinese holding “going-out pass” had increased. She said that members of the public did not know how to differentiate between those non-ethnic Chinese holding Hong Kong Identity Card and those who did not. In fact, many non-ethnic Chinese did live in sub-divided flats of old buildings. She hoped the Yuen Long Police District would disseminate positive messages to the residents and dispel the negative impression on non-ethnic Chinese. Besides, she hoped the Police would strengthen publicity of anti-burglary messages as Chinese New Year was approaching. Lastly, she urged the Commissioner to increase the manpower of Yuen Long Police District and enhance the

quality of police work.

36. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin welcomed the Commissioner to visit YLDC. Regarding the two cases of street level robbery committed by South Asians, he hoped the Police would step up enforcement and promote positive messages among South Asians in collaboration with district organisations. Besides, he praised the Police for deploying additional uniformed police to perform patrol duty in rural areas. He also hoped that more anti-burglary seminars would be held in rural areas housebreaking cases.

37. Mr Stephen LO, PDSM, PMSM gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) He thanked Members for expressing their valuable views. Regarding police manpower, the Police would take into account the population of the respect district, number of criminal cases, number of traffic contraventions in assessing the appropriate level of manpower deployment. If a certain police district required additional staff, the Police would redeploy internal resources to cope with the demand. Upon completion of the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area, and if the development of Tin Shui Wai had been advanced to such a level that the establishment of an independent police district should be considered, the Police would seek for provision of resources from the Government. With a view to coping with imminent staff requirement, the respective Regions would arrange Quick Reaction Force, Emergency Unit and Police Tactical Unit to various Police Districts (including Yuen Long Police District) to assist in performing duties. That said, the Police would also review the overall manpower every year. If population growth of a particular district required increase of police manpower in the long run, the Police would seek resources from the Government to recruit additional staff;
- (2) All along, the Police had been paying attention to the trend of crime cases involving non-ethnic Chinese. The Organised Crime and Triad Bureau was responsible for intelligence analysis, taking joint operations and passing the intelligence to the respective Police Districts, such as Yuen Long Police District, for taking enforcement actions. From the perspective of the Police, the Police would only arrest and prosecute those who committed crime. The Police had not been empowered to repatriate the non-ethnic Chinese who had committed crime. The Immigration Department would vet their non-refoulement claims and decided if they would be repatriated. It was worth-noting that most non-ethnic Chinese were law-abiding. Most of them hold the Hong Kong Identity Card, and they grew up and lived in Hong Kong. The Police launched various racial harmony programmes with a view to enhancing communication with the non-ethnic Chinese, especially the young people. The programmes would brief them on the importance of observing the law, as well as the languages and behaviors that would be misunderstood by local people;
- (3) Regarding illegal parking, the number of traffic summons issued by the Police had increased over 20% each year in the past few years. The number of vehicles in Hong Kong had increased sharply and since land was scarce, the Police's efforts in stepping up enforcement had achieved limited effect. In recent enforcement actions, the Police removed the illegally parked vehicles without warning if they were left unattended. The effectiveness of the measure would be reviewed in due course. Besides, the Police had been studying overseas experience in using CCTV to monitor traffic conditions as well as illegal parking. Traffic contraventions would be

recorded by CCTV and the offenders concerned would be prosecuted. As the implementation of the measure would involve various departments such as the Transport Department (“TD”), thorough consideration would be required;

- (4) Members might think that cases of burglary had increased recently. However, the above briefing had just mentioned that the number of such cases had dropped by 7% and in fact, it was a record low over the past decade or so. That said, an upward trend was observed for burglaries in domestic premises involving stolen items of a total value of \$500,000 or more. Forty-two cases were recorded from January to October 2016, representing an increase of 14 cases. In this connection, the Police would step up patrolling and ambush operations, as well as take intelligence-led enforcement actions. The Police would also work closely with property management companies and security guards for sharing security information. The Police would organise seminars to remind residents to lock the doors and windows securely, as well as to install anti-burglary system and CCTV for the purpose of combating burglary cases. Since some burglary cases were committed by crime syndicates of the Mainland, the Police would cooperate with the Mainland enforcement agencies for intercepting these syndicates from the origin;
- (5) He appreciated that Members were concerned about the Police and fully supported their work. While some Members thought that the Police had taken an intransigent attitude towards demonstrators, others opined that the Police were very restrained. The public should rest assured that the Police would enforce law irrespective of the political affiliation and background of the offenders, and only the actual circumstances at the scene would be taken into account. The Police would facilitate the public to engage in peaceful, lawful and orderly demonstrations as far as possible so that they could express their aspirations;
- (6) He appreciated that frontline police officers were very stressful. Many might have watched a video clip showing a lady acted to humiliate a police officer issuing a summons to her in a deliberately abusive manner. The Police would provide psychological counseling and experience sharing opportunities to police officers with the aim of enhancing their mental quality and stress resistance so that they could perform their duties calmly; and
- (7) The Police had recorded the views of Members on the law and order issues of Yuen Long district such as illegal gambling, streetwalkers, traffic congestion, burglary, illegal road racing that generated vehicle noise and law and order situation in the rural areas. The Yuen Long Police District would follow them up and step up enforcement as well as online publicity efforts in light of latest situation.

38. The Chairman thanked the Commissioner again for attending YLDC meeting. He believed the Commissioner had noted that all Members shared the view that the manpower of Yuen Long Police District should be increased. Regarding the law and order situation in Yuen Long, he trusted that under the leadership of the Commissioner, the new District Commander of Yuen Long would continue to enhance the law and order of the district and protect safety of residents.

**Item III: “Hong Kong 2030+ : Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030”
(YLDC Paper No. 93/2016)**

39. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the Paper No. 93/2016, which was a brief

introduction of the major findings and recommendations relating to “Hong Kong 2030+ : Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” by the Development Bureau (“DEVB”) and the Planning Department (“PlanD”). The Chairman hoped Members could give their views on the paper and he welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

Development Bureau

Under Secretary for Development
Political Assistant to Secretary for
Development

Mr MA Siu-cheung, Eric, JP
Mr FUNG Ying-lun, Allen

Planning Department

Chief Town Planner/Strategic Planning
Chief Town Planner/Studies and Research,
Senior Town Planner/Strategic Planning 5
Senior Town Planner/Studies and Research 2

Miss LAU Bo-ye, Winnie
Ms KUN Ka-yin, April
Ms CHAN Hau yin, Margaret
Mr CHEUNG Kin-kee

40. The Chairman asked the representatives of DEVB and PlanD to introduce the study.

41. Mr Eric MA, JP thanked the Chairman and Members. He said that Hong Kong had faced big challenges and good opportunities over the past decade. Externally, Hong Kong had to compete with other countries and regions in many aspects. In the coming years, several regional transportation infrastructures would be completed and brought new opportunities. In the meantime, the population of Hong Kong, as well as the buildings, was aging rapidly. While members of the public had a great demand for quality living environment, there would be in dire need of land for the development of housing, economic activities and community facilities. Based on “Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy” (“Hong Kong 2030”) which had been completed and announced in 2007, the Government commissioned the study, namely “Hong Kong 2030+ : Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” (“Hong Kong 2030+”) in 2015. In light of the latest situation of Hong Kong, the “Hong Kong 2030+” would provide guidelines for the planning, land and infrastructure development and shape the built environment of Hong Kong beyond 2030. In conjunction with the relevant policy bureaux and departments, DEVB and PlanD would make recommendations on the long term development and commence a public engagement exercise for a period of six months starting from 27 October 2016. The Government would carry out the study with a forward-looking, proactive and pragmatic approach with a view to maintaining Hong Kong’s position as a homely, competitive and sustainable Asia’s world city. DEVB and PlanD hoped that by visiting 18 District Councils and discussing with Members, from a macro perspective, as to how to further enhance liveability and competitiveness of Hong Kong through planning of land and infrastructure layout. The study would also make provision for the expansion in development and environmental capacities. The study would involve various projects and follow-ups including policy support, and the Government would consult the public again according to relevant procedures as these policies and projects had proceeded to an advanced stage. The study was a relatively macro and high level planning, and he hoped Members would offer their views and plan for the future of Hong Kong. He invited the representative of PlanD to brief Members on some of the specific proposals in the study.

42. Ms Margaret CHAN briefed Members on the vision, goal and building blocks, conceptual spatial framework as well as structural arrangements of “Hong Kong 2030+”.

43. The Vice-chairman welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC for consulting Members on the subject. As regards the issue of dilapidated buildings, he opined that the Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”) mainly focused on implementing renewal plans in urban areas while Yuen Long Town had not been included in these plans. In view of the rapid development of Hong Kong, the Government should consider balancing the development in various districts. There were many old buildings in the vicinity of West Rail Long Ping Station, and if the building design and height could be revised, the supply of housing flats would be increased. Besides, he was disappointed towards the proposed transportation network in the study. He knew that the Government was consulting the public on the development of Kam Tin South and Pat Heung. However, the Government had not taken the opportunity to explore the possibility of strengthening the connection of New Territories East with New Territories West. As widening of Lam Kam Road and Kam Tin Road had been put on the shelf, let alone the construction of railways for improving the traffic. He believed that improving the traffic would be beneficial to the land production in Central New Territories, and would help balance the economic development and boost employment in the respective districts. In addition, he hoped Yuen Long district would be provided with an international school. He pointed out that a site had been earmarked for such purpose in Au Tau previously, but now it was used for residential development. He hoped DEVB and PlanD would help identify a site in Yuen Long district for providing an international school.

44. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP said that one of the building blocks proposed in the study was “enhancing liveability in our high-density city”. He opined that “liveability” and “high density” were not compatible concepts. In the past, PlanD had examined the ways to provide more space for improving the living environment in its planning studies. It was self-contradictory that PlanD proposed “liveability” and “high density” at the same time. The paper mentioned that additional common space and local facilities should be provided but he considered the projected per capita area inadequate. The paper had neither mentioned the increase in per capita living area. With the growth in population, members of the public hoped to live more comfortably. The planning goal might aim at increasing land supply with a view to coping with the housing need of the population. Nevertheless, the briefing did not go into detail in this respect. Moreover, he had doubts about the method for projecting the population. Was the population projected on the basis that 50 000 Mainlanders would arrive and live in Hong Kong each year and the immigration policy remained unchanged? If the Government reviewed the relevant policies in the future, the projection might be different. Furthermore, the paper mentioned that North-East Lantau would be developed as East Lantau Metropolis. Many years ago, the Government had planned to construct a container terminal in there but now the plan had been shelved. He proposed the Government to resume the original plan and made North-East Lantau a container terminal so that the site of the present Kwai Chung Container Terminal could be vacated for developing a new central business district by taking advantage of its location which conveniently connected the urban areas with the New Territories. Besides, from now on to beyond 2030, the population of Yuen Long would reach about one million. The three new development areas and other residential projects in Yuen Long accounted for 40 per cent or 400 000 of the population. Of the targeted supply of 400 000 housing flats by the Government in the coming decade, 120 000 (which was a very high proportion) would be located in Yuen Long. In this connection, he hoped the Government would devote more resources and provide additional ancillary facilities for Yuen Long. Lastly, he stated that YLDC had recently set up a working group on the planning of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area. The working group would discuss land resumption and compensation matters at its second meeting scheduled for 10 February 2017. As the Convener of the working group, he hoped the Under Secretary or representative of DEVB would attend the meeting for answering the enquiries of Members and sharing information with them.

45. Mr CHING Chan-ming opined that the concern of “Hong Kong 2030+” was the development of Hong Kong after 14 years. However, the imminent problems to be resolved were those which would be happened in the next decade. In the next decade, several major development projects such as Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area, Pat Heung and Kam Tin South housing developments would be implemented. In fact, transport was a problem that impeded further development of Yuen Long. The Government should complete the road network before implementing district development. Unless the Government could execute relevant economic policies which increase the GDP, it would be just empty talks that the public could live in more spacious homes in the coming ten years or so and people’s views had not been truly reflected.

46. Mr CHOW Wing-kan opined that no matter how grand the plan was for the coming ten years or so, the Government should explicate clearly to Hong Kong people how they would be benefited by the development. The Government should also provide appropriate rehousing arrangements and compensation for those affected by future developments and urban renewal, or else it would meet resistance and objections. Besides, the paper mentioned about the changes in international circumstances would bring uncertainty to the developments in Hong Kong. In this connection, he thought that the development plans should be expandable and flexible. He opined that the Government would explore the possibility of implementing development projects in landfills at strategic locations, for example, those around the Pearl River Estuary for the purpose of further expanding river trade. Every industry area should be supported by scientific research conducted by universities or research institutions to facilitate the development of innovative technology. The paper mentioned that the Government was exploring ways to develop the caverns in Hong Kong. He proposed that caverns near new development areas could be developed as underground commercial cities or government facilities, whilst those in rural areas could be developed as relatively controversial facilities such as columbarium. Lastly, with the “Belt and Road” initiatives implemented by the Mainland, Hong Kong might become the finance centre, Renminbi offshore centre or business service centre of the “Belt and Road” countries and regions. In this regard, Hong Kong should groom talents proficient in innovative technology and languages of “Belt and Road” countries such as Russian, Urdu, Arabic and French.

47. Mr KWOK Keung, MH strongly supported the Government to conduct a study for macro development strategy plan. He said that when the Chief Executive first assumed office, he had visited YLDC. Members expressed their hope that the Government would create job opportunities in the district when it implemented any development plans. One of the objectives of the study was to create quality posts with required multi-skills, as well as to shorten the distance between job and home. It proved that the Government had listened to the views of Members. While the study was very beneficial to the public, the Government should first review the relevant land resumption compensation thoroughly when implementing any development plans. After drawing up an appropriate compensation package, it should be practically executed according to the relevant provisions. Furthermore, he reflected the West Rail had reached its maximum carrying capacity. He urged the Government to examine the feasibility of constructing Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan Link to link Hung Shui Kiu, Tuen Mun, Tung Chung, Kau Yi Chau, Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. The Link would relieve the congestion of West Rail and improve the traffic of Northwest New Territories in the long run.

48. Mr Ronnie TANG welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC for listening Members’ views. He opined that the Government should consider implementing development plans with an innovative approach. For example, the Government would identify one or two hills and construct

public housing on the top of it/them. If these new concepts were feasible, it would not be necessary to resume land from various sites and thus damage the homes of people. Also, there would be no need to change the usage of brownfield sites and the original operations at these sites would not be affected. He supplemented that the decline of local agriculture was due to failure of the Government to provide subsidy. The lead taken by the Government in land production and utilisation was very important. By the same token, if the Government took the initiative to construct public housing on hilltops, the housing need of the many people could be satisfied. The innovative development approaches were worth studying.

49. Mr LAI Wai-hung welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC and briefed on “Hong Kong 2030+” which outlined the planning development of Hong Kong beyond 2030. While the objectives and proposals of the study introduced by the representative of PlanD just now should be supported, he opined that the Government had not attached importance to improving the road network before it implementing development in the New Territories. That was why the public did not fully support the plans. He also found that the Government had always broken its word. For example, the Government stated that it would implement the widening works of Lam Kam Road a few years ago. Later, the works was withheld because the Government said that it was not urgent. Another example was that ten years or so, the Government had agreed to construct a sports centre in Kam Tin. No further news on it had been heard by now. Rather than implementing development plans beyond 2030, he thought the Government should address the problems right before its eyes. At the previous four YLDC meetings, he had strongly objected to the development plans of Kam Sheung Road and Pat Heung South which focused on population growth without paying due regard to improving the road network. Now that the Under Secretary had paid attention to the problem and asked the Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”) to review the feasibility of improving Kam Sheung Road. If a road which was built fifty years ago could not be improved, let alone development in the district. He hoped the Under Secretary could pay more attention to traffic issues.

50. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen said that regarding the study commissioned by DEVB and PlanD, just now Members mentioned that numerous planning projects in Yuen Long district had not been implemented and issues relating to brownfield sites had not been resolved. While the Government had not properly handled the issues in the next decade, it talked about the situation beyond 2030. Moreover, Yuen Long residents were very dissatisfied with traffic congestion at the moment, in particular the traffic bottleneck which appeared around Shap Pat Heung Road where private housing estates and people were crowded. The Government should attach highest priority to tackling these imminent problems. He thought that comprehensive planning would be supported by all sectors in society whereas unrealistic plans would be objected. The Government should be realistic in improving the traffic network of Yuen Long and handling the warehouses as well as logistics industry in Yuen Long South, Wang Chau and Ha Tsuen before implementing long term planning development. With more pragmatic and comprehensive planning, Hong Kong would take advantage of the economic opportunities brought by the Pearl River Delta Region Development.

51. Mr MAK Ip-sing welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC. Regarding the study introduced by the Under Secretary and PlanD representative, he attempted to look for plans that the Government had claimed to implement in the next decade, in particular plans relating to railways and road networks. He said that all along, the residents believed that the Government might develop Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan Link and carry out West Rail extension works including Hung Shui Kiu Station and Tuen Mun South Extension. However, the plans attached to the paper did

not show any information on these railway networks. The transportation ancillary networks proposed in the paper mainly depended on the existing roads and railways. In this connection, how could the Government solve the traffic problems brought by the newly increased population of Yuen Long, which would reach about 1 million? Secondly, the briefing mentioned about the proposed East Lantau Metropolis and the Government would construct a Transport Corridor to link Northwest New Territories, East Lantau Metropolis, as well as the Hong Kong Island and Kowloon via Kau Yi Chau. The Government would carry out reclamation works at Kau Yi Chau and its surrounding waters in the development project, making the East Lantau Metropolis a community accommodating several hundred thousands of people. He opined that though Hong Kong was a small place, still there was land for development and reclamation was not necessary. He believed that reclamation was only for avoidance of compensation issues relating to land resumption. He thought that reclamation would result in visual intrusion of the Victoria Harbour and he firmly objected to reclamation works to be carried out at Kau Yi Chau and its surrounding waters.

52. Mr MAN Ping-nam, MH said that he would give full marks to “Hong Kong 2030+” as an essay. However, in the capacity of the Chairman of San Tin Rural Committee and a DC Member of the rural areas, he did not accept the proposals of the paper. He said that when PlanD made statutory plans in the 1980s, it stated that plans of the respective districts would be reviewed every five years. Nevertheless, the paper pointed out that the Government would conduct Territorial Development Strategy Review about every ten years since the 1970s. The review interval was different. Besides, none of the planning projects implemented by the Government 30 years ago had been completed by now. He had made enquiry by writing to the then Director of Planning but had received an interim reply only. Earlier when the Director of Planning visited YLDC, he said he would address the issues raised by Members as soon as possible. He thought that the district consultation on planning development conducted by PlanD was just a kind of farcical consultation. The objections raised by Members were not responded. The San Tin Rural Committee was a statutory local consultative and advisory body and yet when it raised objection to certain planning issues, PlanD did not respond to it. The briefing twice mentioned that the vision-driven planning was people-oriented, but he thought that it had not taken into account the housing demand of the indigenous villagers and thus far from being people-oriented.

53. Mr LUK Chung-hung said that the objectives of the study included improving the living environment, increasing housing supply, etc., which would be supported by most people. However, some of the proposals were unclear. For example, the ten-year housing supply target of the Government was to build 460 000 public and private flats. The study estimated that land supply would be increased to meet the need for housing, economic activities, Government, Institution and Community facilities, open space as well as transport facilities. Apart from the existing sites, the projected land supply had included the development projects that had been implemented and planned, for example, Yuen Long South, Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area, Pat Heung/Kam Tin South. In this connection, the projection was over-optimistic. The Public Engagement booklet pointed out that in 2015, the average area of the living flat of Hong Kong people was 57 square metres or some 600 square feet (private flat). If calculated on the basis of gross floor area, it would be some 800 square feet. He opined that the figures did not reflect the reality, or else there was no need for the Government to launch the development projects. Lastly, he enquired the follow-up actions taken by the Government on the projects proposed earlier but not mentioned in the paper, for example, the innovative technology projects in Lok Ma Chau Loop.

54. Mr TANG Hing-ip, BBS said that though the development plans in Northeast New Territories, Yuen Long South, Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and Kam Tin South

proposed by the Government did not take shape at the moment, these projects could be conceptually incorporated in the planning vision. The most important thing was to avoid limiting the possibility of site development. For instance, the relevant development projects mainly concentrated on construction of private housing estates and resulted in high-density population. Furthermore, traffic and transport was the most important consideration to be taken into account in the implementation of planning development. The Government should provide more transport infrastructure before proceeding to implement developments. He hoped the Government could listen to the views of various parties with the aim of boosting public confidence on the projects to be implemented. Otherwise, the projects would be aborted even though consultants were engaged to conduct the vision planning.

55. Mr TANG Ka-leung welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC, allowing Members to reflect the actual situation of Yuen Long district to him. He said that when the Government conducted district consultation through YLDC or its Committees in the past, it usually asked the consultancy to brief Members and lead the discussion at the meeting. Besides, the representatives of the department who attended the meeting were not senior officials. He reflected that earlier when the Government consulted the respective working group on the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area, the consultancy and department representative even held different views on the widening and usage of Ping Ha Road. He hoped DEVB would improve in this regard, for example, by assigning senior officials to attend consultative meetings related to development projects in Yuen Long South, Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and Kam Tin South. Regarding the proposals in “Hong Kong 2030+”, he thought increasing land supply by way of reclamation was inevitable because it could avoid the conflicts relating to land resumption among the Government and stakeholders, as well as the dissatisfaction of the affected residents. He always proposed the Government to develop the land around the Deep Bay with a view to dovetailing with the economic development of Qianhai and achieving long term regional economic cooperation. He did not understand why the Government always chose to challenge difficulty in its planning. For example, developing Lantau Island would arouse the dissatisfaction of residents who lived there and loved the natural environment, especially the foreigners. The Government must win their support or the planning concerned would be aborted.

56. Mr TO Ka-lun thought that “Hong Kong 2030+” was similar to the “Rose Garden Project” (Note: “The Airport Core Programme”) launched by the Government many years ago in which some project items had been aborted finally. He agreed with some Members that no matter how grand the plan was, there was bound to be uncertainty. He opined that if the Government did not have clear population and economic policies as the basis, all long term planning would be mere paper talk. He stated that Hong Kong’s population policy focused on how many immigrants it would accommodate in view of low birth rate; and the economic policy focused on encouraging high value-added industries to boost the economy. However, all these years he did not see the Government launch practical policies to help the development of local high value-added industries. He opined that the projects proposed in the study were mainly related to matters that would happen after a few decades whilst at present, there were many urgent tasks that the Government should handle expeditiously. Meanwhile, the vision planning was not innovative at all. For example, the district development projects mainly relied on road surface transportation and the feasibility of underground mass transit system was not explored. Besides, the Government did not consider implementing plans on greening, renewable energy and solid waste disposal for the purpose of facilitating future development needs. Furthermore, the Government might examine the development potential of other types of land, for example, military land or sites rented by individual organisations. Lastly, he enquired about the name of consultancy engaged by the Government to conduct the study.

57. Mr Zachary WONG said that regarding the research studies conducted by the Government, he had a feeling that if the project plan was well-written and commended by the Chief Executive and Secretaries, the official responsible for the project would be promoted and had a bright future. Eventually, whether the plan could be implemented was none of the official's business. Those who had good memory should remember that in 1996, the Government had stated that the Northern Link of West Rail would be built but yet the plan was not implemented so far. Besides, when the Government developed Areas 13 and 14 of Yuen Long in 2002, the town plan concerned showed that a new road would be built by the Government to connect the Park Signature with Shap Pat Heung Road. Again, no further news, not least on which department would be responsible for the construction, was heard by now. Other projects, such as widening of Tin Ha Road, had not commenced. He found it weird that on one hand, the Government had not properly handled its tasks at hand, but on the other hand, it strived to win the support of Members for its long term plans beyond 2030. Moreover, he did not understand that among all districts in Hong Kong, why only the East Lantau Metropolis and New Territories North would be applied to the three building blocks mentioned in the study. Lastly, he opined that the sole objective of the plan was to resume the land concerned first, and whether the plan could be implemented remained a separate issue. Therefore, he had not supported any development plans or studies over the last several years.

58. Ms YUEN Man-ye welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC and listen to Members' views. She opined that the study was a vision planning beyond 2030 and a matter in the very remote future. She said that the Government should provide a comprehensive transport network before implementing any development in the district. That is to say, the Government must resolve the serious traffic congestion problem before developing Yuen Long South. YLDO had been urging the Government to deck the nullah in the district (such as Kung Um Road nullah) with a view to widening the road and providing more transport facilities, but the Government had disregarded the requests of Members and residents. Lastly, while the study was about matters of the next fourteen years, the Government had failed to fulfill its pledge that it made ten years ago. The works that had not been implemented so far included Long Tin Road noise barrier, widening of Lam Kam Road, Kam Tin Sports Centre, etc. She opined that if the Government was concerned about the development of Yuen Long district, it should pay attention to the present situation of Yuen Long. Lastly, she urged the Government to confirm the works schedule of Long Tin Road noise barrier promptly.

59. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC. He said that while the Government intended to implement development projects in Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area, Kam Tin South and Yuen Long South, the traffic in Yuen Long South had reached full capacity at present. Every day, the traffic was seriously congested. He hoped that the Government would consider implementing projects which could be completed in the next five or ten years. Otherwise, any plan would just be a castle in the air. As the traffic problem and brownfield site issues in Yuen Long district had not been resolved, long term development was out of the question. He hoped the Government could introduce short term measures for addressing the problems right before the eyes of Yuen Long.

60. Mr TANG Ho-nin said that the Under Secretary had just briefed the meeting on the future plan but he liked to talk about history. He pointed out that though the planning for Yuen Long district and Northeast New Territories had not commenced, the paper included it as project to be

implemented. He stated that the Town Planning and Development Committee (“TP&DC”) under YLDC had set up a working group on the planning of the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area. Owing to lack of clear guidelines given by the Government, Members of the working group quarreled when discussing about compensation for land resumption. He suggested the Government adopt the practice in the 1960s and 1970s where comprehensive planning had been conducted at a ten-year interval. In the past, the success of satellite town was attributed to priority given to widening and improving of road networks, followed by production of housing flats and other developments. Another example was that before West Rail Kam Sheung Road Station was built, it was a place where few people treaded. After the Station and the access roads were completed, housing estates in the vicinity were also completed by stages. He opined that planning was different from writing fairy tales because the former must be practical and feasible.

61. Mr YIU Kwok-wai welcomed the Under Secretary to visit YLDC. He said he was affiliated to the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (“FTU”) and he wished to express his views on the development of Hong Kong. He said that development should meet practical needs, but he always saw that the Government attempt to attract local stakeholders by the use of a seemingly good vision. The task was considered complete if support of political parties had been enlisted. He opined that many projects implemented by PlanD had not been thoroughly planned. Though some of them might be revised but in general, they failed to meet the actual needs of the district. For example, a number of Members had reflected the problem of congestion in Yuen Long and suggested many solutions. However, the Government had taken no action in response to them. Another example was that the Government planned to delete Tin Ying Road from the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area. Despite Members objected to it, the relevant department had not revised the proposal. He hoped the Government would improve its work in this regard. In respect of site utilization in light of development of certain industries, he opined that apart from commercial and trade, Hong Kong should develop some other trades on the community level. For example, lots of land in the New Territories had been used as parking space for container tractors. In light of the operational needs of the logistics industry, many such vehicle parks had been converted into warehouses and the number of container tractor parks had been reduced. Many friends of his were container truck drivers and they reflected to him the problems they were facing and the solutions. However, the future development plans concentrated on construction of housing flats, and the above problems were not properly handled. He said that past experience like this had lowered the level of trust of Members in the Government. Taking the example of transport issues, the respective power and responsibility of DEVB and the Transport and Housing Bureau (“THB”) had to be clarified. He hoped that collaboration among policy bureaus would be strengthened. Only by doing so could confidence of Members be enhanced in the Government in solving district problems and could development plans be implemented smoothly.

62. Mr CHAN Sze-ching said that he was astonished to see the Government’s vision planning and strategies on Hong Kong beyond 2030. While the Mainland implemented a five-year plan, Hong Kong had a fifteen-year plan. Unless the SAR Government could operate like the British Hong Kong Government which was basically an executive-led system headed by the Governor, implementing large-scale planning project could not be that easy. He remembered when the British Hong Kong Government attempted to develop new towns in Tai Po and Tuen Mun, not many green groups would raise objections. At that time, it would be possible to fill and level up the whole mangrove area. In view of the present political landscape of Hong Kong which was not fully democratic, the Government would meet resistance whenever major development projects were to be implemented. Besides, projects proposed by DEVB previously such as developments in Northeast New Territories, Lok Ma Chau Loop and Agri-Park had not been implemented by now. As a straw showed which way the wind blew, we could somehow predict the results of the major

planning study of the Government for this time. Lastly, he said that as the present term of Government would serve for less than six months, how the new Government would ensure the continuity of the policies implemented at present would be an issue. He hoped the Under Secretary would address the anxiety of Members.

63. Mr Eric MA, JP gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) He thanked Members for their views and understood that Members were very concerned about the development and transport issues of Yuen Long. DEVB would focus on short term, medium term as well as long term development of land. Over the past few years, DEVB had paid great efforts in land supply, and short term achievement had been seen in the supply of land for private housing. The land supply could meet the target of producing 18 000 to 19 000 flats each year. In the meantime, THB would work hard to meet the short term annual production target for public housing flats. As regards targets in the medium term, the Government would implement major development projects such as Kwu Tung North, Fanling North and Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area which were to be implemented or were being implemented. The progress of projects at Fanling North and Kwu Tung North was good, for example, some facilities for the elderly in Shek Tsai Ling had been completed. Recently, DEVB and the Hong Kong Housing Society had jointly made medium term local rehousing arrangements for a number of residents affected by clearance. All these tasks would be on-going and need time to complete. Just now Mr Daniel CHAM had mentioned about a working group on the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area. DEVB and PlanD would make use of the platform to discuss the relevant issues with Members;
- (2) It took a long time to resolve land issues. When SARS broke out in 2003, people became pessimistic and demand for housing dropped. Therefore, land supply for housing had slowed down in the past decade. Now that the economy improved, demand for housing on the part of young people increased. However, as land reserve was limited and land development took time, it became the biggest challenge faced by DEVB. Land shortage was a prolonged phenomenon in Hong Kong, and that was why the Government should formulate long term land development plan while handle short term and medium term planning. It was also a policy pledge of DEVB;
- (3) A Member said that the Government would face much difficulty in local development, for example, transport issue had to be resolved in Kam Tin South development. DEVB would not give up easily and would strengthen communication with local people with the aim of understanding their needs. DEVB would follow up issues within its ambit progressively, as well as collaborate with other policy bureaus. For instance, DEVB and THB had followed up transport issues proactively in the planning of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area. THB would commission the feasibility study on Route 11 with a view to improving the traffic conditions of Northwest New Territories;
- (4) Major development project normally took a long time to complete. Take the example of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area, the first study on the project commissioned by the Government started in 1997 but its outline zoning plan had not been completed by now. It was expected that the first batch of residents would move in by 2024 and the entire project would complete by 2037/38. We could see

that land planning and development were long term tasks and effects might not be achieved very shortly. In the process of work, the Government would consult local personalities, draw on their wisdom and promote district development with concerted efforts. DEVB was willing to listen to Members' views and continue to communicate with local personalities;

- (5) The study had not explored the development of underground space in detail because it was conducted in a macro perspective. Nevertheless, DEVB had conducted consultation on the feasibility of underground space development and a number of projects were in progress. Earlier on, CEDD had promulgated the draft cavern master plan to inform the public of potential development of carven in certain districts. Generally speaking, the scale of every planning development project was very big and would take long time to implement by phases. The study involving vision planning and strategies beyond 2030 had not stated details of each project such as the details of transport planning for Kam Tin and other places in Yuen Long. It did not mean that DEVB would neglect these projects, but that some current and regional projects were not included in the study in light of its objectives and level. That said, the Government had attached great importance to these local projects and would follow them up progressively;
- (6) A Member said that some planning development projects had been regarded as projects which had been implemented by the Government in the study. In practice, the Government would continue to roll out the relevant projects and follow them up progressively. That was how these projects were reflected in the study. For the purpose of projecting the demand for land of the society after 30 years, the Government must point out the sites available for development. Planning work must start from now and related tasks would commence step by step. The vision planning and strategies would provide a framework only, the Government would draw a conclusion and complete the study after listening to the views of all sectors. The PlanD was responsible for coordinating the study and the department representative would provide supplementary information relating to individual project items conducted by the consultancy later;
- (7) Population growth in Hong Kong had slowed down. In the 1980s and 1990s, the population increased by one million in a decade. After 2000, the figure dropped to about 500 000 in a decade. The population was aging. Though the population increased by just 500 000 over the previous decade, the number of households had been rising rapidly. In the past, it was normal that a family comprised 7 to 8 siblings. Now that nuclear family was common and the average number of members in a household dropped. As the number of households increased, new housing flats were required to cater for the needs of these small families in the society. At present, the large number of applicants on the Waiting List reflected that public demand for public housing was great. Many people hoped to form their family and demand for private housing was also great. The Government had to strike a balance between the demand for land of the two parties;
- (8) Regarding Members' proposal of developing hilltops for the purpose of reducing land resumption, the Government would not neglect any piece of land available for development. In the "Hong Kong 2030+" study, PlanD had examined potential sites for development over the territory. Most of the hilltops in Hong Kong were too steep and development cost would be very high. The recent example of hilltop development was Tai Sheung Tok in Kowloon or the former site of Anderson Road

Quarry. To develop the site, the Government had to construct many roads and provide many ancillary facilities, which made the project particularly challenging. That said, the Government would face up to the challenges if suitable sites were identified for development; and

- (9) In response to the enquiry about the latest progress of the development projects implemented by the Government earlier such as Lok Ma Chau Loop, the Government was following up the project proactively and would timely report the progress to Members. In the meantime, the newly established Innovation and Technology Bureau (“ITB”) would promote the development of innovative technology industry in Hong Kong and identify suitable sites for the purpose. ITB had also participated in the Lok Ma Chau Loop project actively. He hoped Members would be rest assured that the Government was following up the project progressively.

64. Miss Winnie LAU gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) She thanked Members for their views and understood that they were very concerned about local issues. Apart from handling the problems at present, the Government had to carry out long term planning. Many cities over the world would conduct planning beyond 2030, 2040 and even 2050. It would be only less than twenty years to go before 2030, after the Government had completed the projects now being implemented, Hong Kong should have some other new projects for the next generation. In fact, the Government had been conducting Hong Kong Territorial Development Strategy Review every ten years since the 1970s. The last review conducted in 2007 was “Hong Kong 2030”. It was time to conduct another Hong Kong Territorial Development Strategy Review, especially in face of rapid change in the regional and international situation;
- (2) Many Members raised concerns over population growth just now. According to the baseline forecast of the Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”), the population of Hong Kong would reach a record high of 8.22 million in 2043. The latest population forecast of C&SD included high, medium and low levels, and baseline forecast was the medium one. The baseline forecast had taken into account the trend assumption of the decrease in the one-way permit quota from 150 to 100 per day, to reflect the actual usage situation of the quota in recent years. C&SD had assumed that the quota of 150 per day would not be exhausted when giving the forecast of 8.22 million;
- (3) A Member just said that some projects under planning were regarded as projects being committed in the study. She agreed that the wordings in the paper should have been more accurate. The description of “Committed/Under Planning” (page 70 of PE Booklet) had been used to generalize certain projects being implemented, for example, Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and Yuen Long South were regarded as “Under Planning”. Of the total projected land demand of 4 800 hectares mentioned in the paper, 3 600 hectares included certain projects “under planning”. However, it was uncertain if these projects would be completed on schedule and their scope remained unchanged because we were talking of a very long period of time from now. The Government had to provide buffer for its plans and the proposed spatial framework could provide a maximum housing capacity for about 9 million people, representing a 10 per cent buffer for the projected population of 8.22 million;

- (4) The paper did not stipulate the target for per capita living area. The average saleable area of 57 square metres as mentioned by the Member was calculated by the Rating and Valuation Department on the basis of the number of private domestic units. Nevertheless, the Government noted that there were some small-sized units in the property market. We did not want this to happen. Therefore, the Government must provide more land, create the conditions and opportunities for enlarging the living area of the public. Through the “Hong Kong 2030+” study, the Government also aimed to enlarge the per capita area of public space such as leisure and community facilities. Relatively speaking, the Government had a better control over the planning of public space;
- (5) Regarding Members’ views on railways and road networks, the proposed Transport Corridor linking Northwest New Territories, East Lantau Metropolis and the urban areas would not only include highways, but also railways. At this stage, the Corridor was only a conceptual planning proposal, and further consultation and study were required. In respect of the Northern Link, the “Railway Development Strategy 2014” had proposed to implement seven priority projects and the Northern Link was one of them. The “Hong Kong 2030+” regarded the Northern Link as a project under planning which would be followed up. The focus of “Hong Kong 2030+” study would be when Hong Kong had two strategic growth areas, how would the Government facilitate the development of them;
- (6) Regarding the proposal of hilltop development, Hong Kong lacked land for housing development as well as for economic activities of various sectors. For example, young people wished to start their own businesses but stepped back from high rental. The focus of development of the two strategic growth areas, namely East Lantau Metropolis and New Territories North was not housing supply only. The Government hoped to develop diversified economy in the areas. Besides, even if the Government developed a hilltop and provide housing units, the sites concerned might not be suitable for economic activities. East Lantau Metropolis situated between Hong Kong Island and Lantau, its geographical edge allowed it to be developed into a business core; and
- (7) A Member enquired about the consultancy relating to the “Hong Kong 2030+” study. Most of the planning work was performed by PlanD itself or in collaboration with other policy bureaux and departments. Consultancy firms had also been engaged to conduct technical studies on land demand for economic activities in market, transport and land use, strategic environmental assessment and sustainability assessment.

65. Mr Zachary WONG said that Mr TO Ka-lun wished to know the name of the consultancy firms.

66. Miss Winnie LAU said that the projection of land demand for economic activities was responsible by ICF Consulting Services HK Ltd, whereas transport and land use study as well as strategic environmental assessment were responsible by Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd. As regards study on sustainability assessment, tender invitation exercise would be conducted in due course.

67. The Chairman concluded that Members generally supported sustainable development to

be implemented in Hong Kong but a majority of them were doubtful towards such a long term planning study conducted by the Government. It was because the planning projects implemented by the Government in the past had not been committed and the traffic problems in Yuen Long had not been resolved so far. In some of the planning projects and the “Hong Kong 2030+” study, we did not see any large scale or new transport network to be implemented which would improve the traffic in Yuen Long. Members’ anxiety would not be addressed as the population of Yuen Long continued to grow. Furthermore, many Members mentioned that a lot of district works had not been implemented. He hoped that when the Government launched any long term plan, it would implement those projects which it had committed in the past so that DC would support them. Members would also concern about the compensation and rehousing arrangements for people affected by development projects. Some Members opined that the Government had disregarded the views of residents and he hoped that the Government would strengthen communication with the public and Members. He thought that the Government must listen to the opinions of various sectors and choose the right course, or else the public and Members would be disappointed. To conclude, “Hong Kong 2030+” was talking about the plans for Hong Kong after more than a decade, he hoped the Government would keep consulting DCs and the public and listen to their views. He thanked the Under Secretary and representatives of the departments for attending the meeting.

68. Regarding the enquiry of Mr TO Ka-lun about whether the Government would consider regulating the minimum per capita living area by enacting legislation, the Chairman said that DEVB or PlanD might consider replying to Mr TO by writing if the relevant information was available.

(Post-meeting note: The reply of DEVB and PlanD to Mr TO Ka-lun’s enquiry was as follows: The Government was conducting public engagement and consultation on “Hong Kong 2030+”. If the public reached a consensus on the setting of minimum per capita living area, the Government would further consider conducting study on it.)

IV: Question from DC Members:

**Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary, the Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Ms CHAN Mei-lin and Mr TO Ka-lun proposed to discuss “the implementation of five-day week”
(YLDC Paper No. 94/2016)**

69. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 94/2016, which was about the proposal of Mr Zachary WONG, the Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Ms CHAN Mei-lin and Mr TO Ka-lun to discuss “the implementation of five-day week”. He also asked Members to take note of the replies from the Civil Service Bureau (“CSB”) and the Labour Department (“LD”) respectively.

70. The Chairman supplemented that the representatives of CSB and LD were not able to attend the meeting. They wished to convey the following messages to Members:

CSB

“We are sorry that no representative can be arranged to attend the meeting. Regarding Questions (1) to (3), the latest situation of the implementation of five-day week has been provided in the attachment for Members’ information.”

LD

“The Labour Department thanks Yuen Long District Council for expressing concern over the issue and apologises for failing to send a representative to attend the meeting due to office exigencies. In response to Questions (4) and (5), the Labour Department have prepared a paper for Members’ reference.”

71. The Chairman said that if Members had any views on the item, the Secretariat would convey Members’ opinions to CSB and LD.

72. Mr Zachary WONG was disappointed by CSB’s failure to assign a representative to the meeting. He thought that compared with CSB, Members were more concerned about the rights of civil servants. He believed that five-day week would allow employees to have more time to spend with their families. In the past when the Government implemented five and-a-half-day week, civil servants had to work on Saturday. They usually worked for a whole day on Saturday and could not leave their work until Sunday. They stayed at home on Sunday for rest. They did not have the energy to go out with their families and were afraid that if they would be exhausted for work the next day. On the other hand, civil servants could go out with their families on Saturday if they worked under a five-day week. Even if they were exhausted on Saturday, they might rest on Sunday. In implementing five-day week, the Government had to abide by a basic principle namely no additional staffing resources. At present, around 70 per cent of the prevailing civil servants were working on a five-day week work pattern. For the remaining 30 per cent, a majority of them were law enforcement staff who had to serve on Saturday and Sunday. Take the example of ImmD, it would be impossible to implement five-day week if no additional staff were employed as the number of arrivals and departures continued to increase. He opined that if the Government increased manpower, staff could be arranged to work on a five-day week work pattern. The Government had implemented five-day week initiative for ten years, it would be appropriate to conduct a review and consider recruiting additional staff so that the remaining 30 per cent of the civil servants could enjoy working on a five-day week pattern. Besides, LD encouraged the private sector to implement five-day week but it had no information relating to the actual situation of the implementation. He hoped LD would keep abreast of the relevant data and continue to encourage the private sector to implement five-day week. He pointed out that many Members support the implementation of five-day week and since he became DC Member from 1988, he had arranged his assistant to work on a five-day week work pattern. He believed that with a sizable structure and plenty of resources, the Government should find it easier to implement the five-day week initiative.

73. Mr YIU Kwok-wai said that though no representative of government departments attended the meeting for answering the enquiries of Members, the Chairman would convey Members’ views to the relevant departments via the Secretariat. He would grasp the opportunity to express his views. He thought the working class of Hong Kong was in weak position. As no government representative attended the meeting, he felt that the labour policy of the Government was superficial. While Members proposed to discuss employment issues, the relevant policy bureau and department failed to assign a representative to attend the meeting. It seemed that they even lacked the strength to deal with DC. Furthermore, there were three Legislative Councillors in YLDC whose opinions should be valued by the Government. However, these Councillors representing the labour sector were not present at the meeting. In view of this, the subject could not be thoroughly discussed. He opined that five-day week was certainly helpful in promoting a family-friendly working environment, but the Government must also provide certain conditions in order to achieve the objectives. For instance, the five-day week work pattern adopted by the

Government at present was achieved by completing the tasks in five days, instead of in five and a half days previously. As the working hours per day became longer, it would be of minimal help in promoting a family-friendly working environment. He opined that five-day week must be complemented by standard working hours in order to cultivating a family-friendly working environment. He said that since Yuen Long was far away from the town, the transportation time of Yuen Long residents was longer than those of other districts. The working hours and transportation time of working people in Yuen Long were also relatively long. He suggested the Government consider the views of various sectors, implement five-day week and standard working hours simultaneously for the purpose of improving labour welfare and treatment.

74. Mr MAK Ip-sing opined that the income of working people in Hong Kong was disproportionate to their workload. Their working hours were long, workload was heavy but income was very low. The society was discussing about employers should implement five-day week and standard working hours, so that employees could have sufficient time to rest after work. Nowadays, working people had working hours only but not off hours. For people who worked on a five and-a-half-day week pattern, they usually had to work until the afternoon on Saturday. That made it a six-day week in practice. If the employees asked their employers for overtime allowance, they might lose their jobs. For the purpose of keeping their jobs, employees of all ranks went to office early, and stayed in office after working hours. It had become vicious competition among employees. He thought that the only way out was mandatory implementation of five-day week with the aim of allowing more rest time for employees of all ranks. He urged the Government to encourage all organisations to implement five-day week and fight for the rights of working people reasonably.

75. Ms CHAN Mei-lin said that many employees, working parents in particular, had worked very long hours and did not have enough rest. The travelling time for going to work and returning home was also long. For working people of Yuen Long, they needed at least one hour to go to the workplace and the round trip time would be more than two hours. Many working parents had to help their children revise the homework when they returned home at night time. They felt exhausted every day. The implementation of five-day week would enable working parents to have sufficient rest time and engage in parenting activities on Saturday. They could be relieved from the work pressure and their quality of life would be enhanced. She hoped the Government would take the lead to implement five-day week and encourage the private sector to practise family-friendly employment arrangements. The working hours of Hong Kong people were always too long. They worked for more than 12 hours and together with the travelling time, their daily life was composed of going to the workplace and leaving it only. In the long run, she hoped five-day week and standard working hours would be implemented in Hong Kong simultaneously so that both adults and children would live happily.

76. The Vice-chairman said that the Secretariat would convey Members' views to the relevant bureaus and departments for follow-ups.

Item V: Progress Report of “District-led Actions Scheme” 2016-17
(YLDC Paper No. 95/2016)

77. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 95/2016, which was a report on the progress of work relating to management and environmental hygiene of public areas under “District-led Actions Scheme” (“DAS”) in 2016-17. Members would be consulted on the effectiveness of DAS and whether the strategies or action locations involved should be revised.

The Chairman invited Mr Edward MAK, JP, District Officer (Yuen Long) and Mr Steve WONG, Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 1 to introduce the paper.

78. Mr Edward MAK, JP thanked the assistance offered by Members and the relevant departments for the implementation of DAS in Yuen Long. Keeping up the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme on Enhancement of District Administration” (the “Pilot Scheme”), DAS continued to implement three projects, namely curbing shop front extensions (SFEs), clearing illegally-parked bicycles and enhancing anti-mosquito efforts/grass cutting. Starting from 2016-17, DAS had been implemented for more than six months. According to the mechanism set by the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”), the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”) must review the effectiveness of the scheme and examine the way forward with DC before the start of the next financial year. In respect of curbing SFEs, YLDO and the relevant departments had taken actions at 10 streets proposed by Members during the period from April to December 2016. Surprised operations were undertaken at action locations included in the Pilot Scheme earlier, such as Hong King Street and Yu King Square, to clamp down on the resurgence. When the Pilot Scheme was first implemented, about 70 per cent of shops had illegally erected platforms and structures; and as at now, about 40 to 50 per cent of shops still did so. After publicity work had been carried out, an average of over 70 per cent of shops voluntarily removed their illegal platforms and structures before the expiry date of the removal notice. We could see that sustained enforcement and publicity efforts did have borne fruits. In respect of clearing of illegally-parked bicycles, YLDO had conducted repeated actions with relevant departments at 52 action locations proposed by Members. About 1 200 illegally-parked bicycles were confiscated each year, representing an increase of 20 per cent over the estimated number of 800 to 1 000 before the implementation of the Pilot Scheme. We understood that a number of Members had suggested amend the relevant ordinances and policies so that enforcement would be taken more actively. In fact, the relevant policy bureaux had been reviewing the proposals. He also thanked TD for considering installation of proper bicycle parking spaces at half of the twelve locations proposed by Members. TD and HyD would jointly install wire meshes at some of the locations in the district with a view to minimising illegal parking at pedestrian links. Regarding enhancing anti-mosquito efforts and grass-cutting, YLDO would continue to carry out anti-mosquito and grass-cutting work at 77 action locations with the relevant departments. He asked Members to consider the effectiveness of the above three projects and the need for revising strategies as well as action locations. Views collected from Members would be submitted to the District Management Committee (“DMC”) for discussion. DMC would then formulate the work strategies and budget for the next year, as well as decide the criteria for selecting and prioritising action locations. DC would consider intensifying the actions for addressing the above three issues, in particular the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance, which had taken effect in September 2016, was proven to be useful in tackling the issues. Under DAS, the above work would be continued to serve the purpose well. Subject to availability of resources, other environmental enhancement works such as beautifying and cleansing of lanes and “three-nil” buildings would also be considered. He asked Members to express their views after Mr Steve WONG had briefed on the work details.

79. Mr Steve WONG briefed Members on the details of work.

80. Mr Zachary WONG said that the three projects under the Pilot Scheme and DAS had commenced for several years and were proven to be effective. With the “Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance” taking effect in September 2016, SFEs had appeared to be less rampant. He suggested that with the implementation of the fixed penalty system, SFEs should be handed over to FEHD for handling. The resources thus saved could then be used for cleansing

work of the rear lanes. He said that the hygienic conditions of rear lanes in Yuen Long Town were deteriorating, with many restaurants washed the dishes and placed the sundries thereat. Some restaurants even discharged cooking fumes at rear lanes and the drains were always blocked. He thought rear lane cleaning work should be carried out jointly by different departments including FEHD, Drainage Services Department and LandsD. The work would be better handled under DAS. He hoped that HAD would implement rear lane cleaning work in the new financial year.

81. The Chairman made a correction that the briefing did mention the proposal relating to beautifying and cleansing of lanes in town, which was the same as Mr WONG's proposal.

82. Mr WONG Cheuk-kin said that the Pilot Scheme and DAS were important measures relating to district administration announced in the Policy Address in the past few years. The two schemes implemented in Yuen Long and Sham Shui Po aimed to provide the relevant DMCs, chaired by the respective District Officer, with decision-making power to tackle the management and environmental hygiene problems of some public areas. The two schemes had achieved visible and positive outcomes. He was concerned about whether the coordination among various departments and YLDO would be different after DAS was fully implemented in all of the 18 districts. He then raised another issue regarding illegally-parked bicycles. The existing legislation required LandsD to serve notice on the illegally-parked bicycles for 48 hours before it may remove the bicycles concerned and the notice of removal was still posted on them by the time of removal. He opined that there was loophole in existing legislation that it could not deal with those bicycles which were parked illegally in the vicinity of public transport interchanges in the morning and were taken away at night on the same day. He suggested the Government set up an ad hoc office as in the case of the Tobacco Control Office to be responsible for inspecting illegally-parked bicycles in the district and issuing penalty tickets to offenders at scene. He believed this method would be relatively simple and direct.

83. Mr TANG Cheuk-him commended the success of DAS. He noted that weeds grew along the edges of and gaps between the bricks of the pavements in Tin Shui Wai. He suggested HyD inject adhesive in the edges and gaps to prevent weeds from growing. He also opined that grass-cutting should be carried out in winter when raining was infrequent. Weeds grew more slowly and would be easier to remove completely.

84. Mr YIU Kwok-wai recognised that DAS was effective in resolving many issues in the district. Regarding grass-cutting work, he had requested HyD to remove the roadside weeds found between the Hong Kong Wetland Park and Light Rail Wetland Park Stop. He prompted HyD to action repeatedly and it carried out the cutting work after three weeks. He was told that his request had been given priority already. He thought that some departments might have tightened the resources for grass-cutting owing to the implementation of DAS. He hoped YLDO would remind the relevant departments that grass-cutting work should not be neglected. Furthermore, he suggested grass-cutting work under DAS be enhanced. For example, upon receipt of Members' request, the relevant departments could complete the work within one or two weeks. He pointed out grass-cutting was complementary to anti-mosquito work for the purpose of preventing the spread of virus. The life cycle of mosquito was about seven days and strengthening of grass-cutting work could curb mosquito breeding effectively.

85. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen thought that DAS was extremely successful, and the three projects

mentioned above had achieved very good results. He and all Members representing the rural areas full supported the Government in implementing DAS. With illegal platforms and structures being removed by the Government, accessibility and manoeuvring space of pedestrians had been enhanced and the cityscape of Yuen Long had improved significantly. He hoped DAS could become a permanent scheme.

86. The Vice-chairman said that regarding illegally-parked bicycles, he thought that the relevant departments could effectively clear those bicycles parked illegally for a long time and being abandoned under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28). To a certain extent, it had helped maintain the accessibility of the pavements. However, the biggest problem regarding illegally-parked bicycles in Yuen Long Town was created by those bicycles which were illegally parked in the morning and were taken away at night on the same day. In particular, those parked in the vicinity of public transport interchanges had blocked the accesses. He enquired about the number of illegally-parked bicycles being confiscated during the latest action jointly taken by YLDO and the relevant departments. He believed that the number would be smaller than that recorded at the initial stage of the Pilot Scheme. He hoped the Government would adjust the strategy in clearing of illegally-parked bicycles by taking enforcement actions pursuant to the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), and allocating resources to the Police and FEHD for handling bicycles which blocked the accesses.

87. Ms CHAN Mei-lin said that weeds grew in the drains along the pavements in Tsz Yau Constituency, some of which were over two feet. She always requested HyD to remove the weeds and it usually took more than one month before the contractor carried out the cutting work. She thought that if the contractor had inspected and removed the weeds regularly, it would not be possible to find the weeds in drains which had grown to over two feet. She had passed the information on the locations of weeds to YLDO for referring to HyD, and she hoped it would closely monitor the work of the contractor. In respect of illegally-parked bicycles, she had also seen people place their tricycles and trolleys at roadside. The cityscape was thus seriously affected. She suggested the procedures for handling of illegally-parked bicycles be simplified so that the relevant departments could confiscate illegally-parked bicycles immediately. Deterrent effect would be served effectively.

88. Ms LAU Kwai-yung said that she reflected to the relevant departments overgrown weeds at roadside in Fu Yan Constituency. She pointed out the weeds at some of the locations had grown up to reach man's knee, and requested that the weeds be removed. The relevant departments told her that they had received too many grass-cutting requests from Members and they were too busy to attend to all. Some of the jobs would only be handled after a long period of time. She also noted the overgrown weeds near Hong Kong Wetland Park as mentioned by Mr YIU Kwok-wai just now. She hoped the relevant departments would pay heed to the issue and strengthen grass-cutting efforts. Besides, she said that the problem of unauthorised clothes-hanging in Tin Shui Wai had been an eyesore for a very long time. She proposed unauthorised clothes-hanging in public areas be tackled by interdepartmental efforts under DAS.

89. Mr TO Ka-lun said that a number of Members had expressed their views on grass-cutting, showing that the coordination among relevant departments and their contractors should be improved. He hoped the departments concerned would actively enhance the coordination with contractors and urge them to remove the roadside weeds in accordance with the contract terms. He said that since weeds were organic substance, the departments concerned might consider recovering the weeds

being cut and disposing of them properly instead of dumping them to the landfill.

90. Mr Edward MAK, JP gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) He thanked Members for their views. Regarding the concern raised by Mr YIU Kwok-wai, he said that the Government had allocated additional resources to YLDO and other partnering departments in light of the implementation of DAS whilst the existing resources of the departments concerned would not be reduced. In fact, the tasks to be performed within the ambit of individual departments would remain unchanged if interdepartmental coordination was not involved;
- (2) YLDO proposed to beautify and clean up lanes and “three-nil” buildings in town in the next financial year with a view to further improving the cityscape subject to availability of resources. In this respect, the proposal coincided with Mr Zachary WONG’s view;
- (3) Regarding curbing SFEs, FEHD and the Police had cited the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance in taking enforcement actions, which proved to be effective. Under DAS, the relevant departments coordinated in removing illegal platforms especially concrete platform and structures. FEHD would continue to handle cases of shops placing goods at shop front and causing street obstruction. The three-pronged approach would continue to be deployed against SFEs progressively;
- (4) Regarding the enquiry of the Vice-chairman, the average number of illegally-parked bicycles confiscated per year was expected to increase from about 800 to 1 000 before the implementation of the Pilot Scheme to about 1 200 as at now. He understood that the number of bicycles being confiscated at some of the locations might be lower than the average number because there were more illegally-parked bicycles being taken away at night. YLDO would continue to explore other ways to tackle the problem, for example, installation of wire meshes for preventing people from locking the bicycles at roadside as well as providing more proper bicycle parking spaces;
- (5) He understood that enforcement actions taken under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance did have limitations. YLDO had reflected to the departments concerned that some Members had suggested the Government examine the feasibility of citing the Summary Offences Ordinance to tackle illegally-parked bicycles. However, the relevant departments had to perform their duties in accordance with the prevailing policies and legal framework as well as the conditions of enforcement pursuant to the legislations concerned. If any changes of policies or amendments of ordinances were involved, such as setting up an ad hoc office to handle illegally-parked bicycles and shortening the time of serving enforcement notices, that had to be examined by the policy bureaux and departments concerned. YLDO would consolidate Members’ views after the meeting and reflect them to the relevant departments again in due course;
- (6) Regarding grass-cutting issues raised by Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr YIU Kwok-wai, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Ms LAU Kwai-yung and Mr TO Ka-lun, YLDC had been collecting information relating to locations proposed by Members. It was noted that a majority of these locations were roads. Though these locations were not included in DAS, YLDO had relayed Members’ requests to HyD for follow-up. If the

departments concerned lacked resources for grass-cutting, YLDO would be pleased to explore the possibility of providing resources under DAS for them with a view to processing Members' requests promptly. Besides, grass-cutting work would be performed all year round. In rainy season when grass grew quickly, grass-cutting would be done more frequently. Anti-malarial oil would also be sprayed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes; and

- (7) Regarding unauthorised clothes-hanging in Tin Shui Wai mentioned by Ms LAU Kwai-yung, YLDO had been regularly dealing with it by interdepartmental joint actions in accordance with established procedures. It was not necessary to include the issue under DAS. If Members found that unauthorised clothes-hanging at certain locations required attention, they might contact YLDO anytime.

(Post-meeting note: YLDO contacted the Members concerned after the meeting and reflected to HyD their views on grass-cutting as well as the proposal of allocating additional resources to HyD on 21 December 2016. HyD replied on 3 January 2017 that it had requested the contractor to carry out grass-cutting work and additional fund was not required. On 12 January 2017, YLDO asked TD to consider installing wire mesh at all locations of the footbridge connecting with Sun Yuen Long Centre again, and to examine the possibility of installing transparent plastic panels near the fences proposed by Members. Reply from TD was pending.)

91. Ms LAU Kwai-yung thanked YLDO for its assistance in handling unauthorised clothes-hanging and increasing the frequency of operations. She hoped the relevant departments would strengthen education and publicity efforts as well as provide more laundry racks in the flats of housing estates. Meanwhile, she hoped the joint operations against unauthorised clothes-hanging would be included under DAS in the long run.

(Post-meeting note: The interdepartmental joint operation against unauthorised clothes-hanging at public areas in Tin Shui Wai coordinated by YLDO would be carried out six times a year. YLDO contacted Ms LAU Kwai-yung on 18 January 2017 to explicate the existing arrangements of the operations. Ms LAU proposed that the frequency of joint operations should be increased to enhance the deterrent effect. She also proposed the departments concerned to erect posters for the purpose of advising the public not to hang their clothes in public areas. YLDO agreed to the proposals and would make arrangements accordingly.)

92. Regarding Mr Zachary WONG's proposal of handing over the work relating to SFEs to FEHD so that resources thus saved could be used for cleansing work of the rear lanes, the Chairman enquired whether the existing resources would be sufficient for continuous handling of the three projects above under DAS together with beautifying and cleansing of lanes.

93. Mr Edward MAK, JP responded that he would urge HAD to provide more resources under the budget of DAS in the next financial year with a view to commencing new projects. Moreover, work efficiency of handling the three projects under DAS had been enhancing owing to accumulating of experience. Productivity had been enhanced and savings achieved. YLDO hoped that resources could be redeployed for carrying out beautifying and cleansing of lanes, on the premise of education and enforcement efforts remained unaffected. Regarding Mr Zachary WONG's enquiry about the difference between "lanes" and "rear lanes", he said that "lanes"

covered larger areas such as rear lanes and lanes between buildings, whereas few people would pass through “rear lanes” which context was narrower. He considered it more appropriate to use “lanes” in this case.

94. Mr KWOK Keung, MH said that YLDO had paid great effort in implementing the Pilot Scheme and DAS, and the performance was commendable. SFEs previously found at streets in Yuen Long Town such as Tai Tong Road had been significantly improved. The streets became more accessible and the cityscape tidier. YLDO had also paid great effort in handling illegally-parked bicycles under prevailing policy and legal framework. He hoped the policies and legislations concerned would be amended so that YLDO and the relevant departments could confiscate the illegally-parked bicycles immediately.

95. The Chairman concluded that the implementation of DAS in Yuen Long was very successful. Members fully supported the scheme and the three projects under it had obtained very satisfactory results. To prevent resurgence of the problems, Members generally considered it appropriate to continue with and intensify the actions for addressing the three issues. In the meantime, new projects such as beautifying and cleansing of lanes in town would be commenced subject to availability of resources, as mentioned by District Officer just now. He hoped YLDO colleagues would keep up their efforts with the aim of improving the living environment of Yuen Long continuously.

Item VI: Progress reports of Committees

- (i) Yuen Long District Management Committee (YLDC Paper No. 96/2016)**
- (ii) District Facilities Management Committee (YLDC Paper No. 97/2016)**
- (iii) Culture, Recreation, Community Service and Housing Committee (YLDC Paper No. 98/2016)**
- (iv) Environmental Improvement Committee (YLDC Paper No. 99/2016)**
- (v) Finance Committee (YLDC Paper No. 100/2016)**
- (vi) Town Planning and Development Committee (YLDC Paper No. 101/2016)**
- (vii) Traffic and Transport Committee (YLDC Paper No. 102/2016)**

96. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper Nos. 96 to 102/2016, which were the Progress Reports of Committees.

97. Ms YUEN Man-ye said that paragraph 9 of the Progress Report of DMC mentioned that HyD would follow up the works progress of noise barriers at highways. She hoped HyD would pay attention to the installation works schedule of noise barriers at Long Tin Road.

98. Mr Edward MAK, JP said that in respect of installation of noise barrier at Long Tin Road, YLDO had invited HyD to attend the previous DMC meeting. Members discussed with and expressed their views on the traffic issues and the above matter to HyD staff at the meeting. He believed HyD staff would continue to discuss and follow up the matter with the Environmental Protection Department.

99. Mr CHING Chan-ming said that paragraph 2 of T&TC Progress Report stated that a Member proposed to write to the Office of the Chief Executive to urge the Government to deck the nullah in Yuen Long. He supplemented that a letter relating to the proposal had been sent to the Office of the Chief Executive and the Secretariat would report the progress to Member as appropriate.

100. The Chairman said that apart from the letter sent by the Chairperson of T&TC, he had reflected to the Chief Executive in person on another occasion earlier that Members hoped the traffic and environment in Yuen Long would be improved, especially decking of nullah in the district.

101. Members noted the Progress Reports of DMC and six Committees under YLDC.

Item VII: Any other business

(i) Matters relating to Members withdrawing from the Committees under YLDC

102. The Chairman asked Members to endorse the application of a Member for withdrawing from a Committee:

Mr LUK Chung-hung withdrew from the Culture, Recreation, Community Service and Housing Committee

103. Members endorsed the above application.

(ii) Proposed member for appointment to the Regional Advisory Committee of the Hospital Authority

104. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 103/2016 and nominate Members to the subject committee.

105. The Chairman said that Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP had served as a member of the subject committee on behalf of YLDC for 22 years. In November 2016, the Hospital Authority (“HA”) confirmed that members who had served in the same regional advisory committee for nine years or above, if being re-appointed, would be re-appointed for one year (the term of appointment would normally be two years). The Chairman invited Members to make nominations, and they might also nominate Mr CHAM to continue to serve as the member on behalf of YLDC.

106. Mr SIU Long-ming said that Mr CHAM had paid much effort when serving on the committee on behalf of YLDC. For example, he had prepared reports for informing members of the progress of all matters after each meeting. He nominated Mr CHAM to continue to serve on the committee.

107. Ms MA Shuk-yin opined that Mr CHAM’s performance was good and she supported the nomination made by Mr SIU Long-ming.

108. Mr Zachary WONG noted that the invitation letter of HA had stated that at a meeting held in November 2016, HA endorsed a new measure that if a member had served in the respective committee for nine years or above, he/she would be re-appointed for one year. Any DC Member nominated by DC, if appointed by HA, would serve on the committee in his/her personal capacity. He found it strange because member nominated by DC should serve on the committee on behalf of DC but not in personal capacity. If so, he encouraged Mr CHAM to serve on the committee in his personal capacity and DC should elect another Member to the subject committee.

109. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP said that he had been serving on the subject committee for the past 22 years in personal capacity because all members of it were appointed in personal capacity. Even if the member was nominated by DC, he/she would be appointed in personal capacity.

110. The Secretary said that for many years, HA had stated in its invitation that the member nominated by DC would serve on the committee in personal capacity.

111. Mr TO Ka-lun enquired whether the words and deeds of the member of the subject committee had no relation with DC, given he/she was appointed in personal capacity.

112. The Secretary said his understanding was that HA stipulated that one of the member of the subject committee must be elected by DC, and then appointed by HA to serve on the committee in personal capacity.

113. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP said that apart from the subject committee, other advisory committees such as the Appeal Tribunal Panel (Buildings) had the same practice that all members served in personal capacity. A majority of government advisory committees had the same practice.

114. Mr TO Ka-lun said that he only wished to know about the specific arrangements relating to members serving on the captioned committee in personal capacity. He had no views on who would take up the post. He opined that if a DC Member was elected by DC but would serve on the subject committee in personal capacity, the elected representative seemed to have no relation with DC. He thought that HA must clarify whether the Member's statements or decisions made in the subject committee represented DC or himself/herself.

115. The Secretary said that all along HA invited a Member elected by DC to join the subject committee in personal capacity. Since the appointed member was elected by YLDC, he had the responsibility to represent DC and meet the expectation of DC Members on the post. The nomination of YLDC representative had also followed the established practice.

116. The Chairman said that he hoped Members would stop indulging in the issue. Members might have different interpretations of "personal capacity". For example, if Mr CHAM was elected to serve on the subject committee on his personal capacity, some might think that he might

not be accountable to YLDC. Based on past experience, Mr CHAM submitted work report to Members every time after he attended committee meeting. To a certain extent, the accountability system had been established. Therefore, no matter Mr CHAM served in his personal capacity or on behalf of YLDC, there would be no difference from the perspective of accountability. Even if Mr CHAM no longer wished to take up the post in the future, other Members being nominated would follow the practice of Mr CHAM. In this regard, he hoped Members would stop examining the wordings seriatim.

117. Mr LUI Kin said that according to the relevant HA regulations, the concept of “in personal capacity” was to be juxtaposed with “organisation”. In the advisory committees of HA, some of the representatives were in the capacity of a particular organisation such as the Food and Health Bureau and Department of Health. The practice was in compliance with provisions in the ordinances. Members who joined the regional advisory committees on behalf of DC must be elected by DC. He/she would normally serve on the committee in personal capacity until the close of the DC term.

118. The Chairman thanked Mr LUI Kin for his supplementary information. He said that if there was no other nomination, the discussion on status of the representative should come to a close.

119. Mr Zachary WONG said that he just wished that the Member serving on the committee on behalf of DC would have a more definite and justifiable status. Besides, the Standing Order stated that if a Member was absent from DC meetings because he/she had to attend other meetings or activities on behalf of DC, DC would agree to his/her absence. If the Member attended the meeting in his/her personal capacity, then he/she could not be absent from the DC meetings on the aforementioned ground. That would be unfair to the Member. He hoped the Chairman would reflect that to HA and urge HA to review the status of DC representative.

120. The Chairman said that he would reflect Mr WONG’s view through the Secretariat. If there was no other nomination, he announced that Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP would continue to serve as member of the subject committee for one year.

(iii) Yuen Long District Team for the 6th Hong Kong Games

121. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 105/2016 which was about the invitation extended by the Organising Committee of the 6th Hong Kong Games (“HKG”) for YLDC to organise a delegation to represent Yuen Long and participate in the 6th HKG. The 6th HKG would be held from 23 April to 28 May 2017 and comprised of eight sports competitions and the Cheering Team Competition for the 18 districts. The delegation would be formed by a Head of Delegation, three Deputy Heads of Delegation and 25 Chief Team Leader/Teams Leaders/Coaches, i.e. a total of 29 Members. In light of the experience of the 5th HKG, the Chairman of YLDC would assume the post of Head of Delegation whereas the Vice-chairman of YLDC, the Chairman of Yuen Long District Sports Association (“YLDSA”) and one DC Member would be the Deputy Heads of Delegation. The Chief Team Leader/Teams Leaders/Coaches would be appointed by YLDSA.

122. The Chairman asked Members to support the above organisation of the Yuen Long District Delegation, and nominate a Member to take up one of the posts of Deputy Head of

Delegation.

123. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP agreed to adhere to the previous practice because for in the previous five HKG, the Chairman of YLDC had assumed the post of Head of Delegation whereas the Vice-chairman of YLDC, the Chairman of Yuen Long District Sports Association (“YLDSA”) and one DC Member were the Deputy Heads of Delegation. Members raised no objection to the arrangement.

124. Ms YUEN Man-yee nominated Mr LEUNG Ming-kin to assume the post of Deputy Head of Delegation. As Mr LEUNG and the other three delegates were Directors of YLDSA, it would facilitate better coordination and communication.

125. Mr CHING Chan-ming seconded the nomination made by Ms YUEN Man-ye.

126. The Chairman said that since there was no other nomination, he announced that Mr LEUNG Ming-kin would assume the post of Deputy Head of Delegation.

127. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin thanked Members for their support.

(iv) “NEIGHBOUR First” Reunion Lunch

(YLDC Paper No. 104/2016)

128. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 104/2016, which was an invitation extended by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (“HKFYG”) to YLDC to support the “NEIGHBOUR First” Reunion Lunch to be held on 14 January 2017 (Saturday), as well as to provide sponsorship. YLDC had been a supporting organisation of the event in the past but had not provided sponsorship owing to reasons relating to utilisation of funding.

129. The Chairman suggested YLDC continue to be the supporting organisation of the event if Members had no other views.

130. Members raised no objection.

(v) The 1st Hong Kong Youth Community Sports Festival

(YLDC Paper No. 106/2016)

131. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 106/2016, which was about the invitation extended by HKFYG to YLDC to support the 1st Hong Kong Youth Community Sports Festival to be held by HKFYG in February 2017. The Chairman asked Members to approve of supporting the event.

132. Mr Zachary WONG said that the biennial HKG of Hong Kong was open to participants of all ages. The annual Universiade was for the participation of young people. Making reference

to the Olympics and Paralympics, he suggested the Government organise a Sports Festival for the disabled in Hong Kong. Besides, he believed it was because HKFYG had sufficient resources that it could organise the territory-wide Youth Community Sports Festival. He suggested YLDC take the opportunity of the annual Yuen Long Youth Festival to organise sports activities in collaboration with HKFYG.

133. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP supplemented that Members would note that in response to his proposal, the Organising Committee (“OC”) of HKG would jointly organise competitions for disabled athletes with the Paralympic Committee in the 6th HKG. Members would note the matter in his report prepared after attending the OC meetings.

134. The Chairman thanked for the supplementary information given by Mr CHAM. Hong Kong had always been criticized for not having devoted sufficient resources to sports development. He was pleased to note that a community organisation devoted resources to sports events, and he believed that YLDC would support it. Though the Government should take the lead to organise territory-wide sports event, sports activities held by community organisations would be beneficial to the promotion of sports development in Hong Kong and the more, the better. At present, HKG would only cover eight sports competitions and if other organisations would hold different competitions, it would enhance the promotion of community involvement in sports activities. He believed Mr Zachary WONG was supportive of sports promotion activities and he just wished to share his views on the types of sports activities. He said that if Members did not have other views on the subject, it would be assumed that YLDC agreed to be the supporting organisation of the captioned event.

(vi) Ocean Park’s Corporate Social Responsibility Programme for Low-income Families

135. The Chairman said that to celebrate its 40th anniversary, the Ocean Park (“the Park”) would like to propose partnering with Chinachem Group and 18 District Councils to jointly launch a CSR programme to invite 10 000 people low-income families from the 18 districts (the Park estimated that 1 000 quotas would be reserved for Yuen Long district), to visit the Park during January to June 2017 for a fun-filled day. The Park would like YLDC to refer non-government organisations (NGOs) which served low-income families in the district for the Park. It would select suitable NGOs in the district recruitment of participants. The Park would liaise with the NGOs concerned to arrange the details of the visit. The Park also hoped YLDC would approve the use of YLDC logo in the publicity materials of the event, as well as to offer help in promoting the event via banners and posters.

136. The Chairman supplemented that regarding the list of local NGOs, he suggested invite the Social Welfare Office (Yuen Long) to assist YLDC in preparing the list for the Park. At present, enquiries had been made to the Park as to the details of assistance expected to be offered by NGOs. The information would be relayed to the Social Welfare Office for consideration. He also asked Members to approve the Park of using YLDC logo in the publicity materials of the event. Regarding the promotion of the event, he proposed the Secretariat to follow up with the Park as to the assistance to be offered. For example, posting posters at conspicuous locations on DC floors and distributing posters to NGOs concerned.

137. The Chairman said that the matter would proceed as described above if Members had no other views.

138. Mr CHING Chan-ming said that he knew that some Members suggested the Park pass the 1 000 tickets to the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) for distribution, whilst some other Members and local personalities wished to assist in distributing the tickets. He enquired whether the tickets would be handed over to Members for distributing, say, each Member to distribute 10 tickets and the remaining to be distributed by SWD.

139. The Chairman said the Park wished that DC would provide a list of local NGOs, and he invited the Secretary to provide supplementary information.

140. The Secretary said that the definition of NGOs given by the Park included organisations registered as a company, and charitable institutions and trusts of a public character which were exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance, etc.

141. The Chairman said that distributing tickets by Members’ Offices did not comply with the requirement of the Park. He said that the matter would proceed as described above if Members had no other views. He also asked the District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long) to provide assistance.

(vii) Arrangements regarding YLDC Conference Room

142. Mr YIU Kwok-wai said that many reporters came to the meeting venue at the beginning of the meeting today. Similar situation always happened in 2016. The reasons might be that YLDC had three Legislative Councillors, YLDC discussed controversial social issues more frequently, or important officials visited YLDC more often. If many reporters and observers came to the meeting every time and they moved around in the conference room, it would cause inconvenience to Members and might disturb the discussion. He hoped the arrangements relating to the conference room would be enhanced.

143. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to pay heed to the arrangements.

144. The Chairman said that it was the last meeting of YLDC in 2016. He wished Members a merry Christmas and happy New Year. He declared the meeting adjourned.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
February 2017