

The minutes were confirmed on 5.5.2020 without amendment.

Minutes of the Second Meeting of
the Culture, Arts, Recreation, Sports, Welfare, Education and Public Order Committee
under the Yuen Long District Council in 2020

Date : 17 March 2020 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 p.m. - 7:15 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 FONG Ho-hin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Vice Chairman : Mr NG Hin-wang	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Members : Mr CHAN King-lun, Kisslan	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Ms CHAN Mei-lin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(5:30 p.m.)
Mr CHAN Shu-fai	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Ms CHAN Sze-nga	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr HAU Man-kin	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr HO Wai-pan	(Beginning of the meeting)	(6:10 p.m.)
Mr HONG Chin-wah	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr KWAN Chun-sang	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr KWOK Man-ho	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr LAI Kwok-wing, Samuel	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Ms LAI Po-wa	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr LAM Chun	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr LAM Ting-wai	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr LEUNG Tak-ming	(4:25 p.m.)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr LI Chung-chi	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr MAK Ip-sing	(3:35 p.m.)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr MO Kai-hong	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr NG Kin-wai	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Ms NG Yuk-ying	(Beginning of the meeting)	(End of the Meeting)
Mr SHEK King-ching	(Beginning of the meeting)	(5:50 p.m.)

Mr TO Ka-lun (Beginning of the meeting) (6:15 p.m.)
Mr WONG Pak-yu (Beginning of the meeting) (End of the Meeting)
Mr WONG Wai-yin, (Beginning of the meeting) (End of the Meeting)
Zachary

Secretary : Ms KWAN Ching-yi, Executive Officer (District Council)6, Yuen Long
Angela District Office

In attendance

Ms PANG Ka-fong, Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Yuen
Cindy Long District Office
Ms OR Lai-kum, Senior Liaison Officer (3), Yuen Long District Office
Christina
Mr LAM Chi-ming, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen
James Long)1, Social Welfare Department
Ms YU Siu-lei, Gladys Senior School Development Officer (Yuen Long)1,
Education Bureau
Mr CHEUNG Lai-ki Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long
District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHUNG Ho-ying Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen
Long District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LEE Mei-sheung, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support)
Dickie Yuen Long, Leisure and Cultural Services
Department

Item VI(1)

Mr CHEUNG Lai-ki Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long
District), Hong Kong Police Force

Item VI(6)

Mr KAN Ka-man, Engineer/New Territories West (Customer Services)
Raymond Inspection, Water Supplies Department
Mr LAI Chun-fung Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 3),
Water Supplies Department

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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and government department representatives to the second meeting of the Culture, Arts, Recreation, Sports, Welfare, Education and Public Order Committee (“CAPOC”) in 2020.

2. As Items VI(3) to (5) (i.e. CAPOC Paper Nos. 13-15/2020) were related to the Hong Kong Police Force (“the Police”), the Chairman proposed that the above items be discussed after Item VI(1).
3. Members raised no objection to the agenda.

Item I: Confirmation of minutes of the first meeting in 2020

4. Members confirmed the minutes of the above meeting unanimously.

Item II: Endorsement of the schedule of meetings for the Culture, Arts, Recreation, Sports, Welfare, Education and Public Order Committee (“CAPOC”) in 2020 (CAPOC Paper No. 3/2020)

5. Members endorsed the above schedule of meetings unanimously.

Item III: Applications for Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) funds to implement community involvement projects in 2020-21:

- (1) Cultural activities to be held from April to June 2020 (first quarter)
(CAPOC Paper No. 4/2020)
 - (2) Recreation and sports activities to be held from April to June 2020 (first quarter)
(CAPOC Paper No. 5/2020)
 - (3) Social service activities to be held from April to June 2020 (first quarter)
(CAPOC Paper No. 6/2020)
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6. The Chairman said as the following agenda item was about funding applications for activities subsidised by YLDC funds, he reminded Members to make appropriate interest declarations if necessary when they spoke. He also invited Members to assess the nature of their titles so as to make appropriate declarations of interests. To save Members’ time declaring interests during the meeting, the Secretariat had prepared a copy of the information on declaration of interests regarding the positions they held in applicant organisations. The information had been tabled at the meeting for Members’ reference. Members were asked

to make appropriate declarations of interests according to the nature of their titles. Pursuant to Order 48(12) of the District Council Standing Orders (“Standing Orders”), the Chairman of a committee under the District Council (“DC”) could decide whether a committee member concerned disclosing an interest in a matter might speak or vote in the matter, might remain in the meeting as an observer, or should withdraw from the meeting.

7. The Secretary reported that before the deadline of the first quarter (i.e. 7 February 2020), the Secretariat had received 68 applications for YLDC funds to implement community involvement (“CI”) projects in the period from April to June 2020. After conducting a preliminary review of the applications in accordance with the Yuen Long District Council Manual on the Use of District Council Funds (“the Manual”) for applications from 2020-21 onwards, the Secretariat had circulated the 68 funding applications to Members for their review on 10 March. Members were invited to consider recommending to the FC an allocation of \$125,393 for nine cultural activities, \$463,571.5 for 39 recreation and sports activities, and \$449,481 for 20 social service activities in the first quarter. The total amount of the proposed provision for the above 68 funding applications for CI projects was \$1,038,445.5.

8. The Chairman asked if Members needed to declare their interests.

9. Members made the following declarations of interests:

- (1) Ms LAI Po-wa declared that she was a committee member of the Association of Tin Shui Wai Parents; and
- (2) Ms NG Yuk-ying declared that she was a committee member of the Association of Tin Shui Wai Parents and the Tin Shui Wai Community Service Centre.

10. The Chairman pointed out that as Members had made Tier 2 declarations for serving in organisations as Committee Members under the three-tier arrangements for handling declaration of interests, they had to be silent during the discussion of the application concerned, and abstain from decision-making or voting for the application concerned.

11. Members’ views after discussion were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members were concerned about the high transmission risk of the pandemic at large-scale cultural activities and social service activities targeting elderly people;

- (2) Since the activities were funded by the DC and the Government did not encourage large-scale events, it was inappropriate to organise activities with more than a hundred participants;
- (3) An enquiry was made on whether the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) had provided guidance on DC-funded activities during the pandemic for the 18 District Councils;
- (4) A Member suggested that recreation and sports activities (i.e. Recreation and sports activity nos. 1-30) from April to June 2020 (first quarter) be recommended. In the meantime, applicant organisations should be allowed to decide whether to postpone their activities until July to September. As regards the remaining funding applications, it was proposed that the Secretariat write to the organisers to ask if they would agree to postpone their activities until the next quarter. If so, the applications would be included in the list for consideration in the next quarter. Otherwise, the organisers would have to withdraw their applications; and
- (5) A Member proposed that the approval notifications should remind organisers to note the guidance on organising activities by the Centre for Health Protection and the venue managers, and that all expenses incurred would not be reimbursed if the activities eventually were not held as scheduled due to the development of the pandemic.

12. Ms Christina OR from the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”) said the DC could decide whether to recommend the provision based on the current situation. If organisers chose to organise the activities as scheduled, the DC could remind them to take sufficient protective measures against the pandemic. Organisers of activities at community halls under the YLDO should note that the maximum number of participants was 30.

13. Ms Dickie LEE from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) said the maximum number of participants varied among venues under the LCSD. Also, there would be changes in the arrangements according to the development of the pandemic.

14. The Chairman announced that Members in principle endorsed recommending to the FC 68 funding applications for implementing CI projects. The total proposed provision was \$1,038,445.5 and the funding applications would be handled in accordance with Paragraph 11 above.

Item IV: Items referred from YLDC to CAPOC:

(1) Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary, Mr TO Ka-lun, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr LEE Chun-wai, Ms NG Yuk-ying, Mr FONG Ho-hin, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr LAI Kwok-wing, Samuel, Mr LEUNG Tak-ming, Mr CHAN King-lun, Kisslan, Mr CHAN Shu-fai, Mr AU Kwok-kuen, Mr HONG Chin-wah, Ms LAI Po-wa, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr NG Hin-wang, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr HAU Man-kin, Mr KWAN Chun-sang, Mr LAM Chun, Mr SHEK King-ching, Mr LAM Ting-wai, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr SZETO Pok-man, Mr NG Kin-wai, Mr CHEUNG Chi-yeung, Felix, Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin, Mr MO Kai-hong, Mr HO Wai-pan and Mr WONG Pak-yu proposed to discuss “Hong Kong citizens being denied entry to Mainland China and Macao”

(CAPOC Paper No. 7/2020)

15. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 7 and the written reply from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) and the Security Bureau (“SB”).

16. Members’ views on the issue were summarised as follows:

- (1) As the Government did not respond to Members’ question in its written reply, it was requested that the departments give another reply;
- (2) Members did not understand the criteria adopted by Mainland China and Macao for denying entry of particular persons;
- (3) If Hong Kong residents were refused entry by some countries or regions, the Hong Kong Government was obliged to enquire with the local authorities on the reasons and following up the issue to protect the rights of Hong Kong residents;
- (4) Members enquired with the relevant departments on whether there was a “blacklist” of Hong Kong citizens who were denied entry to Mainland China and Macao; and
- (5) An enquiry was made on why the written reply (Paper No. 7a) was issued by the “HKSAR Government” instead of the relevant departments.

17. In conclusion, the Chairman asked the Secretary to write to the relevant

departments again for follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat wrote to the CMAB and the SB to relay Members' views on 31 March this year. The reply from the HKSAR Government were circulated to Members for their reference on 21 April.)

- (2) **Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr TO Ka-lun, Mr CHAN King-lun, Kisslan, Mr SHEK King-ching, Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin, Mr FONG Ho-hin, Mr LAI Kwok-wing, Samuel, Mr LAM Ting-wai, Mr LEE Chun-wai, Mr SZETO Pok-man, Mr LEUNG Tak-ming, Mr LAM Chun, Mr CHAN Shu-fai, Mr CHEUNG Chi-yeung, Felix, Mr AU Kwok-kuen, Mr HAU Man-kin, Mr HO Wai-pan, Mr NG Hin-wang, Ms NG Yuk-ying, Ms LAI Po-wa, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr NG Kin-wai, Mr HONG Chin-wah, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr KWAN Chun-sang, Mr WONG Pak-yu, Mr MO Kai-hong and Mr LI Chung-chi proposed to discuss “Concern over the Government’s attempt to spread white terror in the education sector”**

(CAPOC Paper No. 8/2020)

18. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 8 and the written reply of the Education Bureau (“EDB”).

19. Members’ views on the issue were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members enquired about the EDB’s progress in handling a case where a vice-principal of a secondary school in Yuen Long used abusive language in a public place. They also enquired whether the vice-principal was suspended from work immediately, and whether the Secretary for Education (“S for E”) had made any comments publicly on the acts of the vice-principal;
- (2) The Secretary for Education had commented on the posting of online remarks on social media by a vice-principal of a secondary school as inappropriate. He had also requested the school to take disciplinary action with regard to the case. Members were of the view that the EDB had adopted double standards in dealing with discipline issues involving teaching staff, and asked whether the Bureau had infringed upon the vice-principal’s individual freedoms;
- (3) It was pointed out that there was a need for teachers to help students analyse

views and skills to answer questions in the course of teaching. Members expressed concern as to how the EDB would define neutrality, and suggested the Bureau provide teachers with clear guidelines in this regard;

- (4) Regarding the position of the Assistant Operation Officer (Central Compliance) recruited by the EDB, the applicant was required to have work experience in disciplinary forces as specified in the entry requirements. Members enquired about the job content, salary range and age limit for the position, and whether law enforcement experience was a prerequisite needed for the position or would only give the applicant an advantage. They also enquired why the EDB would not consider providing on-the-job training for the recruits; and
- (5) It was said that unless a teacher committed an unlawful act, his or her freedom of speech should be safeguarded.

20. Some Members and the Chairman expressed disappointment over the failure by the permanent representative of the Police Force to attend the meeting in a timely manner to respond to questions raised by Members.

21. A Member requested that the news clip of the vice-principal swearing at students from the district be played at the meeting in silent mode for the EDB to comment on the propriety of the act.

22. Ms Cindy PANG, District Council Secretariat, said that playing the new clip at the meeting room without the consent of the person concerned would be ill-advised because of copyright and privacy issues. She suggested that Members pass the news clip to the EDB, instead of playing it in public.

23. The Chairman ruled after discussions that Members be allowed to play the news clip during the meeting.

24. Miss Gladys YU from the EDB gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) She respected teachers for their views and positions on different incidents, which should, however, be expressed in a peaceful and rational manner and should not be delivered with hatred or in violation of ethical standards accepted by society or go contrary to public expectations of how a teacher would behave. The EDB attached importance to teachers' words and deeds

as well as their personal integrity, considering their far-reaching implications for students in respect of personal development and values;

- (2) The EDB had not spread white terror in the education sector. The Bureau attached great importance to each case of teacher professional misconduct, and schools would investigate each case and submit a report to the Bureau. The EDB would then scrutinise details of each case in accordance with the established criteria and decide on the method of handling the case. For the handling of discipline issues involving teaching staff, the EDB would consider each case in an objective, fair and just manner. Regarding the case of Yuen Long Catholic Secondary School as mentioned by Members, the Bureau was taking follow-up actions under the prevailing mechanism and would not comment on individual cases;
- (3) Teachers must uphold neutrality in the course of teaching and help students think from diverse perspectives. The EDB noted Members' comments on the Liberal Studies subject and would relay them to the relevant departments; and
- (4) The EDB established the Central Compliance Team in May 2000 to handle complaints, carry out inspections and institute prosecution against unregistered schools in accordance with the Education Ordinance and under the established mechanism and procedures. In order to meet the needs of the relevant law enforcement work, the EDB employed Assistant Operation Officer (Central Compliance) personnel on non-civil service contract ("NCSC") terms to discharge law enforcement duties, such as assisting with investigations at allegedly unregistered schools, writing investigation reports, gathering evidence, and testify in court in the prosecution process. Therefore, the role required previous employment with law enforcement agencies and experience in law enforcement. The post was not newly created, and the relevant staff would not be required to inspect registered primary and secondary schools and kindergartens that had complied with the law. They would not be required to monitor and handle the administrative work of the schools, either.

25. The Chairman concluded that the recent handling of problems by the EDB had caused stress among many teachers. He requested the Bureau's representative to provide more information after the meeting about the employment of Assistant Operation Officer (Central Compliance) and about how the EDB would determine

teacher's neutrality.

V. Motions raised by Members:

- (1) **Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin moved the following motion, which was seconded by Mr NG Hin-wang, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr MO Kai-hong, Ms NG Yuk-ying and Mr WONG Pak-yu: "Request the District Council to designate a representative to monitor the management of the district football team and participate in the voting of the Hong Kong Football Association"**

(CAPOC Paper No. 9/2020)

26. The Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 9 and the written reply from the Recreation and Sport Division under the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB").

27. Members requested that the discussion on the above motion be postponed until the next CAPOC meeting on 5 May. They also requested that a representative from Yuen Long Football Club attend the next CAPOC meeting to discuss the matter.

28. The Chairman agreed to postpone the discussion on the motion until the next CAPOC meeting. He would request Yuen Long Football Club to give a written reply and send a representative to the next meeting.

(The Vice Chairman presided over the meeting temporarily)

- (2) **Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin moved the following motion, which was seconded by Mr NG Hin-wang, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr MO Kai-hong, Ms NG Yuk-ying and Mr WONG Pak-yu: "Request the Government to help people tide over economic adversities"**

(CAPOC Paper No. 10/2020)

29. The Vice Chairman asked Members to take note of Paper No. 10 and the consolidated written replies from the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB"), the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD"), and from the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB") and the Housing Department ("HD").

30. Members' views on the issue were summarised as follows:

- (1) The Government was requested to provide masks for the grassroots;

- (2) The Government should take measures for a complete closure of the border control points to stop the spread of the pandemic;
- (3) A Member pointed out that people from all industries were affected by the pandemic which had lasted for months. In light of that, the Member requested the Government to expeditiously provide for all Hong Kong citizens a subsidy of \$10,000. Also, it was proposed that the subsidy be raised to \$20,000;
- (4) Although the Community Chest Rainbow Fund could be an alternative bailout for the public, the application procedures were complicated. Some applicants had to take an oath at the District Office and obtain a proof of deposit at \$750;
- (5) It was suggested that an unemployment assistance mechanism be formulated;
- (6) A Member was concerned that “N have-nots”, ethnic minorities, people from certain industries such as the beauty industry or persons in custody might not benefit from the Anti-epidemic Fund;
- (7) Considering the inadequacy of the one-month rent waiver introduced by the HD, a Member suggested that the HD reduce the rent by 50% and relax the eligibility criteria for rent reduction for unemployed households;
- (8) A Member was concerned that many kindergartens had ceased operation due to the pandemic. He proposed that the Government implement measures to provide support for kindergartens apart from granting a subsidy of \$80,000. He also suggested that the Government offer remission of tuition fees and kindergarten school fees;
- (9) A Member suggested allocating additional public resources to stimulate the market, such as creating short-term government posts;
- (10) A Member asked about the actual operation of Social Security Field Units. He said the Social Security Field Unit under the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) at Tin Yiu Estate, not having resumed full service as of 9 March, claimed the processing of applications under the Senior Citizen Card Scheme had been delayed due to the pandemic; and

- (11) Members urged the Government to take the initiative to strengthen the anti-epidemic measures.

31. Mr James LAM from the SWD gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) The District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long), when reporting the figures on social security applications in the previous quarter at the meeting of the District Management Committee (“DMC”), would provide the statistics of Yuen Long District;
- (2) Despite the limited service arrangement, the staff collected and processed residents’ applications by mail during office hours. As to his understanding, the Social Security Field Unit was in smooth operation without delay in the processing of the applications. For cases that required special needs, they would be referred to other service units such as Integrated Family Service Centre and food banks for better alternative assistance schemes;
- (3) The SWD had gradually resumed service starting from 9 March. On that day, Tin Shui Wai (North) Social Security Field Unit had distributed more than a hundred quota tags to serve more people than usual;
- (4) Applications for Senior Citizen Cards were centrally processed by the Senior Citizen Card Office. As to his understanding, its service was slightly affected in the beginning but was back to normal now.

(The Chairman presided over the meeting)

32. The Chairman said the full text of the motion was as follows:

“Noting many people are having a hard time when Hong Kong’s economy slips into technical recession amid the Wuhan pneumonia pandemic, the CAPOC requests that:

1. The Government allocate additional resources expeditiously to meet the living needs of the grassroots and the disadvantaged to help tide them over the adversities;
2. More short-term government posts be created to help the people take up employment;

3. The Government provide ex gratia payments for the underemployed during the pandemic;
4. The rent waiver arrangement for public housing tenants be extended and shop rents of public markets and shopping malls under the Housing Authority be reduced by half for six months.”

33. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the motion by a show of hands with their names of the Members recorded. Mr NG Hin-wang, Mr Kisslan CHAN, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin, Mr FONG Ho-hin, Mr HAU Man-kin, Mr HO Wai-pan, Mr KWAN Chun-sang, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Ms LAI Po-wa, Mr LAM Chun, Mr LAM Ting-wai, Mr Deco LEE, Mr LEUNG Tak-ming, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr MO Kai-hong, Mr NG Kin-wai, Ms NG Yuk-ying, Mr SHEK King-ching, Mr TO Ka-lun, Mr WONG Pak-yu and Mr Zachary WONG voted in favour of the motion.

34. The Chairman announced that the motion had been passed by an absolute majority with 24 votes in favour, zero against and zero abstaining.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat wrote to the LWB, FHB, THB, FEHD and HD to relay Members’ motion on 31 March this year. The replies from the LWB and FEHD were circulated to Members for their reference on 21 April.)

Item VI: Questions raised by Members

- (1) **Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin, Mr NG Hin-wang, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr MO Kaihong, Ms NG Yuk-ying and Mr WONG Pak-yu raised a discussion on the follow-up on surgical mask scams in the market
(CAPOC Paper No. 11/2020)**

35. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHEUNG Lai-ki, Chief Inspector of Police, who was a Police Community Relations Officer of the Yuen Long Division, to the meeting.

36. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 11 and the written replies of the Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police Force.

37. Members’ views on the issues were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members enquired about the numbers of surgical mask scam reports and the progress of the cases being dealt with;

- (2) They enquired whether the public could help expedite the Police's follow-up work by providing the number of the bank account of the swindler and the names of the holders of the related bank accounts when reporting a crime to the Police;
- (3) Members enquired whether Police Headquarters had set up a dedicated team to handle face mask scams. They also asked whether the Police could provide the phone number of the team for the public to report such cases directly, and whether the public could make statements at Yuen Long Police Station for transfer to other teams for follow-up actions;
- (4) It was pointed out that members of the public might not be able to find other victims of the same scam on their own. Members enquired whether the Police would introduce measures to facilitate communication among members of the public or keep them informed that the same case was under investigation;
- (5) A member of the public would not know the progress of police investigation after reporting a case, or whether he or she could get back the money after being cheated. Members opined that the Police should explain to the reporting person, and asked whether the police officer in charge of the case would take the initiative to contact him or her.
- (6) Regarding the measure the Government was taking to subsidise local face mask production, Members said that some manufacturers apparently set up production facilities in Hong Kong and placed machinery and raw materials there for inspection by government personnel but they removed everything afterwards and imported poor-quality face masks from other areas to make more money. They urged the Police to heighten vigilance against this type of commercial fraud;
- (7) Members asked whether the Police would look at the feasibility of assisting the Government with the procurement of face masks. They suggested that the Police help the Government buy face masks in the course of covert operations to address their shortage. Members hoped that the Police would convey the suggestion to relevant organisations;
- (8) Only 90 surgical mask samples had been test-purchased during the large-scale,

territory-wide special operation codenamed “Guardian” launched by Hong Kong Customs to inspect over 20 000 retail spots in various districts selling surgical masks and other epidemic-prevention supplies. Members said they wished to write to Hong Kong Customs, enquiring about the reason for the low ratio of the test purchases and whether sales of individual surgical masks without any labelling or related product descriptions would contravene the Trade Descriptions Ordinance. They would also wish to enquire about the Department’s progress in following up on such cases;

- (9) Members enquired whether the Police would produce any videos to warn the public about face mask scams, and about the channels on which the videos would be broadcast. They were worried that it would not be enough if the Police publicised the matter only via its Facebook webpage; and
- (10) It was pointed out that the permanent Police representative had failed to attend the meeting on time to respond to Members’ questions and requests. Members requested the Police representative to explain the reason and promise to show up on time in future. They held the view that the standing representative of a department should attend a meeting on time even if no issues related to the department were on the agenda for discussion. Members said this issue should be discussed at a District Council meeting.

38. Chief Inspector CHEUNG Lai-ki gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) It was pointed out that the numbers of reported face mask scams were increasing every day. One of such cases handled by Yuen Long Police District was a more serious one with more than 120 victims and losses of more than \$200,000. Some of the victims alerted the Police via the Internet and were yet to make statements. After tracking down the bank account numbers and addresses of the scammers, the Police ambushed and arrested a male suspect in Sha Tin on 12 March. Members could contact individual police officers in charge of individual scam cases if they wished to be updated on the progress of the investigation;
- (2) As face mask scams usually took place online regardless of geographical boundaries, some of them probably did not occur in Yuen Long District although they were reported in Yuen Long Police District. Other scams occurring in the district was probably being handled by other departments.

The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (“CSTCB”) of the Police Force was responsible for coordination and intelligence gathering. There was also a dedicated team in every district to handle and investigate allegedly the same frauds, such as those involving the same social media account number and the same bank account number. Members of the public did not need to worry how the Police would find other victims of the same scam. When someone reported a case in Yuen Long Police District, it would be referred to a relevant team for follow-up;

- (3) It was pointed out that the 999 hotline service was only for emergencies. For example, if a member of the public wanted to report a face mask scam, he or she could visit a police station in person or call the hotline of the police station. The Yuen Long Police District had yet to set up a dedicated hotline for reporting face mask scams;
- (4) It was pointed out that, if a member of the public provided more information to the Police, this could help expedite the handling of the case. However, there had been cases of “double-scam” nature, where a victim made a deposit at a bank account but the holder of it had his goods picked up by a third party, whose identity was suspicious. Therefore, the situation was rather complex and there were different types of face mask scams;
- (5) The Police would update a victim on the situation at regular intervals, such as writing to notify him or her if the case was closed due to insufficient information or if he or she was required to testify in court. The Police would also inform the public through announcements. If the public suspected they had fallen prey to a scam, they could call “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222”;
- (6) The Police noted Members’ opinions that some manufacturers might be involved in fraudulent claims for government grants, and called on the public to report this to the Police if they had any relevant information;
- (7) The Police Public Relations Branch (“PPRB”) played video clips via the Hong Kong Police Facebook webpage and YouTube to disseminate messages, while completed the filming of TV announcements in the public interest (“APIs”) on 4 March to warn against face mask scams. The PPRB also called on the public to shop for face masks at fixed physical stores in Hong

Kong or from reputable online shopping sites, and avoid stores that would not deliver goods until after payment. The PPRB also called on the public to opt for safer payment methods and stay informed about the latest law enforcement figures about frauds, saying that Members were welcome to share APIs filmed by the Police with the public;

- (8) Members' suggestion about "covert operations" was noted. However, the Government already had a dedicated unit to handle procurement tasks and the Police were focused on crime prevention and law enforcement, and;
- (9) The main purpose of the Police's representative present at the meeting was to discuss with Members the matters about the district which were related to the Police. He said there did not exist the problem about his lateness to the meeting as he had already arrived at the meeting room before discussion of the issues related to the Police began.

39. In conclusion, the Chairman suggested that the Yuen Long Police District help the public follow up on face mask scam cases so that they would not need to go to Police Headquarters or other police districts to make statements. He also hoped that the Police could take the initiative to provide details about the cases to prevent people from being deceived. He also asked the Secretariat to write to Hong Kong Customs about Members' questions.

(Post-meeting Note: The Secretary wrote to Hong Kong Customs on 31 March this year to convey the questions raised by Members, and forwarded the reply from Hong Kong Customs on 9 April to Members for their reference.)

- (3) **Mr NG Hin-wang, Mr CHAN King-lun, Kisslan, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr CHAN Shu-fai, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin, Mr HAU Man-kin, Mr HO Wai-pan, Mr HONG Chin-wah, Mr KWAN Chun-sang, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr LAI Kwok-wing, Samuel, Ms LAI Po-wa, Mr LAM Chun, Mr LAM Ting-wai, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr LEUNG Tak-ming, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr MO Kai-hong, Mr NG Kin-wai, Ms NG Yuk-ying, Mr SHEK King-ching, Mr TO Ka-lun, Mr WONG Pak-yu and Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary proposed to discuss the arrangements for councillors to meet with detainees at Yuen Long District police stations and the rough-handed approach of the anti-riot police**

towards councillors

(CAPOC Paper No. 13/2020)

40. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 13, and asked Mr CHEUNG Lai-ki, Chief Inspector of the Police Force, to provide more information about the issues, saying the Police Force did not file a written response.

41. Chief Inspector CHEUNG Lai-ki said that the Police had yet to file a written reply regarding the questions raised by Members as they contained no concrete questions. He also queried the Chairman on how the arrangements for councillors to meet with detainees and the heavy-handed approach of the anti-riot police towards councillors were related to the terms of reference of the CAPOC.

42. The Chairman said he believed Members of the CAPOC could raise questions about the law and order situation and people's livelihood issues of the district, citing that one of the terms of reference of the CAPOC was: "To advise on the impacts of the Government's social welfare policies on the district as well as issues relating to public order, fire safety and livelihoods so as to address the needs of the district."

43. Members' views on the issues were summarised as follows:

- (1) Frontline police officers and those dispatched from other police districts treated public event participants badly. For example, a councillor who helped maintain order during a public event would be treated unfairly and rudely even after he showed his identity card or even if police officers recognised him. In Yuen Long, there had been cases where PPRB officers were unable to get in touch with frontline police officers. Members were of the view that the Yuen Long Police District did not have sufficient communication with front-line police officers. The situation was undesirable and should be condemned;
- (2) Members expressed their views about meeting with arrestees at Yuen Long Police Station and Tin Shui Wai Police Station, including the number of arrestees;
- (3) The Police said earlier that councillors could contact the commander prior to the commencement of a public event, but the information might not be up-to-date or accurate as the majority of PPRB representatives were not at the scene. Members enquired whether the Police could directly provide the contact details of front-line commanders to a councillor whom the District Council

assigned to liaise with the Police;

- (4) Members enquired about police deployment for the public procession on 21 March and the contact details of front-line commanders; and
- (5) Members asked whom the Police were referring to by mentioning the word “rioters”. They demanded the Police retract the word and be mindful of the choice of words, saying that, according to the principle of the presumption of innocence, it would be inappropriate of the Police to determine the type of an arrestee or this might pervert the course of justice.

44. Chief Inspector CHEUNG Lai-ki gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) While the Police did not wish to see councillors pepper-sprayed, he hoped councillors could understand that the police officers were using the lowest level of force in dispersing the crowd in order to create a safe distance, so it was difficult for them to identify the locations of the councillors and the “rioters”;
- (2) Every arrestee or detainee had the right to be visited by one of their relatives or friends and to choose someone to contact. A councillor, upon arrival at the police station, should tell the name of the arrestee and, with the consent of the person, the case supervisor would make appropriate arrangements according to the situation. The Yuen Long Police District already explained the procedures to three district police stations, namely Yuen Long Police Station, Tin Shui Wai Police Station and Pat Heung Police Station, and would remind police officers of the procedures again;
- (3) The Police could only provide the councillor with information about the arrestees, including their genders and numbers. Their names could not be provided for privacy reasons. He hoped that councillors could understand that the figures provided could be updated again subject to the ever-changing situation;
- (4) It was understood that councillors wished to communicate with front-line incident commanders, and that councillors could contact PPRB representatives at that time to obtain the relevant information. The suggestion that councillors could communicate with incident commanders would be relayed

to them, but no information about the commanders in charge of the public event on 21 March was available;

- (5) “Rioters” referred to a group of 10 males and five females arrested for offences including Possession of Instrument Fit for Unlawful Purpose, Criminal Damage, Disorderly Conduct in Public Place and Unlawful Assembly during their gathering at Locwood Stop in Tin Shui Wai on 4 February of this year, where they inflicted damage to station facilities and blocked roads with miscellaneous objects;
- (6) There was enough communication among police officers, but it was probable that police officers deployed from other districts did not recognise the councillors. Earlier, the Police gave a response to an incident where councillors tried to obtain information about the arrestees at the scene, saying that the situation was chaotic and the Police would enhance communication with councillors regarding the arrangements for meeting with arrestees at police station, so as to avoid recurrence of unpleasant incidents; and
- (7) The Police agreed that there was always room for improvement in every operation, such as action strategies, media contacts, the equipment and the manners of police officers during their contacts with the public. The Yuen Long Police District had reminded police officers from time to time to be mindful of their manners when contacting the public, aside from fighting crimes.

45. In conclusion, the Chairman asked the Police to examine the manners of the police officers and to standardise the arrangements at police stations for meeting with arrestees.

- (4) **Mr LEUNG Tak-ming, Mr CHAN Shu-fai, Mr CHAN King-lun, Kisslan and Mr LAI Kwok-wing, Samuel proposed to discuss law enforcement against unauthorised parking, illegal vehicle modification and illegal motor racing in Tong Yan San Tsuen and Hung Shui Kiu**
(CAPOC Paper No. 14/2020)
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46. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 14 and the written reply of the Police Force.

47. The Members’ views on the issues were summarised as follows:

- (1) It was pointed out that the Police, in its written reply, had provided only the overall law enforcement figures of Yuen Long District. Members enquired whether the Police could provide their action and law enforcement figures concerning all areas of Yuen Long District, such as Hung Shui Kiu and Tong Yan San Tsuen;
- (2) Members enquired of the Police about the criteria for determining a “black spot” of unauthorised parking, as the latter denied Hung Shui Kiu and Tong Yan San Tsuen as such “black spots” and said in a written reply that they had received 60 complaints about unauthorised parking, illegal vehicle modification and illegal motor racing in the two areas;
- (3) Members enquired of the Police about their manpower deployment for combating unauthorised parking. They suggested the Police conduct continuing and targeted operations, such as deploying police officers to surround and block up “black spots” so as to strengthen deterrent effect; and
- (4) Members pointed out the problem of unauthorised parking near Tin Sam Road Bus Terminus at Hung Fuk Estate, saying that illegally parked vehicles had restricted bus access and caused many quarrels. As the New Territories North Regional Headquarters said two months before that roadblocks would be set up there to prevent unauthorised parking, Members enquired about the progress and whether traffic wardens would be deployed to the scene to combat unauthorised parking.

48. Chief Inspector CHEUNG Lai-ki gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) The Yuen Long Police District did not segment different areas for law enforcement, and thus could provide no relevant figures;
- (2) Hung Shui Kiu and Tong Yan San Tsuen were not “black spots” for unauthorised parking. The 60 complaints received about unauthorised parking, illegal vehicle modification and illegal motor racing in the areas accounted for a mere one percent of all such complaints throughout Yuen Long District. The Police would define a location as a “black spot” of illegal parking if the parking of vehicles there affected the safety of pedestrians and

other road users and led to severe congestion on other roads;

- (3) With police officers deployed to different locations at different periods, it was difficult of the Police to obtain all figures about their operations launched against unauthorised parking. However, it was easier to provide the number of fixed penalty tickets issued for unauthorised parking, with their officers issuing such tickets during their daily patrols;
- (4) The Police would flexibly deploy resources to combat unauthorised parking, and strengthen publicity and education to disseminate the message that unauthorised parking could affect road safety. He hoped that councillors could understand that the Police Force was not the only department responsible for dealing with unauthorised parking as other departments would also follow up on relevant issues, such as planning for parking spaces;
- (5) The issue of unauthorised parking near Tin Sam Road Bus Terminus would be referred to the commander of Tin Shui Wai Division for follow-up actions; and
- (6) Traffic wardens were implementing the “e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme”, and those from the Yuen Long Police District would bring along relevant instruments to improve efficiency. They had also enforced the law in the district against unauthorised parking and issued fixed penalty tickets.

49. In conclusion, the Chairman hoped the Police would continue to review their strategies for combating unauthorised parking.

**(5) Mr LAI Kwok-wing, Samuel, Mr CHAN King-lun, Kisslan, Mr CHAN Shu-fai and Mr LEUNG Tak-ming called for immediate enforcement action against illegal bars in Yuen Long to curb noise nuisance and potential public order problems
(CAPOC Paper No. 15/2020)**

50. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 15 and the written reply of the Police Force.

51. Members’ views on the issues were summarised as follows:

- (1) It was pointed out that the Police failed to take the public’s request for

addressing the problem of illegal bars. Members asked about the Police guidelines for handling calls for assistance, and what the Police would do to prevent recurrence of the problem at the same place;

- (2) Members pointed out that restaurant customers had caused significant noise disturbance after drinking, saying the Police should enforce the law to combat the problem regardless of whether the restaurant had a liquor licence. They also enquired about police figures about noise complaints, inspections and law enforcement;
- (3) It was also pointed out that a cleaning worker had found abandoned syringes in flowering shrubs at Ping Wui Street, probably from nearby bars. Members hoped that the Police could follow up on the problem of on-street prostitutes; and
- (4) As the attics of some bars were converted into karaoke rooms in the evening, Members enquired whether this was illegal and of the Police about law enforcement figures in this regard.

52. Chief Inspector CHEUNG Lai-ki gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) As law-breaking bars had committed offences, such as “selling liquor without a licence” and “drinking in an unlicensed place”, the Police would gather intelligence and launch operations against them, where police officers would pose as customers in order to enforce the law successfully. The Police had issued no guidelines on how to deal with law-breaking bars, but police officers would enforce the law upon arrival at the scene and deal with other issues, such as restaurant licence and noise problems;
- (2) It was added that the Police had carried out a total of nine crackdown operations in 2019, where 130 people were arrested for offences, such as “selling liquor without a licence” and “drinking in unlicensed place.” 15 other people were arrested in two crackdowns launched in 2020;
- (3) The Police could only prevent recurrence of the problems through continuous law enforcement. It would be a court decision as to whether the consequences of recidivism would be serious. He pointed out that the relevant problems should be resolved through education and planning;

- (4) The Police understood the residents' concerns about noise nuisance and public order problems caused by drinking, and thus would keep placing police officers on street patrol and handle noise problems upon receipt of reports;
- (5) On the issue of drug abuse, police officers would step up patrols and enhance interception of any suspicious persons on the streets if they had the capacity to do so;
- (6) On the issue of on-street solicitation, the Yuen Long Police District would deploy special duties teams to enforce the law and handle persons alleged of overstaying and contravening the conditions of stay in cooperation with criminal investigation teams and the Immigration Department; and
- (7) He believed that the acts mentioned by the councillors were against the law, saying that a licence was required for the operation of a karaoke establishment. He said that the Police had enforced the law in 2019 with regard to the cases.

53. In conclusion, the Chairman requested the Police to follow up on the matters continuously.

- (2) **Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin, Mr NG Hin-wang, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr MO Kai-hong, Ms NG Yuk-ying, and Mr WONG Pak-yu proposed to discuss the redelineation of School Nets 72, 73 and 74 in Yuen Long**
(CAPOC Paper No. 12/2020)
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54. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 12 and the EDB reply.

55. Members' views on the issues were summarised as follows:

- (1) There was a shortage of primary school places in School Nets 73 and 74. Primary school places were insufficient because of population growth in the district with the completion of more housing estates in Yuen Long Town and the future development of Kam Tin South and Yuen Long South. As large numbers of students residing in Yuen Long Town had to attend school in Tin Shui Wai, this was not only inconsistent with EDB's principle of "going to the nearest school", but also inconvenient and unfair to students;

- (2) It was pointed out that Tin Shui Wai schools would be more willing to accept students from Yuen Long District amid worries that serious under-enrollment might lead to their closure. They were of the view that the EDB should first reduce the number of classes in Tin Shui Wai primary schools and then implement small class teaching;
- (3) It was anticipated that demand for primary school places could be met under the current situation in the next one or two years. However, Members suggested that the EDB revamp School Nets 73 and 74 and open more primary schools in Yuen Long Town; and
- (4) Members suggested that the EDB should consult not only the District Council, but also the Primary One Admission Committee.

56. Miss Gladys YU gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) She noted different public opinions about the delineation of school nets and the faster pace of developments in Yuen Long, and would relay the opinions to the policy divisions of the Bureau for their reference;
- (2) The EDB had established procedures in place to re-integrate and adjust school nets. The Primary One Admission Committee, which was comprised of primary school and kindergarten principals and primary school council representatives, would solicit relevant opinions through the EDB every year and compile an annual review of Primary One school nets for reference by the EDB for the planning of school places according to various factors, such as the boundaries of local administrative areas, the number of schools in the school nets, the demand and supply of school places and traffic conditions. The EDB would keep an eye on demography changes in the district and review the relevant arrangements in a timely manner to ensure that there would be sufficient Primary One places in public sector primary schools to meet the demand;
- (3) The EDB divided the whole territory into more than 30 school nets and Yuen Long District into three school nets, namely 72, 73 and 74, given the tender age of primary school children, and with the intention that young children would not have to travel unreasonably long distances to attend school;

- (4) She hoped that Members could understand that the supply of school places in Tin Shui Wai was more abundant than in the other two school nets. The EDB would adopt flexible measures to cope with a transient increase in demand for Primary One places, such as borrowing places from School Net 72 to 73 and 74, introducing extra Primary One classes using vacant classrooms as needed, and temporarily allocating more students to each Primary One classes; and
- (5) The majority of schools in the three school nets of Yuen Long District were already practising “small class teaching”, with the number of students kept at within 30 for each class. The Bureau had also allocated additional resources such as manpower to schools which had temporarily been allocated more students to their Primary One classes.

57. In conclusion, the Chairman said that Members hoped that the EDB could consult the District Council on the long-term planning for school places, and that the CAPOC would continue to follow up on related issues.

(6) Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary, Mr TO Ka-lun, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Ms NG Yuk-ying, Mr LI Chung-chi, Mr LAI Kwok-wing, Samuel, Mr LEUNG Tak-ming, Mr CHAN King-lun, Kisslan, Mr CHAN Shu-fai, Mr HONG Chin-wah, Ms LAI Po-wa, Ms CHAN Sze-nga, Mr NG Hin-wang, Mr LEE Wai-fung, Deco, Mr HAU Man-kin, Mr KWAN Chun-sang, Mr LAM Chun, Mr SHEK King-ching, Mr LAM Ting-wai, Mr KWOK Man-ho, Mr NG Kin-wai, Mr CHEUNG Sau-yin, Mr MO Kai-hong, Mr HO Wai-pan, Mr WONG Pak-yu and Mr FONG Ho-hin proposed a discussion on frequent saltwater main bursts at primary schools in the Tin Shui Wai area (CAPOC Paper No. 16/2020)

58. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 16 and the written replies of the EBD, the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”), the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”) and the Housing Department (“HD”).

59. The Secretary said that the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (“EMSD”) had replied that the captioned issue was not within its terms of reference, and that the following WSD representatives attended the meeting:

Engineer/NTW (Customer Services) Inspection Mr KAN Ka-man, Raymond

60. Members' views on the issues were summarised as follows:

- (1) It was pointed out that large numbers of the schools concerned were located in public housing estates. Members wondered whether the frequent water main bursts had been caused by the poor quality of channels and water pumps at the schools constructed by the HD. Members suggested writing to the HD, enquiring about the quality of construction materials, and to the EMSD, enquiring about the maintenance of water pumps;
- (2) The EDB said in its written reply that it had carried out 43 urgent repair projects for salt water main bursts at aided primary schools in Tin Shui Wai between 2016 and 2019. However, Members considered the figure inaccurate, citing that there had been 162 cases of salt water main bursts in the past three years according to the data provided by different primary schools. Members enquired of the EDB whether any of secondary schools in the district had experienced the same situation;
- (3) It was pointed out that salt water mains at some schools had burst frequently. The locations of the salt water main bursts were different and the repairs took time. Members expressed concern that, without toilet flushing water, the hygienic condition at the schools would only get worse and the relevant departments should address the problem seriously. They suggested that large-scale pipe replacement works be carried out to address the problem;
- (4) Members requested the EDB to collect data on salt water main bursts at primary and secondary schools in the district; and
- (5) It was pointed out that some residents complained that their toilets emitted odours after switching to saltwater for flushing. They said that the flushing water was yellow and contained impurities, making water mains prone to rust. Members asked the WSD whether the problem had been related to the quality of alkaline water, and whether water mains would, therefore, become more susceptible to bursting.

61. Miss Gladys YU gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) The EDB carried out 43 emergency repair projects for salt water main bursts at 16 aided primary schools in Tin Shui Wai area between 2016 and 2019, according to the records of the Bureau's School Premises Maintenance Section. The Bureau would relay the data provided by Members to the relevant groups;
- (2) The EDB had also carried out emergency repairs to ruptured salt water mains at secondary schools in the past three years, as it did for aided primary schools. The damage extent and locations were different, and no repeated or unusual damage to the pipelines was found; and
- (3) The EDB would relay to the relevant groups Members' request for collection of data on salt water main bursts at primary and secondary schools in Tin Shui Wai area in the past three years.

62. Mr Raymond KAN of the WSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) The WSD had arranged for the provision of a temporary supply of fresh water to users for flushing purposes in the early days, when the salt water supply network had not been extended to Tin Shui Wai. When the users applied for water supply, they had to have the inside services inside their residential premises approved by the Water Authority ("WA") pursuant to Section 14 of the Waterworks Ordinance ("WVO"). Materials used in plumbing works in buildings approved by the WA since the 1960s were resistant to seawater and could be used in the flush water supply system. Thereafter in 2016, the WSD completed the conversion in phases to salt water for flushing in Tin Shui Wai premises;
- (2) The WSD had yet to receive any enquiries about the frequent salt water main bursts at many primary schools in the district, but appreciated their concern about hygiene. The Department would be pleased to provide assistance to schools in need of technical support for the operation of the water supply system;
- (3) Salt water in Yuen Long District was currently pumped by Lok On Pai Salt Water Pumping Station. Water would first flow through an intake ditch with a grid, where large-sized impurities would be removed from water through segregation and sedimentation. After disinfection with chlorine gas, water would be delivered to users;

- (4) Although water supplied by the WSD would be delivered to its users after treatment, it would emit odours if it was stored in an installation for too long depending on actual hygiene conditions. It was so-called “stagnant water”. Treatment of salt water supply was simpler than that of fresh water supply, and it might be easier to observe the process. As Tin Shui Wai residents used to use fresh water for flushing before the conversion to salt water for flushing, they gave more comments about the quality of flushing water after the conversion, compared with their counterparts from other districts, where salt water was used for flushing during the same period. The WSD would maintain liaison with stakeholders of the district, and explain the situation to them; and
- (5) There was a water storage tank inside most of flush water supply systems on school premises. Owing to the epidemic outbreak, the utilisation rates of toilet-flushing systems dropped sharply during the school suspension period. The WSD suggested that the schools consider draining away salt water stored in the system for a long time before classes resumed, so that water quality would not be found poor. The WSD would be pleased to give advice to any school on request.

63. In conclusion, the Chairman requested the relevant departments to follow up on frequent salt water main bursts more actively during the school suspension period. He also requested the EDB to provide data on salt water main bursts at primary and secondary schools in the district, and said that the issue would be discussed again at the next meeting.

(Post-meeting Note: The Secretariat sent questions raised by Members to the EMSD and HD on March 31 this year, and forwarded HD and EMSD’s replies to Members for their reference on 16 April and 21 April, respectively.)

Item VII: Any other business

Invitation to YLDC Members to serve as members of the five Coordinating Committees under Yuen Long District Welfare Office (CAPOC Paper No. 17/2020)

64. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 17, and enquired according to the practice of the last District Council whether more than one Member could serve on

each of SWD committees.

65. Mr Kempis LAM said the SWD would, in order to standardise the practices of its 11 district welfare offices, invite each District Council to appoint one district councillor as member of each of SWD committees.

66. Members' views on the issue were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members enquired whether it was feasible to standardise the requirement that each of the 18 District Councils could assign two councillors to each committee;
- (2) They could not accept the practice this year that the current District Council could only nominate one councillor as committee member while the previous District Councils could appoint more than one councillor, and
- (3) Members enquired whether SWD's new approach was due to the frequent absence of Member representatives of the previous terms from meetings. They opined that the new approach suggested that the SWD did not believe the views of Members of the current District Council.

67. Mr Kempis LAM gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) The SWD had always attached great importance to the opinions of district councillors and trusted committee members. However, considering the busy schedules of district councillors, the SWD suggested that the District Council appoint only one of its Members to serve as committee member; and
- (2) Members' request would be relayed to the SWD that the number of district councillors appointed as members of the coordinating committees should be increased across the board.

68. The Chairman invited Members to make nominations to the Coordinating Committee. He hoped that the SWD could increase the membership of the Coordinating Committee after the SWD representative relayed the suggestion to the headquarters.

69. Mr Zachary WONG nominated the Chairman as a member of the Yuen Long

District Welfare Services Planning & Coordinating Committee. The Chairman expressed his willingness to accept the nomination.

70. Mr KWOK Man-ho nominated himself as a member of the Yuen Long District Co-ordinating Committee on Family and Child Welfare Services; Mr Samuel LAI nominated himself as a member of the Yuen Long District Coordinating Committee on Elderly Services; Mr HONG Chin-wah nominated himself as a member of the Yuen Long District Co-ordinating Committee on Rehabilitation Services; Mr KWAN Chun-sang nominated himself as a member of the Yuen Long Local Committee on Service for Young People; and Mr MO Kai-hong nominated himself as a member of the Yuen Long District Co-ordinating Committee on Promotion of Volunteer Service.

71. The above nominations were passed unanimously as Members made no more nominations.

72. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
April 2020