

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau

Introduction

The 2004 Policy Agenda just issued lists the Government's new and on-going initiatives over the next three and a half years. This note elaborates, where applicable, on the initiatives affecting the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in the 2004 Policy Agenda. Where necessary, it also gives an account on the position reached on initiatives in the 2003 Policy Agenda.

2004 Policy Agenda

Effective Governance

Initiative (1)

- Further examining the issues involved in the existing system of advisory and statutory bodies, and exploring practical ways to streamline its structure and enhance its functions.

A descriptive account of initiative (1)

- As there is growing public interest in this subject, we will extend the scope of our current review and further examine the issues involved in the existing system of advisory and statutory bodies, and explore practical ways to streamline its structure and enhance its functions.

Initiative (2)

- Reviewing the arrangements for rural elections on the basis of the experience gained in 2003.

A descriptive account of initiative (2)

- We will conduct a comprehensive review of the arrangements for rural elections on the basis of experience gained and identify areas for improvement for the 2007 rural elections cycle.

Initiative (3)

- Implementing the existing gambling policy and regulating authorized gambling activities conducted by licensed operators.

A descriptive account of initiative (3)

- We will continue to implement our gambling policy whereby we restrict gambling opportunities to a limited number of authorized and regulated channels only.
- We will continue to regulate the authorized betting activities conducted by the licensed operators in a way which strikes a balance between the need to ensure competitiveness of authorized betting operations vis-à-vis illegal bookmakers, and the need to minimize the adverse impact of gambling on the community.

Initiative (4)

- Working closely with the Football Betting and Lotteries Commission to ensure proper regulation of authorized football betting and lotteries.

A descriptive account of initiative (4)

- We are working closely with the Football Betting and Lotteries Commission to ensure proper regulation of authorized football betting and lotteries.

Vibrant Economy

Initiative (1)

- Providing a platform for the sports sector to engage business partners in organizing international sports events.

A descriptive account of initiative (1)

- We will bring in more major international sports events. We aim at developing a strategy in which a platform will be provided for the

sports community to engage business partners in organizing and promoting such events in Hong Kong. Our strategy will be to :

- promote the community’s interest and capability in sports as an anchor in community building;
 - pool expertise and resources of the sports sector and the business sector;
 - provide international exposure and marketing network for sports events;
 - bring in more innovative and commercial approach; and
 - enhance Hong Kong’s international profile and create new opportunities for economic growth.
- The Major Sports Events Committee will foster closer partnership with local sports community and private sector in planning more large-scale sporting events in Hong Kong.

Initiative (2)

- Further facilitating the development of creative industries, pursuant to consultation with local creative industries and organization of various activities to arouse public interest.

A descriptive account of initiative (2)

- Creative industries refer to industries with value added through creativity and interest protected under intellectual property rights. Many of these industries already exist in Hong Kong. They would have significant development potentials if they could attract new investments, open new markets, and stimulate a free flow of talents and creativity. We will facilitate the further development of our creative industries to promote economic growth and our cultural features, and to provide more employment opportunities and room for creativity for our young people.
- In the past 12 months, we have organized a number of activities, seminars and international events to promote creative industries. We will continue the work on this front with a view to providing a platform to facilitate the matching of business investors and creative talents.

Initiative (3)

- Organizing various types of local community economy projects in collaboration with District Councils and local bodies.

A descriptive account of initiative (3)

- We are implementing in collaboration with District Councils/other relevant departments/the private sector various projects to promote the unique characteristics of districts so as to enhance local community economy and tourism.

Caring and Just Society

Initiative (1)

- Proceeding to issue a consultation paper on the proposed legislation against racial discrimination.

A descriptive account of initiative (1)

- In June 2003, we announced the decision to proceed with legislation against racial discrimination. We have issued drafting instructions for a bill to the Department of Justice and we are preparing a consultation document for consulting the public on the detailed legislative proposal. We expect to complete the consultation process in 2004 and, if all proceeds smoothly, to introduce a bill into the Legislative Council in the 2004-05 legislative session.

Initiative (2)

- Enhancing our network at the district level, which has proved invaluable in combating SARS and implementing Team Clean initiatives.

A descriptive account of initiative (2)

- We will continue to enhance our network at the district level, which has proved invaluable in combating SARS, implementing Team Clean Initiatives and organizing events to promote district characteristics, etc.

- We are :
 - forming district hygiene squads by recruiting volunteers from local groups to support Team Clean efforts;
 - mobilizing volunteers to launch cleansing projects in public areas; and
 - partnering with non-government organizations to promulgate good hygiene practices.

Initiative (3)

- Providing continual researches, preventive education, remedial counselling and treatment services for addressing gambling-related problems.

A descriptive account of initiative (3)

- We will, with the financial support from Ping Wo Fund, continue to conduct research, organize preventive education programmes, and provide remedial counselling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers, for the purpose of addressing gambling-related problems.

Enlightened People with a Rich Culture

Initiative (1)

- Establishing a Sports Commission and reconstituting the Hong Kong Sports Institute, with a view to pursuing the new vision for sports development in Hong Kong. A new Sports Funding Office will also be set up under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to provide one-stop service for National Sports Associations.

A descriptive account of initiative (1)

- We will establish a Sports Commission with three functional committees under it, namely, the Community Sports Committee, the Major Sports Events Committee and the Elite Sports Committee, with a view to pursuing the new vision for sports development in Hong Kong. HAB and Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will provide support to the future Sports Commission and

its committees.

- We will reconstitute the Hong Kong Sports Institute so that it will focus on training of elite athletes.
- A new Sports Funding Office will also be set up under LCSD to provide one-stop subvention service for National Sports Associations and other sports organizations. The new funding structure aims to streamline the administrative procedures and improve the efficiency for subvention.

Initiative (2)

- Launching a public consultation exercise to seek the views of the public on the policy of heritage conservation in Hong Kong and reviewing the policy in the light of the views received.

A descriptive account of initiative (2)

- We intend to adopt a holistic approach in assessing the historical value and cultural background as well as the merit of the architecture of the buildings in our strategy for heritage conservation. This will not only give appropriate protection to historical buildings and their cultural ambience, but also maintain the diversity of our architecture, enhance the community's sense of belonging and widen the citizens' exposure to our unique history. A public consultation exercise will be launched in 2004 to gauge public opinion on this issue.

Initiative (3)

- Inviting interested parties to participate in two Private Sector Finance (PSF) projects on leisure and cultural facilities in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O in mid-2004. We will also identify other suitable projects which could be developed with PSF.

A descriptive account of initiative (3)

- The PSF approach, which is in line with the Government's policy of "big market, small government", would
 - allow greater flexibility in the development and management of leisure and cultural facilities;
 - tap the creative ideas of the private sector in the design, and its

- expertise in the construction and management of these facilities;
 - generate more business and job opportunities for the private sector; and
 - help contain the size of the civil service.
- We have invited Expressions of Interest (EoI) for the development of two sites in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O respectively into leisure and cultural facilities. A total of 10 submissions had been received and examined by the consultant. We aim to work out a Development Brief for the endorsement of the Town Planning Board by early 2004 and invite bidding for the two projects by mid 2004. We will identify other suitable projects for implementation by means of PSF.

Initiative (4)

- Planning the development of a stadium complex and sports facilities in South East Kowloon.

A descriptive account of initiative (4)

- The feasibility study on the technical and financial aspects of constructing a multi-purpose stadium and some ancillary sports facilities in South East Kowloon has been completed. However, in light of the recent Court ruling, the reclamation projects within the Harbour area, including those proposed in South East Kowloon Development (SEKD) will be reassessed and the overall planning of South East Kowloon is under review. Subject to the outcome of the review, we will re-examine the feasibility of developing a multi-purpose stadium in South East Kowloon.

Initiative (5)

- Working closely with the sports sector and involving the community in planning for hosting the 5th East Asian Games in Hong Kong in 2009.

A descriptive account of initiative (5)

- We will establish the institutional framework for the organization of the 5th East Asian Games with participation of the sports sector and

the community. We will also work closely with sports sector to bring sports development in Hong Kong to a new horizon and to lift the standards of our athletes. At community level, we will continue to promote the benefits of regular participation in physical activities and encourage the active involvement of the community in sports.

Initiative (6)

- Considering the best option to strengthen tertiary arts training in Hong Kong.

A descriptive account of initiative (6)

- We will follow up on the proposal of a visual arts academy in the consultancy report of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council with a comprehensive review on the professional training of various forms of arts, including the performing and visual arts.

Initiative (7)

- Developing a cultural, arts, sports and youth network in the Pearl River Delta.

A descriptive account of initiative (7)

- We have held summit meetings in Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou and reached formal agreement with cultural and sports authorities in the Greater Pearl River Delta on the overall strategies, areas of co-operation and the framework of co-operation in the development of the network. Exchange and Cooperation Agreements have been signed.
- We will step up networking with major cities in the Greater Pearl River Delta for exchanges on cultural and sports programmes, and also on promotion.
- We will continue with our efforts in maintaining a youth network in the Pearl River Delta, through supporting youth study and exchange programmes in the Mainland.

Initiative (8)

- Facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and

festivals in Hong Kong, highlighting our status as an international city.

A descriptive account of initiative (8)

- As Asia's world city, Hong Kong has a rich and vibrant cultural scene which enhances our quality of life and attracts visitors from around the world. We will strive to stage more world-class events and festivals in Hong Kong and continue to support local performing arts groups in order to strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international city.
- In view of the success of the First Asian Cultural Cooperation Forum (ACCF) held in September 2003, it is planned to hold the second ACCF in the autumn of 2004.

Initiative (9)

- Improving the governance and operation of cultural services in Hong Kong, including libraries, museums and performance facilities; and encouraging stronger involvement of the cultural sector and the community in the process.

A descriptive account of initiative (9)

- We had commissioned three consultancy studies on "Provision of Regional/District Cultural and Performance Facilities", "Future Development and Institutional Planning of Public Libraries" and "Mode of Governance of Public Museums" respectively. All the three Studies have been completed and public consultations on their recommendations have been conducted. In the light of the recommendations of the Culture and Heritage Commission, the outcome of the public consultations of the three consultancy studies and other relevant factors, we will take steps to further improve the governance and operations of cultural services, including libraries, museums and performance venues. In the process, we will continue to:
 - seek greater partnership with the arts community;
 - encourage stronger community involvement; and
 - enhance efficiency and effectiveness in our service delivery.

Initiative (10)

- Continuing consultation on measures to provide temporary protection to the most meritorious historical buildings, and to assess the heritage value of selected historical buildings.

A descriptive account of initiative (10)

- We have put in place an internal warning mechanism for Government departments to forward any demolition or development proposals affecting graded historical buildings and pre-1960 buildings to the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for comments. For buildings assessed to be of high heritage value, AMO will work with relevant departments to render necessary protection measures in accordance with the provisions of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance.

Initiative (11)

- Enhancing the work on promotion of youth development in conjunction with the Commission on Youth, particularly on civic and social participation of youth.

A descriptive account of initiative (11)

- In partnership with the Commission on Youth, we will continue to promote the holistic development of our young people, encouraging their social participation in particular, so that they would become contributing and responsible members of the community.
- We have commissioned a local university to conduct the first-ever comprehensive benchmark study on civic engagement and social networks of youth in Hong Kong. The study results in the first stage would establish a baseline for future tracking and trend surveys on this subject, and develop a set of useful indicators for evaluating youth services in Hong Kong.
- We will work in close partnership with uniformed groups and other youth organizations in developing appropriate and timely non-formal education, training and development programmes for young people.

Initiative (12)

- Enhancing the work on promotion of civic education outside schools in conjunction with the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education, particularly on measures targeting young adults and the working population.

A descriptive account of initiative (12)

- We have recently reviewed the direction of our work on promoting civic education as well as the role and functions of the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education. We have decided to focus on the promotion of core “civic values” of a civil society, which should apply to both individuals (especially young adults and the working population) and corporations.
- We will strengthen our collaboration with district-based civic education committees and other concerned parties in the community including particularly the education sector, the professional sectors and the media, so as to enhance the effectiveness of our promotional efforts.
- We will sustain our efforts in promoting Basic Law in the local community through the organization of focussed publicity programmes.

Initiative (13)

- Enhancing the work on the promotion of racial harmony.

A descriptive account of initiative (13)

- Public education remains an important priority and we continue to address discrimination and to promote racial harmony through the work of the Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony and the Race Relations Unit.
- We established an Ethnic Minorities Forum in July 2003 to strengthen our ties with the minority communities. We will continue to provide funding support to education and publicity activities for the promotion of racial harmony.

Initiative (14)

- Formulating a comprehensive development package for the

integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district in West Kowloon.

A descriptive account of initiative (14)

- The Administration has issued an Invitation for Proposals for the development of the 40-hectare prime waterfront site in West Kowloon into a world class arts, cultural, commercial and entertainment district. Proponents have great flexibility in the design, provision and operation of the arts and cultural facilities in the district, and are encouraged to form partnership with local and international cultural institutions, experts and professionals in the planning, design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance and management of the cultural facilities in the district.
- We will consider the proposals submitted, aiming to identify the best proposals for the arts and cultural facilities to be provided in the district by negotiation. We expect the selected proposals to be able to provide architecturally distinguished, creative and innovative cultural icons, making the district a fertile ground for nurturing local talents, and enhancing Hong Kong's status and image as the most vibrant hub for culture, arts and entertainment in Asia.

Environmentally Responsible Development

Initiative (1)

- Introducing a Bill to amend the Building Management Ordinance to improve certain provisions in the legislation for the benefit of owners' corporations and property owners.

A descriptive account of initiative (1)

- An extensive public consultation exercise was conducted from May to July 2003. We will take into account the comments received in the drafting of the bill. We intend to introduce the amendment bill into the Legislative Council in the 2004-05 legislative year.
- The aims of the proposed amendments are to assist owners' corporations (OCs) in performing their duties and exercising their powers, rationalize the procedures for appointing a management committee and its members, and afford better protection for

property owners.

Initiative (2)

- Rolling out a community garden programme to enlist community participation in greening activities at neighbourhood level and organizing various greening and horticulture activities in the 18 districts to promote public support of a green environment.

A descriptive account of initiative (2)

- We are enhancing the work on greening through the implementation of “Community Involvement Scheme on Greening” in close partnership with government departments, district organizations, NGOs and schools. We also strive to enhance public awareness of the importance of greening through civic education and campaign in the 18 districts.
- To enlist community participation in greening activities at neighbourhood level, LCSD will provide suitable facilities in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories for the public to practise gardening with guidance from qualified instructors.
- We have organized 2,600 greening and horticultural activities for about 1,144,000 participants in 18 districts in the past 12 months. We will continue to organize these activities in 2004.

Initiative (3)

- Enhancing building management and maintenance of private housing through education, publicity, and greater participation of professional bodies and the private sector.

A descriptive account of initiative (3)

- It has always been the Government’s policy to encourage and assist owners to form OCs to achieve effective building management. The Government has taken on the role of “facilitator” in this aspect. We have set up District Building Management Liaison Teams (DBMLTs) in each of the 18 District Offices to provide outreach services to property owners.
- In addition, four Building Management Resource Centres (BMRCs)

have been set up in the territory to provide information, advice and service on building management. The BMRCs also provide, in collaboration with professional bodies, free professional advice to the OCs and property owners.

- The DBMLTs and BMRCs have organized training courses, workshops, seminars and various publicity activities to promote effective building management. We will continue organizing these activities in the coming years.

2003 Policy Agenda

Effective Governance

Initiative

- Putting in place electoral arrangements for 2003 rural elections

Progress Made/Present Position

- The Village Representative Election Ordinance was enacted in February 2003. Village Representative elections conducted under the statutory framework were successfully completed. The other two tiers of rural elections, Rural Committees and Heung Yee Kuk, were also smoothly completed in late 2003.

Initiative

- Enacting legislation to authorize and regulate soccer betting in Hong Kong.

Progress Made/Present Position

- In July 2003, we enacted the Betting Duty (Amendment) Ordinance 2003 to provide for the authorization and regulation of the conduct of football betting in Hong Kong. We also granted a licence to a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the Hong Kong Jockey Club for the purpose of operating football betting.
- In August 2003, we established the Football Betting and Lotteries Commission, a statutory body with the primary function of advising the Secretary for Home Affairs on the regulation of the conduct of authorized football betting and lotteries.

*Home Affairs Bureau
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