

# Effective Governance

## Preamble

We will cultivate and maintain a good relationship between the HKSAR and the Central Government, pursue “people-based” governance, and, on the basis of an executive-led government, raise our capacity to govern. We will work to provide a sound foundation through effective governance to maintain and further develop Hong Kong’s position as “Asia’s World City”. We will strengthen our relations with the international communities and actively co-ordinate the efforts of government departments and public bodies to promote Hong Kong overseas. We are determined to maintain the rule of law in Hong Kong and will continue to take forward our constitutional development in accordance with the Basic Law. We will continue to strive to achieve fiscal balance to foster an environment conducive to continued economic growth and success. We are committed to maintaining a small but responsive and accountable government, and a permanent, meritocratic, professional, politically neutral and clean civil service. We will encourage public participation in politics to lay a more solid foundation for implementing “Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong”.

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

- Introduce legislation to give effect to the proposal to introduce a financial assistance scheme for candidates in the District Council elections.
- Enhance the work of the Government in districts through more effective co-ordination by District Officers supported by the Steering Committee on District Administration.
- Enhance communication between District Councils and the Administration through Heads of Departments attending District Council meetings on a regular basis.
- Involve District Councils in the management of designated district facilities by implementing a pilot scheme from January 2007 which will pave the way for full implementation in all 18 districts from January 2008.
- Co-ordinate celebrations for the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. We will make use of this opportunity to highlight the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and create a festive atmosphere for community involvement and participation.
- Review the provisions in the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance, in particular those relating to repeated offenders, to assess if they would need to be strengthened to enhance the deterrent effect.

- Promote legislation to implement the arrangement for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments in specific commercial matters with the Mainland.
- Introduce a Risks and Needs Assessment Protocol to identify prisoners prone to custodial and re-offending risks, and to deliver rehabilitative programmes matching their needs, with a view to more effectively reducing re-offending.
- Undertake the necessary legislative and administrative measures with a view to reducing the coverage of the Frontier Closed Area; and examine the potential uses of the land to be released from the Area.

## Ongoing Initiatives

*We are:*

- Continuing to consult the public on the proposal to further develop the Political Appointment System by creating new positions in the political tier at different levels. We will analyse the views collected with a view to making public the Government's proposed way forward some time during the first half of 2007.
- Continuing to take forward constitutional development after 2007. We will strive to build a consensus in the community on a roadmap for universal suffrage through discussions at the Commission on Strategic Development. The Commission is discussing possible models for implementing universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council. We will publish a report to draw conclusions on the discussions of the Commission during the first half of 2007, and submit the report to the Central Authorities.
- Continuing to facilitate the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and to demonstrate its success; and to facilitate the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law.
- Reviewing the issues involved in the existing system of advisory and statutory bodies, and exploring practical ways to streamline its structure and enhance its functions.

- Improving arrangements for the next cycle of rural elections in 2007, in the light of experience gained in the 2003 elections and consultation with the rural community.
- Implementing the existing gambling policy and regulating authorised gambling activities conducted by licensed operators.
- Working closely with the Betting and Lotteries Commission to ensure proper regulation of authorised horse race betting, football betting and lotteries.
- Funding higher education institutions to undertake public policy research. The Research Grants Council (RGC) of the University Grants Committee has already, through the first two rounds of the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, approved the funding of a total of \$14.3 million to 28 research projects. RGC is now processing third round applications and is expected to announce results by the end of 2006.
- Enriching the new government portal, GovHK, taking into account feedback from users. The portal has been soft launched since September 2006 to serve as the one-stop shop for online government information and services.
- Developing a pilot Citizen-centric Services Programme. The idea of delivering joined-up government services will be realised in the development of the Youth Portal. The Youth Portal provides a single window for local youth aged 15 to 24 to conveniently access information and services provided by the Government and other government-funded organisations. A feasibility and technical study for the project is under way. The development work will start around end 2006 and the portal will go live in mid-2007.

- Continuing with the development of an improved civil service pay adjustment mechanism which helps maintain a clean, stable and efficient civil service and is also considered as fair and reasonable by the community. The exercise includes the conduct of a pay level survey, review of the annual pay trend survey and development of a better mechanism to facilitate both upward and downward pay adjustments in future. We aim to complete the pay level survey field work within 2006 with a view to considering the application of the survey results in early 2007.
- Continuing to control the size of the civil service by providing the necessary management tools to assist bureaux and departments to achieve staff savings and enhance efficiency, while at the same time giving due consideration of the need for additional manpower resources for delivering new and improved services.
- Continuing to provide civil servants with training and development opportunities. We shall also continue to enhance the variety and content of the training materials on our e-learning portal, and promote wider use of e-learning, as part of our endeavours to fortify a culture of continuous learning in the civil service.
- Continuing to maintain and enhance morale of the civil service, and encourage fuller use of various commendation schemes to recognise and motivate exemplary performance.
- Continuing to maintain a vigorous, effective and efficient disciplinary system against misconduct in the civil service. Continuing to monitor closely implementation of the streamlined procedures for removing under-performers whilst sustaining efforts to further improve efficiency and productivity in the civil service.

- Continuing to develop the standards of appellate advocacy and preparation in criminal cases through the compilation of a Criminal Appeals Manual, and through training in the preparation of appeals.
- Continuing to enhance the quality of criminal justice through regular reviews of the disclosure arrangements of the law enforcement agencies in relation to material which requires to be revealed to the defence to ensure the fair and proper conduct of criminal cases.
- Liaising with our justice partners to enhance the quality of criminal justice and taking of measures to secure a better deal for victims of crime and witnesses.
- Continuing to liaise with the International Association of Prosecutors in order to facilitate its work in the Asia/Pacific Region and promote co-operation amongst prosecutors at the global level in the combat of crime.
- Promoting understanding of the rule of law in and outside Hong Kong and considering reforms to improve the legal system.
- Promoting transparency in the area of public prosecutions and implementing practical steps to avoid miscarriages of justice.
- Continuing to enhance the law drafting skill of law draftsmen through an in-house mentorship programme and enrich their drafting experience through more cross-fertilisation with other common law jurisdictions.
- Continuing the Bilingual Law Information System to provide easy access to our bilingual laws of Hong Kong and improving the standard of government lawyers in respect of bilingualism in law.

- Continuing discussions with the Mainland and other jurisdictions on bilateral co-operation relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Surrender of Fugitive Offenders, and Transfer of Sentenced Persons.
- Taking active steps to introduce a new type of passport featuring biometric capability in early 2007 to tie in with the expected first tide of applications for renewal of HKSAR passport valid for ten years from July 1997.
- Continuing the implementation of the face recognition system to facilitate the verification of identity of suspect visa applicants and arriving passengers.
- Putting into effect, through legislation and other means, the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering to further enhance our anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regime.
- Continuing to ensure that our legislative regime for combating terrorism is current and meets the need of changing circumstances.
- Continuing to seek long-term solutions to address the problems of overcrowding and outdated facilities in our penal institutions.
- Issuing the Smart ID Card in phases starting from mid-2003 to enhance security, facilitate boundary crossing, and provide other value-added services.
- Providing a legal basis for the existing police complaints system by making the Independent Police Complaints Council a statutory body.
- In line with the principle of keeping expenditure within the limits of revenue, continuing the strive to achieve a fiscal balance, avoid



deficits and keep the budget commensurate with the growth rate of GDP; reviewing our tax base and continuing to implement the asset sale and securitisation programme.

- Conducting a public consultation lasting for about nine months on tax reform to solicit the views of the community before making a recommendation to the Government of the next term on whether Hong Kong should pursue tax reform and introduce a Goods and Services Tax.
- Developing a Works Project Information Standard to facilitate the electronic exchange of public works project data and the reliability of electronic communications among stakeholders. We are refining the proposal in the light of advice from stakeholders.
- Preparing for a detailed consultancy study starting with the Business Case Study in regard to the adoption of Public-Private-Partnership for the in-situ reprovisioning of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works. We will suitably involve staff in the process.
- Continuing the effort to set up e-portals for the major clients of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) and making wider use of remote imaging and monitoring technology to further enhance the efficiency and service quality of EMSTF.
- Continuing to improve the quality and efficiency of the EMSTF despite the fact that it has been selected as the Gold Award winner of the 2006 Hong Kong Management Association Quality Award.
- Ensuring that the Architectural Services Department can achieve the target of outsourcing to 85% of the delivery of new projects in 2006-07 under its re-engineering programme.

- Fine-tuning the Customer Care and Billing System for over 2.6 million customers of the Water Supplies Department in enhancing operational efficiency and customer service.
- Continuing to work closely with the stakeholders to put in place a voluntary registration scheme for vehicle mechanics to enhance the standard of the vehicle maintenance trade.
- Continuing to work in collaboration with the construction industry to monitor and control payment of workers' wages and reduce non-value added multi-layer subcontracting to raise industry standards. New measures have already been implemented on all new public works contracts.