
Chapter 7

Enhance Governance, Streamline Administration

Preamble

A professional and efficient civil service is vital to the implementation of the new style of governance of the new-term Government. In the face of rising and diverse public aspirations, the civil service will strive to continuously improve our quality of service, whilst adhering to the “people-oriented” principle. The Government, as an employer, fully understands the work pressure on civil servants and will ensure the provision of necessary manpower support and training.

The rule of law is vital for safeguarding our rights and freedoms. It is also instrumental in promoting Hong Kong’s development as an international financial and commercial centre. We will further perfect our legal system and related infrastructure to ensure that the rule of law and justice continue to be upheld.

Law and order is the cornerstone of a stable society. Our disciplined services are firmly committed to maintaining Hong Kong as one of the safest cities in the world. We also provide reliable emergency rescue services to protect the lives and properties of the public.

The Government will continue to implement the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities” in strengthening district administration. We will provide more support for District Councils (DCs) to facilitate their enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of certain

district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

Respecting the constitutional role of the Legislative Council in exercising check and balance and monitoring the Government, we will endeavour to improve the relationship between the executive and the legislature. We will engage the public, including the Legislative Council and DCs, as early as practicable in the planning and implementation of government policies and programmes so as to meet the sentiments and needs of the public.

Policy Initiatives

Executive-Legislative Relationship

- Proactively improve the executive-legislative relationship by increasing the frequency of the Chief Executive's attendance at the Legislative Council meetings to answer Members' questions, strengthening interaction between politically appointed officials and Legislative Council Members, and maintaining regular communication with all political groups in the Legislative Council to work together for the overall interests of Hong Kong. (All bureaux) (New Initiative)
- Continue to work closely with the Legislative Council in the formulation of government policies and programmes. (All bureaux)
- Continue to draw up the Government's legislative programme and monitor its progress. (CSO)

District Administration

- In order to have a better grasp on district affairs and public opinions, each Principal Official will visit all 18 districts in the coming two years to meet with people in the local communities and understand district needs. (HAB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to facilitate communication between District Councils (DCs) and the Government through participation of relevant Heads of Departments in DC meetings and in government policy briefings for DC members. (HAB)
- Continue to work with the 18 DCs in implementing signature projects. (HAB)

- Progressively increase the provisions for the District Minor Works Programme to \$400 million per annum over the current term of DCs. The increased resources will cover the capital expenditures as well as recurrent expenditures for the management and maintenance of the completed facilities. (HAB)
- Provide an annual funding of \$63 million for the 18 districts to implement the District-led Actions Scheme. The 18 District Offices, in collaboration with DCs, local communities and related government departments, are forging ahead with some 40 projects on improving environmental hygiene and addressing community needs under the scheme. (HAB)
- Continue to provide funds for DCs to implement or sponsor community involvement activities, meeting the needs of the districts. (HAB)

Public Elections

- Introduce legislative amendments to increase the number of elected seats for the sixth term of DCs. (CMAB)
- In the light of the public consultation results, we will follow up on the longer-term measures which involve amendments to various pieces of electoral legislation as recommended in the Consultation Report on Enhancement of Voter Registration System published in January 2016, and put forward legislative amendment proposals. Proposals to be put forward include improving the objection mechanism, raising the penalties for the offence of making false statements in voter registration, and introducing the requirement of submitting address proofs by electors. (CMAB)

Chief Executive Summits and Committees

- Reform the Chief Executive-led Economic Development Commission and Commission on Strategic Development, setting up the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers on Innovation and Strategic Development. (CPU) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Restructuring the Government

- Consider the need to adjust the Government's structure to enhance administrative efficiency and to meet the demands on government's roles in the light of new circumstances and in the wake of new economic initiatives, after carefully listening to the views of different sectors of the community. (All bureaux) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Civil Servants

- Introduce suitable measures with regard to the capability development needs of civil servants to drive innovation and enhancement in the delivery of public service. (CSO) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Having reviewed the time-limited posts, the Government will make permanent or extend those with long-term service needs from 2018-19 onwards. (CSB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Work out the details of the option for officers who joined the civil service between 1 June 2000 and 31 May 2015 to retire at 65 (for civilian grades) or 60 (for disciplined services grades) to tie in with the goal of the population policy. (CSB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue with the preparatory work for setting up the sixth Families Clinic and enhance the clinical psychological services and specialised dental services for civil service eligible persons. (CSB)

- Expedite the departmental quarters construction projects for six disciplined forces. (SB)

Setting up of Civil Service College

- Actively explore the feasibility of setting up a brand-new civil service college to upgrade the training facilities for civil servants, with a view to further enhancing training in the areas of leadership development, interaction and communication with the public, innovation, use of technology, etc. (CSB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Central Policy Unit

- Revamp the Central Policy Unit to better assist the Government in the formulation of evidence-based policies, co-ordinate cross-bureau policies more effectively and encourage innovative development projects of wider public interest. (CPU) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Efficiency Unit

- Transfer the Efficiency Unit to the Innovation and Technology Bureau, in order to build a stronger team for fostering innovation by government departments. (ITB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Committees and Funds

- Streamline the application and project management procedures of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to encourage more organisations, in particular those of a smaller scale, to apply for grants to implement diversified social capital development projects. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Promoting the Basic Law

- Continue with our work on the active promotion of the Basic Law. We will make use of different channels to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law. In addition, we will step up efforts on Basic Law education for students, teachers and civil servants through the working groups under the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and relevant bureaux. (CMAB)

Improving the Legal System and Enhancing the Legal Infrastructure

- Enhance the quality and effectiveness of criminal prosecution work, including raising the professionalism, including the standard of advocacy, of our prosecutors through the provision of training programmes and better use of resources. (DoJ)
- Promote co-operation among prosecutors at regional and international levels through active participation in international prosecuting organisations. (DoJ)

Law Reform Proposals

- Study possible options to enhance the efficiency and operation of the Law Reform Commission (LRC). The study includes examining the experience of various law reform agencies in other jurisdictions. (DoJ) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Support the cross-sector Working Group on Class Actions in considering the LRC’s proposals on “Class Actions”. (DoJ)

- Conduct public consultation on the bill to implement the LRC's recommendations on Enduring Powers of Attorney with regard to personal care. The proposed bill aims to extend the scope of an enduring power of attorney beyond the donor's property and financial affairs to include matters relating to the donor's personal care when the donor becomes mentally incapacitated. (DoJ)

- Conduct public consultation on a bill to implement the LRC's recommendations made in the report on Criteria for Service as Jurors. The proposed bill aims to ensure that the criteria for appointment to and exemption from jury services are set out clearly and precisely and are appropriate to present-day circumstances of Hong Kong. (DoJ)

- We are reviewing comments received from a consultation exercise on the Evidence (Amendment) Bill 2017 which ended on 31 July 2017. The proposed bill seeks to implement the LRC's recommendations made in the report on Hearsay in Criminal Proceedings. Following the recommendations of the report, the proposed bill aims mainly to reform the existing rule that hearsay evidence is generally inadmissible in criminal proceedings by giving the courts the discretionary power to admit hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings if the statutory "necessity" and "threshold reliability" criteria are satisfied. The Department of Justice plans to introduce the proposed bill into the Legislative Council in the 2017-18 legislative session. (DoJ)

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- Assist the Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, in undertaking a detailed study on possible legislation and administrative measures to deal with various aspects of gender recognition in the light of the observations made in the judgement of the Court of Final Appeal in the W Case (FACV 4/2012), and in completing a public consultation on the first part of the study on gender recognition issues following publication of a consultation paper on 23 June 2017. Upon completion of the first part of the study, the Working Group will move to the next stage of the study concerning post-recognition issues. (DoJ)

Human Rights

- Promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and gender identity, with a view to fostering in the community the culture and values of inclusiveness and mutual respect. Efforts will include following up on the strategies and measures listed below:
 - providing training resources for personnel in specific fields to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities;
 - drawing up a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities for voluntary adoption by relevant organisations and individuals;
 - enhancing public education and publicity to promote the message of non-discrimination;
 - reviewing and reinforcing the relevant support services; and

- conducting further study on the experience of other jurisdictions in implementing anti-discrimination measures to provide the basis for future consultations. (CMAB)
- Seek to submit the legislative amendment proposals for implementing nine prioritised recommendations under the Discrimination Law Review as proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission in the form of a composite bill to the Legislative Council in the 2017-18 legislative session. (CMAB)
- Continue to promote children’s rights through the Children’s Rights Education Funding Scheme and the Children’s Rights Forum, etc. (CMAB)

Legal Aid and Legal Advice Services

- Enhance access to legal aid and free legal advice services to benefit more people who cannot afford private legal fees. (HAB)
- Transfer the responsibilities for formulating legal aid policy and housekeeping the Legal Aid Department from the Home Affairs Bureau to the Chief Secretary for Administration’s Office. (CSO/HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

Security and Anti-terrorism

- Follow through Legislative Council’s scrutiny of the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Amendment Bill 2017, which aims at further improving the anti-terrorism regime of Hong Kong. (SB)

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- Ensure the adequacy and continuous strengthening of Hong Kong's counter-terrorism capability and preparedness by establishing an Inter-departmental Counter-Terrorism Unit to enhance counter-terrorism strategies, action plans, cross-departmental co-ordination, intelligence gathering, training and public education. (SB) (New Initiative)
 - Prepare for the commencement of the Cross-boundary Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments Ordinance (Cap. 629) to implement a recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering. (SB)
 - Continue with the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims: sustaining efforts in combating the smuggling of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants to Hong Kong and implementing other pre-arrival control measures, expediting the screening of claims and appeals, expediting the removal of rejected claimants, studying detention measures, stepping up enforcement targeting unlawful employment and other criminal offences, and putting forward proposals for amending the Immigration Ordinance to improve the screening procedures for non-refoulement claims and related matters. (SB)
 - Continue with the anti-drug efforts through a five-pronged strategy of preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and enforcement, external co-operation, and research. (SB)
 - Provide rehabilitation programmes which match the needs of persons in custody, and strengthen the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project to promote among young people the messages of staying away from crimes and drugs and supporting rehabilitation. (SB)

- Seek short-term and long-term solutions to improve ageing penal facilities. (SB)

Strengthening Anti-corruption Efforts

- Fulfil Hong Kong's obligation under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption through assisting other States Parties in developing and implementing corruption prevention measures, providing training services to their graft-fighters and law enforcement agents and expanding Hong Kong's global anti-corruption network. Such exchanges and assistance will benefit Hong Kong's different sectors and enterprises in venturing into business in these member countries. (ICAC)
- Further enhance integrity training for government officers and public officials to heighten their vigilance on corruption pitfalls and the misconduct in public office offence. Efforts will include the production of a new web learning package and training videos. (ICAC) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Enhance the promotion of Hong Kong's corruption-free environment and effective anti-corruption regime to the international community through various means, including the "International Perspective" section which is an online platform on the Independent Commission Against Corruption's main website, as well as electronic newsletters and visit programmes. (ICAC) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- Continue with the “Support Clean Elections” programme comprising a series of education and publicity activities; assist the authorities concerned in the review of electoral legislation, procedures and guidelines and provide corruption prevention advice; and enhance enforcement actions with dedicated efforts against any conduct suspected to be in violation of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance so as to uphold integrity and fairness in elections, including by-elections for public elections at various levels and the Rural Representative Election in early 2019. (ICAC)

Emergency Support

- Enhance emergency ambulance service and educate the public on the proper use of the service. (SB)
- Continue to implement effective measures to assist our residents in distress outside Hong Kong. These include:
 - a three-colour Outbound Travel Alert system;
 - services of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department; and
 - relevant contingency and notification mechanism. (SB)

e-Government

- Enhance the Government’s overall cyber security capabilities by updating and upholding the Government’s information security policies and practices, developing a strong information security culture, and facilitating the sharing of information on cyber threats within the Government and with external professional organisations. (ITB)

- Plan the construction of a government data centre complex to meet the demands of bureaux and departments for long-term information technology development and data centre services. (ITB)