

Message

We shall make every effort to strengthen the community building programme which serves to foster among the people of Hong Kong a sense of belonging and mutual care. We will continue to implement the District Administration Scheme through our network of District Offices and local organisations to help Hong Kong become an even more lively, caring and prosperous community. We help to promote public understanding of government policies through our extensive liaison network with local residents and community organisations, regular visits and organisation of community projects. We also keep up our community building efforts by encouraging public participation in various activities targeted at promoting community welfare, better building management and in the fight against crime. We shall strive to maintain the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as an integrated and harmonious society, with broad public participation in community affairs and a strong sense of commitment to the well-being of the community.

We shall take the lead in and call for full community ownership of the responsibility for nurturing and developing our young people. To prepare our young people for the challenges of the new millennium and to take an active part in building up the HKSAR, we shall work with families, schools, employers, media, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), youth groups, as well as young people themselves through partnership and promotion of civic education. Specifically, we shall reinforce the widely accepted positive values among the young people and develop structured leadership training programmes on a continuing basis to meet the training needs at every stage of a youth's development. We

shall encourage young people to nurture their sense of belonging to Hong Kong as well as to appreciate Chinese culture and heritage on the one hand and to widen their vista through international exchange programmes on the other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David H T Lan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

(David H T Lan)
Secretary for Home Affairs

Community and Youth Development

Our Policy Objective is to promote community and youth development to nurture civic responsibility and a sense of belonging.

Our targets in pursuing this Policy Objective are –

- to achieve a high level of public participation in community affairs
- to increase the number of district campaigns and community involvement projects organised
- to maintain a high percentage of those eligible to register as voters
- to enhance the level of awareness of the public of their civic responsibilities
- to enhance the level of awareness about community and youth services available
- to enhance the sense of belonging amongst the community

Key Result Areas (KRAs)

To ensure that this Policy Objective can be achieved, we must deliver results in a number of key areas, that is, we must –

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The following sections of this booklet explain the importance of these KRAs, describe the broad thrust of our efforts, and outline the indicators which we are using to assess progress. Each section lists the new key initiatives being taken to achieve our objectives and pinpoints the agency accountable for each initiative and the specific targets which we intend to meet.

I

Review community development needs and provision

The District Administration Scheme provides a channel for the Government to understand the views of the public and identify any shortfall in the provision of services. We assist Government bureaux and departments in consulting the district advisory bodies on territory-wide and district issues. In so doing, we ensure that public views on important issues are taken account of in the policy-making process. We also ensure that improvements are made to the local environment and to the quality of life of people in the district.

We are committed to ensuring that new arrivals in Hong Kong quickly integrate into our community and contribute to our society. We conduct regular surveys to understand their problems and needs, and liaise with bureaux, departments and service providers in the planning and delivery of services to meet their needs.

It is important that our young people are brought up in such a way that they will be able to contribute to and be leaders of the community in future. We would continue to seek the advice of the Commission on Youth on how our young people could take up a more active role in building up the HKSAR and in voluntary work.

To ensure that our civic education programmes are able to meet the changing needs of society, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education conducts regular opinion surveys on civic education.

Indicators

The indicators we will use to measure progress in this area are –

- the number of community need reviews conducted against plan
- the shortfall in service identified for current and future years
- the number of new services identified to meet demand shortfall predictions
- the number of new service development projects planned and funded

Initiatives

Targets

To strengthen co-ordination with district advisory bodies

*(Home Affairs Bureau (HAB))**

To encourage bureaux and departments to consult the Provisional District Boards as far as possible on territory-wide issues and district issues

To review the Chinese Temples Ordinance to ensure that its provisions meet the changing needs of the community

(HAB)

By mid-1999, to identify the provisions which should be revised and formulate recommendations accordingly

* the brackets denote the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To enhance our capacity to review services provided for new arrivals, to encourage NGOs to implement new initiatives to help new arrivals and to conduct regular surveys on new arrivals to understand their problems and needs</p> <p><i>(Home Affairs Department (HAD))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To conduct quarterly surveys on new arrivals in 1999 to assess the problems and needs of the new arrivals and to facilitate improvements to new arrivals' services ● To hold round-table meetings with NGOs twice a year to evaluate the effectiveness and adequacy of existing services provided for new arrivals and to exchange views on how to enhance these services
<p>To study support systems for young new arrivals</p> <p><i>(Commission on Youth (CoY))</i></p>	<p>To complete the study in mid-1999</p>
<p>To study the influence of the media on young people</p> <p><i>(CoY)</i></p>	<p>To complete the study in early 1999</p>
<p>To conduct the 1998 opinion survey on civic education</p> <p><i>(Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education)</i></p>	<p>To complete the survey in end 1998</p>

II

Create and maintain a community support infrastructure

To foster closer ties between the community and the Government and to encourage public participation in activities promoting community welfare, we maintain an extensive liaison network with local residents and community organisations. We provide and manage community halls and centres, which provide venues for civic education and community building activities.

We provide Area Committees (ACs) with the necessary support to assist them in dealing with local issues. Our District Offices help to set up and maintain regular liaison with Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) and Owners' Corporations (OCs) to ensure that their concerns and problems are brought to the notice of relevant departments for action.

The Home Affairs Department, through its liaison network and close ties with the rural communities, implements the Rural Planning Improvement Strategy (RPIS) Minor Works Programme and minor environmental improvement projects.

Through the work of a Co-ordinating Committee on New Arrival Services supported by district co-ordinating committees and overseen by a Steering Committee on New Arrival Services, we co-ordinate the provision of services to help new arrivals in Hong Kong integrate into the community. We also maintain a partnership with NGOs in assisting new arrivals.

Indicators

The indicators we will use to measure progress in this area are –

- the number of community halls and centres providing venues for community activities
- the utilisation rate of community halls and centres against plan
- the number of ACs, MACs and OCs established

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To encourage the formation of district bodies and building-based residents' organisations</p> <p><i>(Home Affairs Bureau (HAB))</i></p>	<p>To form at least 270 new MACs/ OCs in 1999</p>
<p>To assist in the 1998-1999 Voter Registration drive</p> <p><i>(HAB)</i></p>	<p>To register as many eligible permanent residents as voters as possible</p>
<p>To complete the RPIS (Minor Works) Programme and to implement the annual minor environmental improvement projects so as to upgrade the infrastructure and improve the living environment of the rural community</p> <p><i>(HAB)</i></p>	<p>To spend up to \$588 million in 1999-2000 in improving the rural environment</p>
<p>To re-develop the Chai Wan Community Centre to provide a central facility for youth development activities which will include facilities for conferences, seminars, workshops, and international exchange programmes</p> <p><i>(HAB)</i></p>	<p>To complete the project by 2003</p>



Build community awareness and responsiveness

The Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education promotes civic awareness among the general public by organising territory-wide projects such as –

- the annual Civic Education Day and annual Civic Education Exhibition
- workshops and competitions
- television and radio programmes
- production of educational materials on a wide range of civic education topics

The Committee also operates a funding scheme to enable NGOs to organise civic education projects.

We promote the understanding of the Basic Law by sponsoring projects organised by NGOs through the Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme.

We also promote community involvement by encouraging District Boards to make use of the District Board funds to organise similar activities.

To help new arrivals build up knowledge of the community and the services available to them, we publish and regularly update a service handbook. The handbooks are distributed to new arrivals at the Lo Wu checkpoint, our Public Enquiry Services Centres and other Government and NGO outlets.

We organise the territory-wide Summer Youth Programme annually for children and young people aged between 6 and 25. We also encourage NGOs and youth groups to organise exchange programmes in co-operation with similar organisations overseas.

To enhance youth development, the Commission on Youth advises the Government on matters affecting young people and also publishes a Charter for Youth to promote the principles and ideals of youth development.

Indicators

The indicators we will use to measure progress in this area are –

- the level of subscription of organisations and individuals to the Charter for Youth
- the number of education, publicity and other awareness building measures implemented
- the community and youth response and participation rates of our programmes
- the level of involvement in voluntary support activities and associations

Initiatives

Targets

To promote the principles and ideals for youth development enshrined in the Charter for Youth
(Home Affairs Bureau (HLAB))

To expand the subscription for the Charter for Youth in 1999-2000

To expand the Community Participation Scheme under the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education
(HLAB)

To increase the amount of sponsorship available under the Scheme in 1999-2000

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To expand the International Youth Exchange Programme and invite greater involvement by NGOs (HAB)</p>	<p>To increase the number of youths joining the Programme in 1999-2000</p>
<p>To strengthen liaison with NGOs and relevant Government departments to organise more volunteer projects and leadership training programmes for young people (HAB)</p>	<p>To enable more NGOs and young people to participate in volunteer projects and leadership training programmes in 1999-2000</p>
<p>To promote the Summer Youth Programme for more young people (HAB)</p>	<p>To provide activities to more than 1.2 million young people in 1999</p>
<p>To provide updated information to more new arrivals on services to facilitate their early integration into the community and to promote their sense of civic awareness (HAB)</p>	<p>To produce and distribute a new edition of handbook for new arrivals from the Mainland in 1999</p>
<p>To operate the Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme to subsidise projects organised by community organisations for their specific target groups (HAB)</p>	<p>To encourage more community organisations to organise projects for promoting the Basic Law in 1999-2000 by funding at least 20 projects</p>

IV

Nurture the growth of a stronger understanding of our community and culture

With the reunification with China, the people of Hong Kong have assumed a new identity. It is important that the community should develop a stronger sense of belonging to the HKSAR and its culture and heritage through civic education programmes and community participation projects. We will strengthen our efforts to instil a sense of belonging in the community through civic education.

Indicator

The indicator we will use to measure progress in this area is the degree of public understanding of our community and culture, as measured by opinion surveys.

Initiatives

Targets

To continue to encourage more NGOs to organise study tours to the Mainland for young people
(Home Affairs Bureau (HAB))

To enable more young people to visit the Mainland through projects organised by different NGOs in 1999-2000

To promote community participation in activities organised under “Hong Kong, Our Home”
(HAB)

To enable community-wide participation in the programmes

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To produce more educational packages to promote “understanding of our nation” and “sense of belonging to our community”</p> <p><i>(HLAB)</i></p>	<p>To produce two educational packages for mass distribution each year from 1999 onwards</p>
<p>To co-organise with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Radio Television Hong Kong and community organisations a large scale publicity programme to promote positive values and a stronger sense of belonging to the HKSAR</p> <p><i>(ICAC)</i></p>	<p>To encourage more people to participate in the programmes</p>
<p>To help promote healthy living messages through the organisation of community involvement events, in support of the campaign on “Healthy Living into the 21st century”</p> <p><i>(Health and Welfare Bureau)</i></p>	<p>To encourage the organisation of community involvement events for the campaign in 1999-2000</p>