

41st Meeting of the Elderly Commission

Press Summary

The Elderly Commission (EC) held its 41st meeting today (22 February 2005) with the following items on the agenda: -

(1) Briefing by the Hong Kong Housing Society on the Proposed Building Management and Maintenance Scheme (BMMS)

- The Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) briefed members on the “Building Management and Maintenance Scheme” (BMMS) which was launched on 1 February 2005. The objective of the Scheme is to facilitate owners to improve the management and maintenance of their old properties. HKHS has earmarked \$3 billion for the coming 10 years to implement the scheme which aims to benefit 800 buildings each year.
- The “BMMS” covers four scopes of work, namely education and publicity; guidance and advice; incentives and assistance, as well as an interest-free loan. For incentives and assistance, HKHS will roll out the “Building Management Incentive Scheme” to help owners of old private residential buildings form Owners Corporations, whereas the “Building Maintenance Incentive Scheme” will subsidize repair and maintenance of buildings aged over 20 years. The “Home Renovation Loan Scheme” will also offer interest-free loans to home owners of old buildings to carry out repair and maintenance of their flats to maintain safety and hygiene.

(2) Research by Central Policy Unit Expert Panel on Financial Security in Old Age

- In the 2005 Policy Address, it was mentioned that the Central Policy Unit (CPU) would conduct research to lay the ground work for dealing with our ageing population. An Expert Panel on Financial Security in Old Age (the Panel) has been formed by the CPU, with participation of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, to develop a research agenda on financial security in old age. The Panel is chaired by Professor Nelson Chow of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong, and comprises 6 non-official members. A number of research projects will commence soon under the steer of the Panel, with findings expected by the end of the year.

- The Panel tabled an information paper on the research projects to be commissioned by CPU.

(3) Briefing on “The 2005 Policy Address – Policy Agenda”

- Members noted the progress of implementing the initiatives set out in the 2005 Policy Address and Policy Agenda of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, with particular emphasis on initiatives on elderly services.

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