

(Translation)

**Elderly Commission
Minutes of the 122nd Meeting**

Date: 6 March 2026 (Friday)

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room 4, G/F, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Dr LI Kwok-tung, Donald, GBS, JP

Members

Dr CHAN Chi-kau, Johnnie Casire, SBS, JP

Prof LAI Wing-leung, Daniel

Prof LAM Chiu-wa, Linda

Mr LEE Sing-kan, MH

Mr LIT Hoo-yin, Horace

Dr LUK Ka-hay, James

Mr MA Heng, Theodore

Ms MAN Wei-yin, Queenie

Mr NGAI Shi-shing, Godfrey

Mr SIU King-wai, Kyrus

Mr SU Yau-on, Albert, MH, JP

Ms WONG Chor-kei, Macy, MH

Ms LAU Yim, Alice, JP

Permanent Secretary for Labour and
Welfare

Acting Secretary for Health

Assistant Director of Social Welfare
(Elderly)

Assistant Director of Health (Elderly
Health)

Dr FAN Yuen-man, Cecilia, JP

Ms YAN Lai-ming, Jenny

Dr SO Shuk-kuen, Joanna

Mr CHOY Kwan-wing

Chief Manager/Management (Support
Services Section 2), Housing Department
Director (Strategy and Planning), Hospital
Authority

Dr HA King-hang, Tony

In attendance

Mr CHONG Wing-wun, JP	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2
Ms LEUNG Susanna	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 3
Ms WONG Sin-ye, Jade, JP	Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Employment Services)
Mr NG Kwok-keung, Byron, BBS	Executive Director, Employees Retraining Board
Mr YU Kwok-chu, Edmond	Deputy Executive Director (Training Services), Employees Retraining Board
Mr YEUNG Chun-po, Carmelo	Chief Superintendent of Police, Support Branch
Mr NG Hoi-wai, Wilson	Superintendent of Police, Field Division, Support Branch
Ms LAI Hin-lok, Cherry	Senior Inspector of Police, Field Division, Support Branch
Ms HO Koon-ling, Rosanna	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare) 4, Labour and Welfare Bureau
Mr LAM Chi-kwong, Ares	Executive Officer (Welfare) 4, Labour and Welfare Bureau

Absent with apologies

Prof BAI Xue
Hon CHAN Man-ye, Grace
Ms IP Shun-hing, SBS, MH, JP
Mr LAU Tat-chuen
Dr LEE Shun-wah, Jenny

Secretary

Ms CHAN Ah-wing, Ivy	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 4
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Dr LI Kwok-tung, Donald, the Chairman, welcomed all Members to the meeting, in particular Dr FAN Yuen-man, Cecilia, Acting Secretary for Health, who was representing the Health Bureau, and Dr HA King-hang, Tony, Director (Strategy and Planning), who was representing the Hospital Authority (HA).

2. The Chairman reminded Members that they must declare potential conflicts, if any, between their interests and matters under discussion.

Agenda item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 121st Meeting

3. Members did not propose any amendments to the Chinese and English versions of the draft minutes issued by the Secretariat on 16 February 2026. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda item 2: Matters arising

4. There was no matter arising from the 121st meeting.

Agenda item 3: Employment Support and Training for the Elderly

5. With the aid of presentation slides, Ms WONG Sin-ye, Jade, Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Employment Services), briefed Members on the employment support measures for the elderly, and Mr NG Kwok-keung, Byron, Executive Director, Employees Retraining Board (ERB), then presented the support measures for training and employment of the elderly.

6. After the briefing, the Chairman and Members expressed views¹ and raised questions as follows:

- (a) the implementation of employment and training support measures for the elderly by the Labour Department (LD) and the ERB was supported, as these measures could effectively unleash the potential labour force of our society whilst incentivising employers to hire older persons;
- (b) enquiries were made regarding the availability and distribution of vacancies suitable for older persons across

¹ Written comments submitted by Member Mr MA Heng, Theodore on 6 March 2026 had been forwarded to the LD.

industries and occupations under the LD's Re-employment Allowance Pilot Scheme (REA Scheme) and Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged (EPEM), as well as the ERB's One-stop Training and Employment Scheme (OTE Scheme);

- (c) it was suggested that post-placement follow-up surveys should be strengthened by, inter alia, collecting information on older and middle-aged persons' sustainability of employment after placement under various employment schemes, such as the termination rate beyond the allowance period, whether the concerned persons had changed occupation or industry, and whether the training had facilitated career development, etc. Such information would help assess the effectiveness of employment support measures in extending the workforce's years of employment and meeting the needs for manpower resources;
- (d) it was enquired whether there was an age limit for the REA Scheme and the EPEM. It was also suggested that the ERB should timely adjust the course combinations in response to market needs;
- (e) noting that the rise of the Modular Integrated Construction approach in recent years had reduced frontline positions in the construction sector while the property maintenance work was facing manpower shortage, it was suggested that the LD and the ERB should consider appropriate measures to facilitate the transition of construction workers into property maintenance work to improve manpower matching; and
- (f) it was enquired how the LD and the ERB would step up publicity on their employment and/or training support services to raise public awareness.

7. In response to Members' views and questions, Ms Jade WONG and Mr Byron NG gave consolidated replies as follows:

- (a) the LD had actively implemented various employment

programmes to assist older and middle-aged persons in securing employment. The number of eligible placements recorded under the EPEM increased from around 2 700 in 2022 to around 4 500 in 2025. Placements under the EPEM and the REA Scheme were mainly in the sectors of “real estate and business services” and “community, social and personal services”, primarily involving frontline positions, such as security guards, hospital service assistants, clerks and accounting clerks, etc.;

- (b) the ERB had since early 2024 implemented the OTE Scheme on a pilot basis, with over 40 employers organising pre-employment training in industries covering property management and security, healthcare services, aviation services, transportation and support services, and catering, etc. In addition, tailor-made pre-employment training for posts with specific skill requirements, including aviation security officers, gas technical assistants/mechanical technician trainees and bank tellers, etc. was offered. The OTE Scheme had attracted a cumulative enrolment of about 850 trainees. Moreover, the most popular placement-tied courses mainly offered training related to occupations such as Chinese medicine clinic assistant, bakery and pastry maker, property management and security staff, barista, florist practice and floral design assistant, physiotherapy assistant, post-natal care worker, dim sum maker, and local café kitchen assistant, etc. The placement rate for trainees aged 50 or above upon course completion was about 84%;
- (c) the LD’s REA Scheme, launched in July 2024, had been in place for around one and a half years. Among the applications received, about 70% and 30% were from participants who had completed six months and 12 months of employment respectively. For the EPEM, around 83% and 70% of employees receiving on-the-job training stayed for four months and six months or longer respectively. As for the ERB, about 60% of trainees remained in their posts for six months or more after completing placement-tied courses. The ERB would explore ways to enhance the follow-up surveys on its graduate trainees;
- (d) no age limit was set for the REA Scheme and the EPEM, older and middle-aged persons who wished to continue

working could participate;

- (e) applicants for placement-tied courses were required to attend pre-enrolment interviews so that the ERB could understand their employment histories and career aspirations. Admission was determined by whether age limits were set for specific occupations and other factors such as physical fitness requirements. Under the OTE Scheme, employers could select trainees for enterprise-based classes according to their recruitment needs. Employer representatives would also take part in the interviews;
- (f) in response to the rising demand for higher skills and qualifications in the job market, the ERB would enhance its courses by changing them from employment-oriented to skill-based. Apart from helping trainees secure employment, the ERB had developed learning pathways by offering more short-term courses on core skills at various levels, enabling working trainees of different academic backgrounds and ages to study outside working hours and strive for promotion opportunities in the workplace. The ERB was actively seeking collaborations with more post-secondary institutions to offer additional advanced training courses, with the aim of boosting learning and self-enhancement for all, whilst encouraging older and middle-aged persons to pursue further education and re-enter the workforce, thereby unleashing the potential labour force;
- (g) the ERB offered a wide range of property maintenance-related courses to help trainees switch to the construction sector, which was one of Hong Kong's key industries. These courses were designed to align with industry needs, and the ERB planned to work with the sector to explore the feasibility of offering new courses on emerging technologies adopted by the sector (such as drone-assisted building external wall inspections, maintenance data analysis, 3D drawing and Building Information Modelling). The ERB would continue to enhance its training efforts in such areas and roll out construction-related courses, thereby assisting practitioners in upgrading their skills to better adapt to the industry's mode of operation; and

- (h) regarding the publicity and promotion of employment and training services for older persons, the LD placed advertisements on the Internet and public transport networks, organised job fairs to publicise relevant services, and collaborated with elderly service organisations through its district job centres to reach out to and encourage older and middle-aged persons to make use of its employment services. In parallel, the ERB would proactively reach out to the public by promoting its services through the Internet, social media and newspapers, etc., while leveraging its extensive network of over 80 training bodies and around 400 training centres across districts, along with its service centres and service spots, to boost community publicity. As announced in the 2026-27 Budget Speech, the ERB would be upgraded as Upskill Hong Kong to provide various types of skill-based training courses, including artificial intelligence application, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of the local workforce.

Agenda item 4: Project ComeHome under the Hong Kong Police Force

8. With the aid of presentation slides, Mr YEUNG Chun-po, Carmelo, Chief Superintendent of Police, Support Branch, Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), briefed Members on the Project ComeHome initiative (the Project).

9. After the briefing, the Chairman and Members expressed views and raised questions as follows:

- (a) given that elderly persons were required to use a real-name registered JoyYou Card under the \$2 Scheme, it was enquired that, in case a JoyYou Card holder went missing, whether the Police could request the card issuer to index the relevant JoyYou Card using the cardholder's personal information under the Octopus Card Number Indexing Mechanism, rather than requiring carers to provide the Octopus Card number of the missing person (MP);
- (b) enquiries were made regarding the eligibility criteria for elderly persons to receive a location tracking device. It was suggested that the Police should expand the scope of

distribution to include elderly singleton and doubleton households as well as persons with severe mental illnesses, as these persons were more prone to accidents when they went missing;

- (c) it was enquired how elderly persons not covered by the Police's current distribution channels could obtain a location tracking device. Also, some of the dementia patients attending the HA's memory clinics who were at high risk of going missing did not join the Dementia Community Support Scheme or enrol as members of elderly centres, and thus might not receive a device through existing channels. It was suggested that the Police should expand the distribution channels to cover these clinics;
- (d) it was suggested that the Police should invite more transport operators and public service providers to participate in the Octopus Card Number Indexing Mechanism to enhance the efficiency of locating MPs. Additionally, the Police should, in collaboration with residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), elderly-related service organisations and family service centres, strengthen the explanatory and promotional work among family members and carers of elderly persons, frontline social workers and other relevant parties, thereby deepening their understanding of the Project's benefits, and provide guidance on the use of the location tracking device;
- (e) it was enquired whether elderly persons would be required to register individually with the Police upon receiving the location tracking device, and whether the device had any limitations in its detection range; and
- (f) enquiries were made regarding the trend of MP cases in recent years and the number of cases in which MPs were successfully located.

10. In response to Members' views and questions, Mr Carmelo YEUNG gave consolidated replies as follows:

- (a) under the Octopus Card Number Indexing Mechanism, upon receiving an MP report involving a high-risk individual, the Police would request the carer to provide the MP's Octopus Card number and promptly notify the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited and Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited to index the card in their respective Octopus Card systems. Due to limitations of the system capacity, the JoyYou Card information of all elderly persons could not be preloaded. Furthermore, obtaining an Octopus Card number from the card issuer using the personal information of a JoyYou Card holder would necessitate time-consuming legal and administrative procedures. Therefore, the most efficient way to locate MPs was to encourage carers to record in advance the Octopus Card number of the elderly person under their care and provide it to the Police for follow-up when the person went missing;
- (b) the location tracking device was generally distributed to elderly persons aged 60 or above, and individuals assessed as "MPs at Risk" (e.g. mentally incapacitated persons and dementia patients). Subject to resources availability, the Police would consider expanding the scope of distribution to include more target recipients (e.g. persons with severe mental illness);
- (c) the location tracking device was mainly distributed through two channels: the Police network (i.e. the Regional Missing Persons Units) and the inter-agency network (including the HA, the Social Welfare Department's District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), and special schools under the Education Bureau). If the Police, when handling cases of different nature, identified individuals suitable for using the device, the Police Community Relations Office or the Missing Persons Units would proactively contact them to distribute the device. Individuals not covered by the Police network could, if necessary, obtain the device through the inter-agency network, such as hospitals and DECCs;
- (d) the Police would keep expanding their distribution channels by such means as further leveraging the government networks including Care Teams for distribution of the location tracking device to those in need within the

community; continuing to explore collaborations with more relevant organisations (such as RCHEs and suitable HA clinics) to introduce additional distribution channels, thereby enhancing the prevention of MP cases among the elderly and high-risk individuals; and stepping up the promotion of the Project and related explanatory work to build a safer community;

- (e) so far, over 5 200 location tracking devices had been distributed under the Project, of which about 4 200 (around 80%) were received by elderly persons aged 60 or above. The Police expected to distribute a total of about 3 000 devices in 2026 through existing or new channels to enhance the efficiency of locating MPs;
- (f) the distributed location tracking devices were intended to be used by carers and care recipients on their own. Carers were required to install the corresponding application on their phones and attach the device to the care recipient for tracking;
- (g) the Project offered two types of location tracking devices, i.e. Bluetooth and GPS. Bluetooth devices, characterised by their compact and easy-to-wear design with low power consumption, were more suitable for use in urban areas as they relied on nearby public Bluetooth networks for positioning. GPS devices, on the other hand, were a better alternative in rural areas as they could emit location signals, offering greater accuracy and reliability. However, a GPS device required a data SIM card, consumed more power and required frequent recharging. The Police would distribute the appropriate devices according to the specific needs of individuals; and
- (h) in recent years, the annual number of MP cases remained between 2 300 and 2 700, of which 700 to 800 involved elderly persons aged 60 or above. The majority of MPs had been successfully located.

Agenda item 5: Progress Report by the Committee on Elder Academy Development Foundation

11. Ms CHAN Ah-wing, Ivy, Secretary to the Commission, reported

that in January 2026, the Committee on Elder Academy Development Foundation (EADF) endorsed 30 second-round applications for EADF funding in 2025-26, involving a total funding of about \$2.36 million. Application for the first-round funding in 2026-27 would be closed on 31 May 2026.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

12. Ms CHAN Ah-wing, Ivy reported that, as announced in the 2025 Policy Address, the Government would set up the Working Group on Ageing Society Strategies under the steer of the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration (DCS) to co-ordinate the efforts of various bureaux in formulating the relevant strategy responses. Aside from covering areas such as elderly care, healthcare, housing, culture and leisure, and gerontechnology, the working group would consider promoting the further development of silver economy. The working group would take into account the views of the Elderly Commission, and submit a report in 2026. In this connection, the DCS would like to seek the Commission's views. Members were cordially invited to attend an exchange session to be held on the afternoon of 23 March 2026. Email invitations were issued by the Secretariat on 6 March 2026, and Members were encouraged to actively participate and share their views.

Time of Adjournment

13. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

14. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 25 June 2026 (Thursday). The Secretariat would advise Members of the meeting details in due course.

April 2026