

Policy Address: Towards a Liveable, Innovative and Green Hong Kong

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, set out his vision of a liveable, innovative and green Hong Kong in his second Policy Address today (October 25), emphasising land and housing as the top priority.

Measures introduced in last year's Policy Address have increased public housing supply. Public housing demand for the next 10-year period (2024-25 to 2033-34) is 308 000 units, while the Government has identified sufficient land to develop about 410 000 public housing units. The excess housing will help shorten the waiting time for public rental housing (PRH) units.

Total public housing supply, including light public housing, will reach 172 000 units in the coming five-year period (2024/25 to 2028/29). Compared with the five-year period at the beginning of the current-term Government (from 2022-23 to 2026-27), an additional of 67 000 households will be benefitted (Note).

The Government will continue to enhance the quantity, speed, efficiency and quality of public housing. To that end, plans include:

- 10 Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) redevelopment projects, creating about 32 800 flats. The HKHA will provide the housing estates with additional local open space and recreational facilities;
- next year, the HKHA will select 10 PRH estates as pilot sites for the adoption of such innovative technologies as the Internet of Things sensors, artificial intelligence and mobile devices, to help in daily estate management; and
- the HKHA will continue to apply modular integrated construction (MiC) approach and other innovative construction technology to expedite construction and enhance building quality.

As for overall land supply, it is estimated that more than 7 000 hectares of land will be provided over the 30-year period ending in 2048. That should leave at least 1 000 hectares of land in reserve, after considering projected land demand over the same period. The supply target for private housing in the next decade is projected to be 132 000 units. The Government will make available sufficient land in the next five years to provide about 80 000 units.

To stay on top of the pressing issue, the Government will continue to expedite land production. Measures include:

- streamlining statutory and administrative procedures;
- extending the arrangement for standardisation of land premium; and

- expediting the approval of building plans.

The issue of Subdivided Units (SDUs) stems from the prolonged shortage of land and public housing, which is very complicated and requires meticulous planning to resolve. The Government has been increasing the overall supply of public and private housing. In particular, the supply of PRH units in the coming decade will exceed the supply target projected, making it an opportune time to resolve this long-standing problem.

A Task Force on Tackling the Issue of Subdivided Units will be established, led by the Deputy Financial Secretary, with the Secretary for Housing as deputy.

The task force will study the issue in detail, presenting recommendations along the following directions in 10 months' time, including setting minimum living condition standards for SDUs, offering measures to eradicate substandard SDUs, preventing their resurgence and putting forward solutions to address the problem in an orderly manner.

To address problems related to the dilapidation of aged buildings, the building owners are provided with technical and financial support for building repairs. To improve building management and building safety, the Government will:

- adopt a more precise approach in selecting target buildings for issuance of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme notices;
- strengthen capabilities in inspecting buildings and carrying out emergency repair works through outsourcing;
- review Operation Building Bright 2.0 to assist and urge owners or owners' corporations (OCs) that have applied for the subsidy to expedite action;
- introduce a bill next year to amend the Buildings Ordinance, streamlining prosecution procedures and raising penalties against non-compliance with notices;
- introduce a bill this year to amend the Building Management Ordinance, strengthening the regulation of OCs regarding large-scale maintenance projects; and
- strengthen the registration and disciplinary systems of contractors to ensure the quality and safety of their work.

The Northern Metropolis is a new engine for Hong Kong's future growth. Upon completion, in 20 years, it will provide about 500 000 new housing units and create 500 000 new jobs.

The Government will shortly publish the Action Agenda for the Northern Metropolis. It will integrate deeply with the planning of Shenzhen and other Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area cities. The planning of the Northern Metropolis has adopted an "industry-driven and infrastructure-led"

approach, dividing the region into four main areas:

- a hub for high-end professional services and logistics located in Hung Shui Kiu and connected with the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone;
- an innovation and technology zone covering the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in San Tin Technopole, which will create synergy with the Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Zone;
- a boundary commerce and industry zone that will drive such industries as advanced construction, green environment industries, health care, food technology and modern logistics, while promoting cross-boundary business services; and
- a blue and green recreation, tourism and conservation circle covering Robin's Nest, Sha Tau Kok and Yan Chau Tong.

In addition, the area will be home to a wide range of community and social services, including a Northern Metropolis University Town, government office buildings, arts and cultural facilities, and the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park.

The newly established Committee on the Financing of Major Development Projects will put forward proposals on financing the relevant infrastructure and transportation development.

The Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone lies at the convergence of the Northern Metropolis and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen innovation and technology corridor. The Government would work with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to promote its development and explore innovative measures, including:

- providing travel convenience for research and development (R&D) personnel;
- promoting cross-boundary capital flow within the Hetao Co-operation Zone;
- facilitating data and sample exchanges for research or trials;
- capitalising on Hong Kong's ability to pool international talent to work in Hetao; and
- taking forward frontier technological research.

The Government would establish the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute next year in the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, providing one-stop clinical trial support for pharmaceutical R&D institutions.

In terms of the transport network, the Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint, to be published by end-2023, would include the enhanced Three Railways and Three Major Roads proposals, and new projects including two railways and one major road. The enhanced proposals

include the provision of three intermediate stations at Northeast Tsuen Wan, Northeast Kwai Chung and Tsuen King Circuit on the Central Rail Link and transit to the Tsuen Wan Line. The new two railways and one major road will be conducive to the development of new towns in the eastern part of the Northern Metropolis.

In addition, the Government will implement smart and green mass transit in East Kowloon, Kai Tak and Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen. The Government will commence the preparatory work, including planning, investigation and design. Suppliers and operators will be invited to submit expressions of interest for projects.

The Government would make every effort to promote the use and supply of new energy in sea, land and air transport so as to spearhead green transformation of the industry. Measures include:

- developing a green maritime fuel-bunkering centre to attract more ocean-going vessels to bunker green fuel in Hong Kong. An action plan for the construction of bunkering facilities and the development of supply chains, including the provision of liquefied natural gas bunkering will be launched next year;
- promoting the supply of sustainable aviation fuel, with an action plan to be formulated by the Airport Authority Hong Kong;
- supporting green public land transport: testing more new energy vehicles, including electric public light buses, electric heavy goods vehicles, electric coaches, hydrogen double-decker buses and hydrogen street-washing vehicles. The Government would earmark \$50 million to subsidise the purchase of wheelchair-accessible electric taxis. A citywide green transformation roadmap and timetable for public buses and taxis would be formulated in the first half of 2024, with a view to achieving zero vehicular emissions by 2050. The Government would provide supporting facilities to realise the goal of introducing about 700 electric buses and 3 000 electric taxis by end-2027;
- promoting electric private car use: the Government would expedite the expansion of the network of charging facilities, with the goal of increasing the number of public and private parking spaces with charging facilities to 200 000 by mid-2027. The Government will also offer incentives for operators of petrol-filling stations to convert the stations into green-energy refuelling stations. Two vacant petrol-filling station sites, to be converted to charging stations in the first quarter of 2024, will be offered for tender; and
- formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in the first half of next year.

The Government would launch a "Shining City Project" next year, developing the Shing Mun River and Yuen Long Nullah into flower-viewing hotspots. Art and design elements will be brought to suitable pitches, courts and sports venues, and landscaping improvement works will be implemented in selected areas during major festivals.

Note: For the five-year period at the beginning of the current-term Government (from 2022-23 to 2026-27), the overall supply of public housing units was about 105 000 units.

[Transcript of CE's press conference on "The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address" \(with photos/video\)](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the press conference on "The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address" today (October 25):

Reporter: The first question is regarding the relaxing of the stamp duties in this year's Policy Address. Who's the Government targeting to help with these measures to reduce the stamp duties in terms of property? Is it prospective homeowners, developers or even current homeowners? And are you worried that these measures would overstimulate the market instead? The second question is about the overall general direction of the Policy Address. Some critics would say that your Policy Address this year does not have a strong direction to boost the local economy. Instead, the Government is seeming to rely on the property market as it has before to strengthen the economy. What do you think about this view? Thank you.

Chief Executive: When the stringent measures relating to property prices were introduced, it was a time when speculation was very high, when the trend of property prices kept going up, and also, people's attention seemed to focus on property speculation, and making quick money was the goal. After the introduction of those measures, and in the recent examination of situation, first of all, interest rate has gone up and it will remain high. Geopolitical situation is going to be complicated. The whole world is facing pressure in regard to economic development and also the property prices have already been going down from its height.

So the question the Government needs to answer is, should all these measures be made permanent or should we at some stage, look at whether there should be some changes? In my consultation I have heard a lot of suggestions, strong voices as well. Some asked for a lot to be done, or under. So the Government has to come to a decision after making an assessment of the situation of Hong Kong, which includes not just locally, but also internationally, because property market is highly affected by interest rate, by economic situation and also by sentiment. I have come to the stage after taking into consideration of all these things that it is time to relax some measures. And that is why I have done what I have announced. Is it the right

balance? I think it is because it is important that at one stage when we do any change of relaxation, then we maintain stability in the market. Considering all factors, I think what I have just introduced is a right mix of measures, of some measures being retained and some measures being relaxed.

The main objective of the government policy in regard to the property is that we want the market to be stable. We do not want big changes in either side because we want people, when they make their decision about buying a property, which is one of the most important decisions for a lot of families, they will be able to make a good judgment, good decision as a result of government policy, as a result of government explanation of its assessment of the situation. And we hope that through introduction of these changes, the society of Hong Kong will know the position of the Government and then they can make a sensible decision based on their own situation.

Reporter: Good afternoon, Mr Lee. Are you concerned that the last effort in 2003 to enact Article 23 – resulted in the then largest protest in history and the resignation of top officials – do you agree or disagree with your colleagues that those demonstrations were result of foreign interference? And second, the biggest crisis facing the city is of course the climate crisis like everywhere, but your Policy Address was rather thin again on new green initiatives. The measures you announced appear to be more reactive than proactive when it comes to recent weather and the hydrogen issue is not so developed. So, with a city powered by coal, hardly any electric buses or taxis, supermarket packaging out of control, in light of the recent severe weather, why do we lag behind China on this issue?

Chief Executive: First of all, I think if you ask any governments what will be one of their priorities, then any government will say that it is to fulfil its constitutional duty. Article 23 is stated in the Basic Law, which the Hong Kong SAR Government has not been able to fulfil for over 20 years. Constitutional responsibility is one of the key areas for any government to be serious about. So yes, while we will develop economy to help people's livelihood, we cannot forget the Government also has constitutional responsibility. Without constitution, I think things will become chaotic. So yes, we will do Article 23 enactment in 2024. Any country places a strong emphasis on the protection of national security. I don't know which country you come from. I am sure your country has a lot of legislation to protect national security.

The 2019 riots, black violence, and the attempted colour revolution happened because of the obvious vacuum situation on legislation regarding national security. We have suffered badly. We have to learn this through pain. We thank the Hong Kong National Security Law for establishing the stability and security for Hong Kong, and that is why we all can now sit this peacefully to go about our day-to-day duty. If this was still 2019 when all the violence was still happening, when you could all of a sudden be grabbed by one of the black rioters, stripped, insulted and seriously beaten up, that will not allow Hong Kong to progress in any way. Yes, we will protect Hong Kong's security and national security. The Hong Kong National Security Law also requires Hong Kong to enact Article 23 as quickly as possible.

Foreign interference with Hong Kong's affairs – it is still happening. I think you don't need me to particularly point you to any examples. We will be doing consultation in regard to enactment of Article 23. We did not succeed in 2003. I would say this was because of, in some way, not being able to make people understand very properly what Article 23 can do for them in a positive way. I think after the 2019 harm and troubles, people understand how national security is an important factor for stability, for continuing our normal day-to-day life.

I think the answer is very simple. We will ensure that people will understand what the eventual legislation will do, will protect them, and will ensure that they will go about their day-to-day activities freely, happily and also without worrying about security threats, particularly national security threats.

In regard to climate change, I do not think you have read the Policy Address in good detail and also have ignored all the action plans and strategies that have been announced and are being implemented in Hong Kong. First of all, we have, a few years ago, published our action plan in regard to climate matters. We have also implemented a series of measures to encourage people to use cleaner vehicles. That is why we have some incentive schemes for people to switch from fuel-generated cars to electric cars. We have set 2050 to be the year for us to be carbon neutral. We have also set 2035 to be the year when we will reduce the carbon emission by 50 per cent compared to the 2005 standard. We have also announced that, by 2035, we will no longer allow cars which are fuel-generated to be registered. We are rolling out a lot of measures to control solid waste. We are rolling out measures to encourage recycling. We are building new power-generating facilities which will use solid waste to generate power. So we are doing a lot. We are now actively promoting installation of charging facilities for electric cars. The Policy Address introduced different measures to also make use of new energy in our vehicle fleet, also in ensuring that Hong Kong's refilling of fuel for ships will be using green energy. We are also talking about how we will develop hydrogen in vehicle fleet and other areas of green development. We have been promoting Hong Kong by making use of Hong Kong's financial centre position with a programme called Core Climate, so people can make use of our financial facilities to trade carbon emission. We have a long list of measures, and I advise you to go and also study in detail. Of course there will be other measures we will roll out either in this year or in my next year's Policy Address.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)



[Hospital Authority welcomes “The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address”](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) Chairman, Mr Henry Fan, welcomed the healthcare service-related measures included in "The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address" delivered by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, today (October 25). It is believed that the measures will facilitate the HA in enhancing the quality of public healthcare service, establishing a healthy Hong Kong.

The HA will fully collaborate with the Government's policies, and continue to increase service capacity and improve quality of public healthcare in order to meet the rising demands. In addition to the measures on shortening the waiting time of stable new case booking in Medicine Specialist Out-patient Clinics, the HA will strive to shorten the waiting time of stable new case booking of two specialties, namely Ear, Nose and Throat, and Orthopaedics and Traumatology, by 10 per cent next year. The HA will continue to promote the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine (ICWM) Programme by incorporating Chinese Medicine rehabilitation in the clinical framework for stroke care in-patient services to cover all clusters of the HA, launching a pilot programme on cancer care at Day Chemotherapy Centres, as well as exploring the extension of ICWM services to cover more disease

areas, such as elderly degenerative diseases. In terms of mental health, the HA will optimise the ratio of case manager to patients with severe mental illness to no higher than 1:40 under the Case Management Programme, and maintain the median waiting time for new case triaged as Priority 1 (urgent) and Priority 2 (semi-urgent) at Psychiatric Specialist Out-patient Clinics at no longer than one week and four weeks respectively to strengthen the support to patients with mental illnesses.

Under the support of the Government, the HA will continue to improve its healthcare services, by establishing a Hong Kong's first Chest Pain Centre in Queen Mary Hospital in 2025 in accordance with national accreditation standards so as to improve the patient journey for patients with cardiovascular diseases, and to improve treatment outcome and increase survival rate. Also, in accordance to the Government's measures in promoting fertility, the HA will set up a breastmilk bank and gradually increase public service quota for assisted reproductive services. Meanwhile, the Cluster Clinical Research Support Office is to be established to promote clinical research and trials in the HA.

Mr Fan said, "Healthcare talents is the key to establish a healthy Hong Kong. The HA will continue attracting more healthcare talents and strengthening the exchange and co-operation through different programmes. Riding on the collaborative experience with the Guangdong Province, the HA will commence clinical healthcare staff exchange programme with Shanghai. Mutual exchange can facilitate a more holistic learning environment, and enhance healthcare service quality in the long run."

The HA also supports the Government to strategically procure healthcare services from suitable healthcare institutions in the Greater Bay Area, as this could alleviate the pressure on public hospitals and enable citizens to receive treatment sooner. Also, the exploration on standing organ transplant mutual assistance mechanism with the Mainland can increase the chance of patients on the waiting list in both places getting a transplant.

Furthermore, the HA will resume the Hospital Accreditation Programme and adopt the "International Hospital Quality Accreditation Standards (China)" (2021 Version), to ensure that public hospitals are up to international hospital quality standards.

Mr Fan expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Government's support for the public healthcare service. The HA will strive to implement the initiatives for the benefit of patients.

[FDC Chairman welcomes proposed](#)

[establishment of Create Hong Kong as Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency in “The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address”](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Film Development Council:

The Chairman of the Hong Kong Film Development Council (FDC), Dr Wilfred Wong, welcomed the proposed restructuring of Create Hong Kong as the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency in "The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address" delivered today (October 25).

Dr Wong said he fully supported the Chief Executive for his proposal in the Policy Address to establish the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency to proactively promote the development of arts, culture and creative sectors as industries under the industry-oriented principle. The FDC will continue to work closely with the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency to actively support the long-term development of the local film industry.

Dr Wong also thanked the Government for its strong support in the injection of \$4.3 billion into the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the CreateSmart Initiative, as well as launching the two initiatives namely Filming Financing Scheme for Mainland Market and Hong Kong-Europe-Asian Film Collaboration Funding Scheme under FDF. The former supports Hong Kong and the Mainland cultural enterprises to invest in the productions of Hong Kong directors for release in the Mainland market, and the latter supports co-productions which are rich in Hong Kong and European/Asian cultures through in-depth exchanges and mutual learning with international filmmakers.

"We expect that the local film industry can be benefited from the two new measures to produce more films entering the Mainland and international film markets as well as broadening the vision of Hong Kong filmmakers in these markets. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Executive for his continued support for the development of the film industry and his active promotion of culture, arts and creative industries," said Dr Wong.

[SCST congratulates Hong Kong, China](#)

Delegation on winning 15 more medals today in Asian Para Games

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, today (October 25) congratulated the Hong Kong, China Delegation on winning 15 more medals at the 4th Asian Para Games Hangzhou.

Mr Yeung said, "We are deeply moved by the strong will of Hong Kong, China team members, who never stop making breakthroughs for their dreams in sports and their successes did not come about by chance. We extend our congratulations to our athletes, their coaches, supporting team and families."

The Hong Kong, China Delegation has so far won 25 medals, namely four golds, nine silvers and 12 bronzes, at this Asian Para Games. The list of medals won today are as follows:

Gold medal

Boccia: Women's Individual BC2 event
Yeung Hiu-lam

Lawn Bowls: Women's Single B7
Wu Man-ying

Silver medal

Table Tennis: Women's Single – TT7
Chiu Kan-shan

Table Tennis: Women's Single – TT11
Wong Ting-ting

Lawn Bowls: Women's Single B2
Tang Shun-yee

Swimming: Women's 100m Breaststroke SB14
Chan Yui-lam

Bronze medal

Boccia: Men's Individual BC4 event
Leung Yuk-wing

Boccia: Women's Individual BC2 event
Karen Kwok

Boccia: Women's Individual BC4 event
Cheung Yuen

Lawn Bowls: Men's Single B2
Rockey Li

Lawn Bowls: Women's Single B6
Rebecca Chan

Table Tennis: Women's Single – TT6
Pang Wing-ka

Table Tennis: Men's Single – TT9
Wong Chi-yin

Table Tennis: Women's Single – TT11
Ng Mui-wui

Wheelchair Fencing: Individual Épée Women – Category A
Yu Chui-yee