

## Home and Youth Affairs Bureau holds training for members of District Councils (with photos)

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) held a training session for members of the District Councils (DCs) at the Central Government Offices today (February 14) to review with DC members their experiences in serving the districts in the first year of taking office and to share insights into the upcoming challenges in district governance work, so that DC members could better plan district work for the coming year.

The Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak, expressed at the training that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government fully recognised the performance of the seventh-term DC members' work since they took office. The reforms to the district governance system in 2023 were an important initiative of reform and innovation by the Government. Under the new system, district governance work had been carried out with enhanced speed and efficiency in the past year. The DCs not only assisted the Government in listening to public views, understanding public sentiments and providing advice on community development but also worked with the District Services and Community Care Teams, district organisations and groups to serve the people and resolve the livelihood issues they faced. Miss Mak encouraged DC members to utilise their district networks to provide better services to the people and assist the HKSAR Government in policy implementation.

Miss Mak shared with DC members the upcoming challenges in district governance work. She highlighted that the people's desires for a better life have grown with community development. She reminded DC members to continue ensuring effective communication between the Government and the people by serving as a bridge between the two and to adopt new thinking and methods to reach out to and serving more people, thereby building a better and harmonious community together.

Miss Mak said that DC members are charged with the important responsibility of enhancing district governance. She had three expectations for them, namely, to carry out solid district work to continuously enhance people's sense of achievement and satisfaction; to carry out district youth work to encourage young people to participate more in community affairs and help them realise their dreams; and to continue assisting in organising community involvement activities to create a buoyant mood in the community that supports the district economy. Miss Mak emphasised the important and long-term responsibilities of DC members and expressed hope that they would be bold in innovating, dare to break new ground, press on to reach out and serve more people in innovative ways, and always be visible and helpful.

The HYAB will continue to arrange different trainings and visits to enhance the DC members' capabilities in discharging their duties and improve

the efficacy of district governance to deliver tangible benefits for the people.

