

## LCQ8: New Acute Hospital in Kai Tak

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Starry Lee and a written reply by the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, in the Legislative Council today (May 14):

Question:

The Government announced in the 2016 Policy Address that an overall hospital development plan had been devised with the Hospital Authority to allocate \$200 billion to implement the development projects in the subsequent 10 years, and the New Acute Hospital in Kai Tai (New Acute Hospital) was one of the projects under the plan. The New Acute Hospital, which will provide 2 400 beds and 37 operating theatres, is expected to be completed next year and will become the leading hospital in the Kowloon Central Cluster serving residents in the Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin districts. Most of the clinical services of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), including the accident and emergency (A&E) services, will be relocated to the New Acute Hospital, bringing direct impact to members of the public in Kowloon Central. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) in the light of the completion of the New Acute Hospital, how the authorities assess the level of public awareness of the services provided by the New Acute Hospital, and what specific plans are in place to step up publicity and promotional efforts, so as to ensure thorough public understanding of the New Acute Hospital's scope of services, relocation arrangements and means of access;

(2) given the gradual replacement of QEH's A&E services by the New Acute Hospital, what measures the authorities have in place to ensure seamless transition of the services, particularly the provision of appropriate transport options for groups such as the elderly, persons with impaired mobility and those in need of emergency medical services; and

(3) whether it will, before implementing the New Acute Hospital's service relocation arrangements, conduct public consultation on the New Acute Hospital's accessibility and establish a regular communication mechanism to collect views from residents and relevant stakeholders to jointly explore improvement proposals, thereby ensuring that aspects such as (i) the transport accessibility to the Hospital in different time periods; (ii) the compatibility of the existing public transport network with the demand for hospital services; and (iii) feeder services for special groups will met the needs of the residents?

Reply:

President,

In consultation with the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) and the Hospital Authority (HA), the consolidated reply to the question raised by Dr

the Hon Starry Lee is as follows:

(1) In 2016, the Government and the HA commenced the implementation of the First Hospital Development Plan with \$200 billion set aside for a total of 16 projects, covering the redevelopment and expansion of 11 hospitals, the construction of a new acute hospital, three community health centres and one supporting services centre.

Upon the completion of the New Acute Hospital (NAH) located in the Kai Tak Development Area, most of the clinical in-patient services of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), including the accident and emergency (A&E) services, will be relocated to the NAH; while the Ambulatory Care Centre (Extension) of the QEH will remain at the King's Park site. Situated in Central Kowloon, the NAH will form a service network with the Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital, Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Tai Sin Hospital in the Kowloon City District; the Kwong Wah Hospital (KWH), Kowloon Hospital and other hospitals in the Kowloon Central Cluster (KCC); and the Ambulatory Care Centre (Extension) of the QEH to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the residents in the Kowloon Central area and neighbouring areas.

To tie in with the progressive relocation of services from the QEH to the NAH from early 2026 onwards, the KCC has been keeping the public informed through various channels since 2023 of the construction progress and basic information of the NAH, as well as the arrangements of service relocation from the QEH to the NAH.

As for community publicity work, the KCC has held 16 community outreach publicity activities in the past six months (from October 2024 to April 2025) in collaboration with community partners such as the Hong Kong Housing Society, District Offices, District Council (DC) members, the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams), and ethnic minorities, whereby community talks, workshops, briefing sessions, publicity booths, etc. were arranged in different housing estates and locations. The aim was to reach out to residents in the Kowloon Central area to explain the services of the NAH and the relocation arrangements for services of the QEH, so as to enhance the public's awareness of the services of the NAH and plan for further publicity work having regard to their enquiries. The KCC has also been briefing patients and their families about the service arrangements of the NAH through in-hospital publicity activities. Since 2025, mobile publicity booths have been set up regularly at the major entrances of the QEH and specialist out-patient clinics to distribute brochures and newsletters of the NAH to patients, with staff answering their enquiries directly. Thirteen publicity activities have been carried out so far (as of April 2025). The KCC also places promotional banners, roll-up stands and posters at the main entrances of the hospital and the locations frequented by hospital users to ensure that the messages can be effectively conveyed to patients and the public in need.

The HA also maintains close communication with community stakeholders and visited the four DCs of Yau Tsim Mong, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong in September 2024 and January 2025 to report in detail on the

construction progress and service arrangements of the NAH. Three visits were arranged from March to April 2025 for representatives from District Offices, DC members, representatives from patient groups, relevant government departments and community stakeholders to visit the mock-up site of the NAH to learn about the design and planning of the NAH as well as express their views. In addition, the KCC established a Community Liaison Group chaired by the Cluster Chief Executive of the KCC in 2024. The members include representatives of District Offices, DC members, representatives from patient groups, relevant government departments and community stakeholders. The KCC representatives regularly report at the meetings of the Community Liaison Group the latest information of the NAH. The Community Liaison Group held its first meeting in November last year and arranged for group members to visit the mock-up site of the NAH in March this year.

In addition, the KCC will enhance information dissemination through various channels, including the website of the NAH, social media and instant messaging groups, to continue to provide to the public the latest information of the hospital, covering information of introduction of clinical services and traffic information, etc.

To ensure the smooth travel of the public to the NAH, the KCC is exploring launching a Transportation Information Card before the commissioning of the NAH to provide detailed information on public transportation routes with stops at the NAH, including bus routes, locations of green minibus (GMB) stop, MTR connections, as well as walking routes in the vicinity of the hospital and transfer suggestions. The KCC will arrange to widely publicise the relevant information through hospitals, community partners and social media platforms to familiarise the public with the new hospital location.

As the commissioning of the NAH approaches, the HA will announce in a timely manner the commencement date of relevant services, detailed arrangements of relocation and clinical services, etc. through various channels, and will further enhance various publicity work in future, including increasing the number of community outreach activities in collaboration with the media, DC members, the Care Teams and relevant government departments, and expanding publicity points in the hospitals, with a view to disseminating the latest information via various channels to enable more patients and stakeholders to obtain information on the relocation of services in a timely manner, thereby ensuring the smooth relocation of services.

(2) and (3) The A&E services of the QEH will be relocated to the NAH upon the latter's completion. The NAH will be a designated trauma centre, with a round-the-clock A&E department equipped with comprehensive facilities to deal with all types of emergency cases and situations as well as serious incidents. After it is put into service, the A&E department of the NAH will operate with synergy with that of the KWH of the KCC in jointly providing comprehensive and high-quality A&E services to the residents of the Kowloon Central area.

The existing QEH and the future NAH are both major acute general

hospitals in the Kowloon Central area. Therefore, the HA attaches great importance to the relocation of the A&E services and has been in close communication with relevant government departments on the future service arrangements of the A&E department, including the zoning of ambulances and patient transfer arrangements. The HA also holds regular meetings with these departments on the subject to ensure the smooth relocation of the A&E services.

Regarding the accessibility of the NAH, the HA has been paying special attention to the arrangements of transport facilities for the new hospital, especially the needs of the elderly and people with mobility impairment. In this regard, the HA has been maintaining close communication with the Transport Department (TD) on the related traffic matters of the new hospital. Regular meetings have been held to provide relevant data and exchange views, such as projections of pedestrian flow, work schedule of the healthcare personnel, hospital visiting hours, so that relevant departments and various transport operators can review the traffic arrangements, assess the overall public transport services demand in the Kai Tak Hospital area (KTHA), and make appropriate traffic proposals in advance having regard to the needs. These include strengthening services for citizens in Yau Tsim Mong, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin districts and the surrounding vicinity to travel to and from the KTHA in a targeted manner, as well as enhancing the connectivity between the KTHA and the MTR network.

At present, there are four franchised bus routes and six GMB routes serving the KTHA (see Annex 1), connecting the areas such as Kwun Tong, Kowloon City, Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui, as well as nearby MTR stations such as Kai Tak Station, Sung Wong Toi Station, To Kwa Wan Station, Kowloon Bay Station, Ngau Tau Kok Station, Kwun Tong Station, and Wong Tai Sin Station, which could facilitate the general public (including the elderly) to visit the KTHA. To enhance the accessibility of the NAH, the TD plans to introduce or extend three franchised bus routes via the KTHA, including the addition of CTB Route No. 20X and the extension of KMB Routes No. X6C and No. 15A, in order to further enhance the connectivity of public transport network between the KTHA and other districts. Details of the relevant routes are set out in Annex 2.

Meanwhile, the TLB is implementing the Smart and Green Mass Transit System in Kai Tak in full swing for connecting the Kai Tak former runway area to the Kai Tak MTR Station. TLB's target is to invite tender in the second half of this year and award the contract in 2026. When the system is put into service, citizens can walk from the station located at the Kai Tak Sky Garden to the NAH via the existing footpath at Kai Tak Bridge Road. In addition, the barrier-free walkway under construction connecting the amenity area under the Kwun Tong Bypass and the NAH will also enhance the connectivity and pedestrian accessibility between the NAH and the Kowloon Bay hinterland.

Regarding groups with special needs, a Rehabus feeder service between the Hong Kong Children's Hospital and the nearby MTR stations (including Lok Fu Station and Kai Tak Station) is already in place in the KTHA. To tie in with the commissioning of the NAH, the TD is exploring with the Rehabus operator to extend the Rehabus feeder service to the NAH. In addition, the

KCC is in close communication with the designated government-funded organisations providing Rehabus feeder service on the boarding and alighting arrangements of the rehabuses serving the new hospital, and provides advice to cater for the needs of hospital users with mobility impairment. In addition, the NAH will continue to provide point-to-point non-emergency ambulance transfer services for patients with specified clinical conditions and with mobility impairment, so as to ensure that all patients in need can travel to and from the hospital smoothly for treatment.

In addition, the KCC is committed to building a barrier-free environment in the NAH to ensure accessibility for patients and visitors in the hospital. The design of all buildings in the NAH has adopted all obligatory barrier free design requirements under the "Design Manual: Barrier-Free Access 2008" issued by the Buildings Department. Relevant design requirements cover accessible parking spaces, passages, corridors, doorways, ramps, toilets, steps and stairs, handrails, lifts, lighting, etc. to ensure that various facilities are accessible to all persons, regardless of their physical conditions or age.

As mentioned above, the HA has maintained communication with community stakeholders on the service arrangements of the NAH, including reporting in detail to the DCs on the construction progress and service arrangements of the NAH. The HA will continue to maintain close liaison with different stakeholders on the accessibility of the NAH, and proactively listen to the views of the relevant non-profit organisations and patient groups, including reporting information on the new hospital and collecting views through regular meetings of the Community Liaison Group. The HA will also refer relevant views to the relevant government departments for consideration as appropriate. In addition, the TD will continue to closely monitor the progress of the NAH project and the overall development of the area. Subject to the demand, the TD will explore to make timely adjustments or enhancement of the public transport services in the area, or introduce new franchised bus or GMB routes to facilitate the public to travel to and from the KTHA and meet their transportation needs.