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Administrative Redress, Legal Aid and Sustainable Development

Detailed Progress

I Maintain public confidence in independent redress

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

| Initiative * | Target # | Present Position † |
|--|--|--------------------|
| To enhance operational efficiency of the Office of The Ombudsman and to reinforce public confidence in its independence (Administration Wing (Adm Wing)) | To work towards enacting The Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2001 in the 2001/2002 legislative session (2001) | (Action Completed) |
| To expand the jurisdiction of The Ombudsman to cover more major statutory bodies (Adm Wing) | To consider expanding the jurisdiction of The Ombudsman to cover the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (2000) | (Action Completed) |

* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

† the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

2 Provide efficient legal aid services

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| To review the mechanism of obtaining feedback from customers of the Legal Aid Department <i>(Legal Aid Department (LAD))</i> | To complete the review in the second quarter of 2002 <i>(2001)</i> | <i>(Action Completed)</i> |
| To establish a website on the Duty Lawyer Service <i>(Duty Lawyer Service)</i> | To launch the website by end-2001 <i>(2001)</i> | <i>(Action Completed)</i> |
| To establish a website on the services provided by the Official Solicitor's Office <i>(Official Solicitor's Office, LAD)</i> | To launch the website by early 2002 <i>(2001)</i> | <i>(Action Completed)</i> |
| To set up a scheme whereby a legal aid applicant, who has passed the means test but is refused legal aid to appeal to the Court of Final Appeal, may be provided with funds to obtain a counsel's certificate to meet the requirement for lodging the appeal against legal aid refusal before a Review Committee <i>(Administration Wing)</i> | To discuss the scheme with the Legal Aid Services Council with a view to introducing it in 2002 <i>(2001)</i> | <i>(Action Completed)</i> |

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>To enhance the cost-effectiveness of the legal aid application processing system of the LAD</p> <p>(LAD)</p> | <p>To set up a working group by the fourth quarter of 2000 to review the legal aid application and means-testing processes and the related resource deployment of the LAD</p> <p>(2000)</p> | <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p> |
| <p>To enhance efficiency of in-house litigation by the LAD</p> <p>(LAD)</p> | <p>To review the structure of the Litigation Division and rationalise its support services in 2000-2001</p> <p>(2000)</p> | <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p> |
| <p>To strengthen case management and improve cost control and resource allocation of the LAD</p> <p>(LAD)</p> | <p>To implement the Information Systems Strategy of the LAD</p> <p>(1999)</p> | <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p> |

3 Maintain effective communication between the Government and the Legislature

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|--|--|--|
| <p>To maintain effective communication between the Administration and the Legislature</p> <p><i>(Administration Wing (Adm Wing))</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To ensure the Chief Secretary for Administration meets the Chairman of the House Committee after each House Committee meeting to promptly discuss matters raised at the House Committee meeting ● To proactively attend meetings of LegCo, its committees and sub-committees to explain government policies and proposals in addition to upon LegCo's request <p><i>(1999, 1998 and 1997)</i></p> | <p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p> |
| <p>To seek ways to provide additional accommodation to LegCo to meet its long-term needs</p> <p><i>(Adm Wing)</i></p> | <p>To reach an understanding with LegCo on the proposal for additional accommodation within the present legislative term</p> <p><i>(1999, 1998 and 1997)</i></p> | <p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p> |

4 Integrating sustainability in the Government and the community

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|--|--|---|
| To annually update the baseline data contained in the Computer-Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool used for sustainability assessment purposes (Administration Wing (Adm Wing)) | To complete the first annual updating exercise in 2003 pursuant to the full operation of the assessment system in 2002 (2001) | (Action in Progress : On Schedule) |
| To raise understanding and awareness of the concept of sustainable development among bureaux and departments (Adm Wing) | To organise seminars, workshops and training sessions for no less than 500 government officers in 2002 (2001) | (Action Completed) |
| To conduct studies and public consultation on sustainable development (Adm Wing) | To seek advice from the Council for Sustainable Development after its establishment on issues to be covered by studies and public consultation (2001) | The Council for Sustainable Development has yet to be established. (Action in Progress : Under Review) |

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|---|--|---|
| <p>To involve the public in building a sustainable community in Hong Kong</p> <p><i>(Adm Wing)</i></p> | <p>To recommend to the Council for Sustainable Development a set of guidelines for the use of the Sustainable Development Fund, with a view to making it operational in 2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p> | <p>The Council for Sustainable Development has yet to be established.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p> |
| <p>To disseminate information about sustainable development to the general public</p> <p><i>(Adm Wing)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To organise a series of publicity and community educational programmes in 2002 to raise public awareness of sustainable development ● To set up by end-2002 a dedicated website on sustainable development <p><i>(2001)</i></p> | <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p> |
| <p>To establish effective institutional arrangements to ensure efficient and effective consideration of policies related to the environment and conservation</p> <p><i>(Adm Wing)</i></p> | <p>To establish consultative and promotional structures to encourage more sustainable approaches to development in 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p> | <p>The Council for Sustainable Development has yet to be established.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p> |

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>To ensure all major policy and strategic initiatives go through full assessment of their social, environmental and economic implications</p> <p><i>(Adm Wing)</i></p> | <p>By 2001 to require all major policy and strategic initiatives to undertake sustainability assessment before recommendations for decisions are made</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p> | <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p> |

5 Ensure an efficient service to support the Government Secretariat

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|---|--|---|
| To relocate the offices of the Government Secretariat to the Tamar Basin Reclamation Site <i>(Administration Wing)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To create posts for the planning of the project and seek funds for its implementation in 1999-2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(Action Completed)</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To complete the design competition of the new Central Government Complex in 2000 <i>(1998)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instead of a design competition, we have decided to invite design concepts and other information through an open pre-qualification exercise, before we will invite tenders for the “design-and-build” contract. <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p> |

6 Ensure efficient administration of the Consular Corps' affairs and reception of VIPs

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| To streamline the management of consular affairs <i>(Administration Wing)</i> | To complete, as the first phase of the exercise, compilation of a set of consular procedures in 2000 <i>(1999)</i> | <i>(Action Completed)</i> |

7 Maintain efficiency in the administration of government records

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

| Initiative | Target | Present Position |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| To set up archives for still and moving images in the Public Records Office to offer integrated management of audio-visual heritage including government films, photographs, maps, plans and posters <i>(Administration Wing (Adm Wing))</i> | To set up the archives by 2003 <i>(2001)</i> | <i>(Action Completed)</i> |
| To allow efficient on-line and Internet access to the archival and library holdings of the Public Records Office <i>(Adm Wing)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To work out system requirement and to prepare for data preparation and system testing in mid-2001 ● To implement the system in phases starting from late 2001 <i>(2000)</i> | <i>(Action Completed)</i> |