

Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo meeting (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting this morning (September 11):

Reporter: Mrs Lam, regarding the high-speed rail, have you been in talks with Beijing authority over the Wi-Fi privacy and, you know, is there any blacklist of the passengers? And secondly, about your upcoming Policy Address, are there any big changes, or what is your major emphasis there?

Chief Executive: On the upcoming Policy Address, which will be delivered in almost exactly four weeks later, I am afraid I cannot disclose any details. But like every Policy Address of the Chief Executive, this is an annual occasion for the Chief Executive to take stock of what the Government has achieved over the past 12 months, and what further measures and initiatives the Government will implement in order to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Hong Kong. But it is beyond doubt that the number one issue that is of major concern to the people of Hong Kong is housing. So, I have already said that, in this Policy Address, there is no question of not addressing the issue of housing, which means that I need to be able to say something about land supply, because without land supply, there is no way that I could build more flats, whether for sale or for rental, to meet the needs of the people. Particularly on June 29 this year, I have already announced a series of housing policy measures, so we are now waiting for land supply to fulfill those promises in the new housing policy.

As far as other operational issues concerning the high-speed rail, I am sure my colleagues in the Transport and Housing Bureau, as well as the MTR Corporation, will address your concern. As I said here last Tuesday, the most important thing in the lead-up to the commissioning of the high-speed rail is for us to be even more transparent, even more speedy, in responding to any queries members of the public have.

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