

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Paper IDC 114/2017

Question on oil leakage and sinking of stranded cargo vessel

Ms Amy YUNG notified this Council that she would raise the following enquiry at the Islands District Council meeting to be held on 23 October this year:

“ When Hong Kong was hit by Severe Typhoon Hato at the end of last month, a 70-metre long cargo vessel stranded off Nim Shue Wan, Discovery Bay. After several weeks, the vessel sank and leaked oil into the sea which was just 30 metres away from residential areas. Marine Department (MD) was slow in response although it has closed off the shipwreck area and carried out clean-up work in recent days. MD did not stabilise the stranded vessel immediately resulted in the shipwreck and oil leakage. The Department has not taken any action until three weeks after the incident.

As such, I would like to invite representatives of MD, the shipping company concerned and its insurance company to attend the meeting and respond to the following:

1. Given that the stranding of cargo vessel was reported by the media on the same day and the stranding location was clearly known, why did MD take three weeks before taking corresponding follow-up action? Why did MD and the shipping company not arrange staff to stabilise the vessel and remove the fuel oil on board after the typhoon, thus leading to the oil leakage and the shipwreck incident?
2. Under what circumstances would MD take immediate action in response to stranding of cargo vessels?
3. How would MD handle similar situations in the future to avoid repeating the same mistake? ”

Islands District Council Secretariat

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