

(Translation)

**Islands District Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting of**  
**Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee**

Date : 12 February 2025 (Wednesday)  
Time : 10:00 a.m.  
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,  
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

**Present**

**Chairman**

Mr HO Siu-kei

**Vice-Chairman**

Mr LAU Chin-pang

**Members**

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP  
Mr NG Man-kit  
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH  
Mr HUI Chun-lung, MH  
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha  
Mr WAN Yeung-kin  
Mr WONG Man-hon, MH  
Ms WONG Chau-ping, MH  
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken  
Mr YIP Pui-kei  
Mr LUO Chenghuan

**Co-opted Member**

Mr CHUK Hing-toi, MH

**Attendance by Invitation**

Mr HO Lee-yip

Manager, Operations Support and Community Relations,  
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited

**In Attendance**

Mr MOK Mong-chan  
Mr FUNG Wai-nok

Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric

Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office  
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Chief Health Inspector (Islands)1,  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms CHEUNG Suk-man

Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2,  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5,  
Environmental Protection Department

Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond

**Secretary**

Ms LAM Long-ching, Christine

Executive Officer (District Council)2,  
Islands District Office

**Absent with Apology**

Ms LAU Shun-ting

~~~~~

**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and Members to the meeting.

2. The Committee agreed to accept the application for absence from the meeting submitted by Ms LAU Shun-ting in accordance with the Islands District Council Standing Orders.

I. **Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 December 2024**

3. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

4. Members did not have any further amendment proposals, and the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

II. **Question on the hygiene problems at the Tung Chung Bus Terminus and inside the compartments of buses of the New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited**  
(FEHC Paper No. 1/2025)

5. The Chairman asked Members to refer to FEHC Paper No. 1/2025, and welcomed the guests who attended the meeting to respond to the question: Mr FUNG Wai-nok, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)1, and Ms CHEUNG Suk-man, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2 of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD); and Mr HO Lee-yip, Manager, Operations Support and Community Relations of the New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited (NLB). The written replies of the FEHD, the Transport Department (TD), the Hong Kong Police Force and the NLB had been

distributed to Members for reference before the meeting.

6. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.
7. Mr FUNG Wai-nok elaborated on the written reply of the FEHD.
8. Mr HO Lee-yip elaborated on the written reply of the NLB.
9. Members expressed their views as follows:
  - (a) Many members of the public had expressed concerns about the hygiene conditions on NLB buses, in particular those for Route No. 39M. In this connection, Members suggested that the NLB should strengthen publicity on bus compartment hygiene, improve cleaning services for bus compartments and step up enforcement against littering inside bus compartments.
  - (b) Regarding the issue of passengers eating, drinking and discarding food packaging in bus compartments, Members hoped that the relevant departments and the NLB, in addition to stepping up publicity, would also explore effective measures to improve the hygiene conditions in bus compartments. Furthermore, Members asked the NLB about the difficulties encountered when taking enforcement actions against non-compliant passengers, and hoped that the Police, together with the relevant units, would conduct publicity and/or take enforcement actions to enhance deterrence and combat unlawful acts.
  - (c) Regarding the problem of cigarette butt littering near the Tung Chung Bus Terminus, Members requested the relevant departments to strengthen the cleaning work at the locations concerned. In addition, Members enquired whether daily cleaning services and regular deep cleaning services at the bus terminus were provided by the FEHD and the TD respectively; and how the stains on the walls and the dust on the wall-mounted fans inside the bus terminus would be cleaned by the relevant departments.
  - (d) In light of the fact that the Notice to Passengers issued by the NLB explicitly prohibited passengers from eating or drinking inside bus compartments, Members considered that bus captains should monitor whether passengers were carrying food or beverages onto the bus, and give advice to them as necessary. In addition, Members enquired whether the NLB had ever exercised the power conferred under Section 58 of the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) Regulations to detain, arrest or hand over suspected offenders to the Police.
  - (e) Members enquired about the specific work carried out by the NLB in strengthening publicity.

- (f) Although bus captains or authorised persons were empowered under the relevant regulation to arrest and detain passengers suspected of violating the regulation and hand them over to the Police, their personal safety might be at risk when dealing with uncooperative passengers. Therefore, Members understood that in practical situations, bus captains or authorised persons might directly call the Police directly for assistance.

10. Mr HO Lee-yip gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The NLB had asked the cleaning contractor to strengthen the cleaning of bus compartments and would put up additional notices inside bus compartments, reminding passengers to keep bus compartments clean and the prohibition of eating and drinking on board.
- (b) The NLB would collaborate actively with relevant departments, including the Police and the FEHD, to carry out joint publicity activities, such as distributing leaflets at the Tung Chung Bus Terminus.
- (c) Although bus captains would advise passengers carrying food or drinks not to consume them on the bus, some passengers might place their food or drinks in bags when boarding and take them out for consumption on their seats after the bus departed. Nevertheless, if bus captains found passengers eating or drinking in the bus compartments, they would immediately advise them not to do so, and if the passengers failed to co-operate, the captains would report the matter to the Police.

11. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members suggested that the NLB should make use of the television screens on buses to remind passengers to keep buses clean, and should display relevant notices in prominent locations inside bus compartments. In addition, following enforcement actions taken earlier by the FEHD near the rural Refuse Collection Points (RCPs), the hygiene conditions of these locations had improved. Therefore, Members agreed that enhanced enforcement could increase deterrence.
- (b) Members expressed understanding that it was difficult for bus captains to constantly monitor passengers' behaviour and enforce rules while driving. Therefore, they considered that relevant departments should provide assistance in this respect. Members suggested that the FEHD, the Police, the TD and the NLB should conduct joint publicity campaigns on bus routes with poorer hygiene conditions (for instance, NLB Route Nos. 37M and 39M), and the relevant departments should also carry out publicity on a regular basis.
- (c) As it was difficult for bus captains to enforce rules while driving, Members suggested that the Police should deploy plainclothes officers

to conduct spot checks and prosecutions in respect of bus routes with poorer hygiene conditions, issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to passengers offending against the relevant regulations, and publicise relevant enforcement cases through the media to enhance deterrence. As Members noted that some non-compliant passengers were young people, they suggested that both education and enforcement efforts should be stepped up simultaneously.

12. The Chairman expressed understanding that it was difficult for bus captains to enforce rules against non-compliant passengers while driving. He enquired about the number of cases in which the NLB had, in the past, exercised the enforcement power conferred under Regulation 58 of the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) Regulations to detain, arrest, or hand over suspected offenders to the Police, and whether it was the responsibility of the Police or the NLB for the relevant prosecution procedures. Members also asked whether there had been any conflicts between NLB bus captains and non-complaint passengers who were uncooperative or other passengers who had been affected in the incidents.

13. Mr HO Lee-yip gave a consolidated response and said that when bus captains noticed that passengers were carrying drinks or food on board, they would immediately advise them. If a passenger was uncooperative, the captain would stop the bus and report to the Police. He said that there had been over ten cases in the past where the Police had been called to deal with passengers' non-compliant behaviour (such as failure to pay sufficient fares). However, to his knowledge, there was no provision under the existing regulations empowering the NLB to impose penalty fines on passengers who violated the regulations.

14. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members invited the NLB and relevant departments to work together to distribute leaflets on maintaining hygiene in bus compartments at the Tung Chung Bus Terminus, and promote such message through social media platforms.

(Post-meeting note: The NLB advised that it had contacted the Members and the departments concerned to follow up on the joint publicity campaign and would inform Members of the details of the publicity campaign in due course.)

- (b) If the Police only gave advice and warnings to the non-compliant passengers upon receipt of the reports, the effectiveness would be insignificant. In this connection, Members requested the TD and/or the Police to clarify the enforcement details and penalties under the regulations related to buses, and suggested that the Police should prosecute individuals who littered in the bus compartments.
- (c) Members suggested that announcements should be broadcast on buses to remind passengers to maintain hygiene in bus compartments, and

rubbish bins should be provided on buses.

15. The Chairman said that as the TD and the Police had not sent any representatives to the meeting and the departments concerned might need more time to look into Members' suggestions regarding the improvement on enforcement procedures, he proposed that publicity should be carried out first. In addition, he enquired about the main types of passengers who littered in bus compartments and the time periods when such incidents usually occurred; whether the cleaning contractor would clean every bus upon its return to the terminus; whether the NLB had installed closed-circuit television (CCTV) devices inside bus compartments to collect evidence; and whether the Police and the FEHD could take enforcement actions against passengers who littered inside bus compartments.

16. Mr HO Lee-yip gave a consolidated response and said that in the past, passengers who littered inside bus compartments had been mainly construction workers. Furthermore, if bus captains noticed that passengers were carrying cigarettes on board, they would remind them that smoking was prohibited inside bus compartments. However, some passengers would still smoke after boarding. As regards the cleaning work, cleaning staff would clean the bus compartments when the buses returned to the terminus. It would generally take about five minutes. They would also wash the floor if time allowed. In addition, he advised that CCTV devices were installed in the compartments of NLB buses and relevant video footage could be provided to the Police to facilitate the investigation if necessary.

17. Mr FUNG Wai-nok gave a consolidated response and said that although bus compartments were not considered public places, the FEHD would step up daily cleaning work at the Tung Chung Bus Terminus and would co-operate with the departments concerned and the NLB to conduct joint publicity campaigns at the bus terminus or public areas in the vicinity. He emphasised that littering inside bus compartments and littering at bus stops were regulated by different regulations or ordinances, and the FEHD did not have the power to take enforcement actions against passengers littering inside bus compartments. He suggested that publicity and education efforts should be stepped up.

18. The Chairman said that the NLB and the departments concerned should strengthen publicity, education and enforcement on the hygiene issue in question. He asked the Secretariat to invite the TD and the Police to provide Members with the details about the enforcement of regulations related to buses, and to follow up with the relevant departments on the joint publicity campaign at Tung Chung Bus Terminus after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The written replies from the TD and the Police regarding the enforcement details of regulations related to buses were forwarded to Members for reference on 25 March this year.)

### III. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Anti-rodent Campaign 2025 (Phase I) in Islands District

19. The Chairman asked Members to refer to FEHC Paper No. 2/2025, and invited the representative of the FEHD to briefly present the paper.

20. Mr FUNG Wai-nok briefly presented the paper.

21. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members considered that the anti-rodent work carried out by the FEHD in 2024 had been effective in alleviating the rodent problem in Cheung Chau. In addition, Members thanked the Department for stepping up cleaning of back alleys of restaurants before the Lunar New Year, and requested the Department to continue to follow up on the hygiene problems of the back alleys of restaurants. Members pointed out that they had drawn the attention of the FEHD to the problem of rubbish accumulation in the streets and gullies of Cheung Chau, and thanked the Department for its prompt follow-up. However, some seaside restaurants in Cheung Chau still washed their dishes and handled food in the back alleys, leaving a large amount of food remnants in the back alley gullies, leading to rodent infestation. In this connection, Members suggested that the Department should, apart from the use of rodent baits, focus on cleaning up the littering blackspots, in particular the gullies, and advised the restaurants concerned not to wash dishes and handle food in back alleys, to avoid attracting rodents. If the restaurants failed to make any improvement despite the advice, the Department should proceed with the issuance of FPNs.
- (b) Members said that they had informed the FEHD of the recent worsening rodent problem at the RCPs along Tung Chung Road, and thanked the Department for its prompt follow-up. However, they hoped that the Department would step up its efforts in addressing the issue.
- (c) Members considered that the anti-rodent campaign carried out by the FEHD in 2024 had been highly effective and had helped to improve environmental hygiene in the district. Members also agreed that the approach adopted by the Department in rodent control, which targeted the fundamental survival conditions of rodents in the environment, namely “food”, “harbourage” and “passages”, helped to reinforce the effectiveness of the anti-rodent campaign.
- (d) Members affirmed that the FEHD had been effective in rodent control and environmental management. However, as the captioned anti-rodent campaign mainly targeted public places, Members requested the Department to pay more attention to the hygiene conditions of housing estates, in particular Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung. Members pointed out that rodent infestation had been serious as there were many restaurants and construction sites in the vicinity of Yat Tung Estate. In

this connection, Members suggested that the FEHD should provide technical support for the Housing Department (HD) to ameliorate the rodent problem in the housing estates and carry out joint anti-rodent operations with the HD.

22. Mr FUNG Wai-nok gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The FEHD would strengthen enforcement action to address the hygiene issues of seaside restaurants in Cheung Chau and organise related publicity activities to ameliorate the rodent infestation problem.
- (b) In January this year, the FEHD had carried out anti-rodent work in Fu Tung Estate, Yat Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate in Tung Chung. The Department would continue to step up rodent control efforts at infestation blackspots, organise exhibitions on rodent control and prevention in collaboration with the HD, and provide technical support for HD's anti-rodent work.

IV. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Anti-mosquito Campaign 2025 (Phase I) in Islands District  
(FEHC Paper No. 3/2025)

23. The Chairman asked Members to refer to FEHC Paper No. 3/2025, and invited the representative of the FEHD to present the paper.

24. Mr FUNG Wai-nok briefly presented the paper.

25. Members noted the content of the paper.

V. Any Other Business

26. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Earlier, a traffic accident occurred on Yu Tung Road near the Fire Station in Tung Chung due to loose gravel on the road, causing concerns among many drivers. In this connection, Members requested the FEHD to step up inspection on roads in Tung Chung West and clear the loose gravel from the road surfaces in the area.
- (b) Earlier, a traffic accident occurred on Shun Tung Road near the Fire Station in Tung Chung, in which the bumper of a vehicle was left on the road surface. In this connection, Members requested the FEHD to refer the matter to the Highways Department for follow-up.
- (c) The loose gravel on the road mentioned by Members might have been debris left behind by nearby construction works. The issue had been



raised by Members for discussion at the Traffic and Transport Committee earlier. Subsequently, the Secretariat had written to remind the unit responsible for the works on the road section concerned. The relevant unit had already provided a reply and followed up on the matter.

27. Mr FUNG Wai-nok responded that the FEHD would carry out regular cleaning work on public roads and, depending on the circumstances, would refer the cases that involved larger obstacles on road surfaces to the relevant departments for clearance. He said that he would follow up with Members after the meeting in respect of the bumper left on the road.

28. The Chairman requested the FEHD to collaborate with the relevant departments to strengthen the clearing of debris and obstacles on the roads concerned.

(Post-meeting note: The bumper in question has been removed by the relevant department in early March after referral by the FEHD.)

#### VI. Date of Next Meeting

29. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 1 April 2025 (Tuesday).

-END-