

**The 3rd Meeting of  
the Environmental Hygiene and Sustainable Development Committee of  
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 4 June 2020 (Thursday)  
Time: 2:30 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office

Present:

Chairman: Dr KWAN Ka-lun  
Vice-chairman: Mr MA Hei-pang  
Members: Mr WONG Wing-kit (Left at 6:08 p.m.)  
Mr LAI Kwong-wai (Left at 6:08 p.m.)  
Miss CHAU Hei-man (Left at 6:08 p.m.)  
Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP (Arrived at 2:37 p.m.)  
(Left at 5:08 p.m.)  
Mr LEE Hin-long  
Mr KWOK Tin-lap  
Mr LAM Tak-shing  
Mr YUM Kwok-tung, Pius  
Mr FUNG Man-tao, Joshua (Left at 5:22 p.m.)  
Miss MAK Sui-ki, Jakki (Left at 6:08 p.m.)  
Mr SIU Leong-sing  
Mr WONG Kwok-tung, Daniel (Left at 5:42 p.m.)  
Mr TSANG Kin-chiu (Left at 5:57 p.m.)  
Mr YEUNG Chun-yu  
The Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry, SBS, JP (Left at 3:33 p.m.)  
Mr HE Huahan (Left at 3:32 p.m.)  
Mr NG Po-keung, MH (Arrived at 3:04 p.m.)  
Mr HO Hin-ming, BBS, MH  
Mr CHEUNG King-fan (Arrived at 2:34 p.m.)  
Mr YANG Wing-kit  
Dr KWONG Po-yin  
Secretary: Mr TSO Yuen-kiu, Brian Executive Officer (District Council)  
2, Kowloon City District Office

Absent: Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH

<u>In Attendance:</u>	Mr TANG Wai-kuen, Samuel	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional East) 5, Environmental Protection Department
	Mr LAM Ming-wai	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kowloon City), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
	Mr KWOK Chi-wai, Arnold	Chief Health Inspector (Kowloon City) 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
	Mr WONG Chung-nam	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kowloon City) 2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
	Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Eva	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Kowloon City District Office
	Mr LI Chi-him, Samson	Executive Officer I (District Management), Kowloon City District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

Item 1	Mr LEE Pak-ho	Senior Health Inspector (Administration and Development) Special Duties, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Item 2-3	Mr SUEN Yiu-fai	Manager (Property Management), Hong Kong Housing Society
	Mr CHAN Kam-ki	Property Manager, Hong Kong Housing Society
Item 4	Ms WONG Hoi-ming, Helen	Architect (Works) 4, Home Affairs Department
	Mr Anthony LEUNG	Deputy Director, Andrew Lee King Fun & Associates Architects Limited
	Mr Kelvin LAU	Architectural Assistant, Andrew Lee King Fun & Associates Architects Limited
Item 7-9	Mr TSANG Fu-pang	Engineer / Kai Tak Development, Drainage Services Department
	Ms CAI Shuwen	Engineer /Kowloon 3, Drainage Services Department
	Mr CHAN Cheuk-chung	Engineer /Kowloon 4, Drainage Services Department
	Mr CHENG Chun-wai	Engineer /Kowloon 9, Drainage Services Department

Item	Ms LAW Lai-yi	Operation Officer (Kowloon City), Hong Kong Police Force
	Mr TSANG Tat-wing	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Kowloon City District), Hong Kong Police Force

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### **Opening Remarks**

**The Chairman** welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the meeting. Before proceeding to the discussion of the agenda items, **the Chairman** reminded Members that if the matters to be discussed gave rise to conflict of interest with their property rights, profession or investment, they should make a declaration prior to the discussion so that he would consider if it was necessary to ask the Members concerned to exit from the meeting during the discussion or voting. In addition, according to Order 36(2) of the Standing Orders, the quorum for committee meetings was half the number of members. As there were 24 members in the Environmental Hygiene and Sustainable Development Committee (EHSDC), once there were less than 12 members present at the meeting, he would terminate the discussion immediately.

### **Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

2. **The Chairman** declared that the minutes of the 2nd meeting were unanimously endorsed by Members without amendments.

### **Green Burial 2020 by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (Paper No. 18/20)**

3. **Mr LEE Pak-ho, Senior Health Inspector (Administration and Development), Special Duties of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)**, introduced Green Burial 2020, with details as follows:

- (i) the Government made efforts in recent years to promote green burial as a more environmentally-friendly and sustainable means of handling human ashes by allowing the public to scatter cremains in Gardens of Remembrance or at sea;

- (ii) the Department was managing 12 Gardens of Remembrance all over Hong Kong, in which Memorial walls or electronic kiosks were provided for plaque mounting or digital worshipping in fond memory of the deceased;
- (iii) the Department opened New Kwai Chung Garden of Remembrance in January 2019 and installed four electronic kiosks to enable family members and friends of the deceased to pay tribute via a dedicated memorial page;
- (iv) members of the public could scatter cremains of the deceased themselves or with the help of departmental staff. They could also mount commemorative plaques for the deceased by payment of an administration fee of \$90;
- (v) moreover, members of the public could apply for arranging their own boats or make use of the free ferry services provided by FEHD to scatter cremains in designated areas in the waters of Hong Kong. FEHD offered free ferry services every Saturday and allowed no more than 25 applications for each sail. Each applicant was allowed to bring along at most ten family members or friends to attend the memorial ceremony on the ferry, and simple facilities were also available for conducting different religious rituals. Only the approved person or his / her authorised person was allowed to preside the ceremony of scattering cremated human ashes on the ferry and all relevant ordinances or regulations of Hong Kong should be observed. To facilitate the public to pay tribute to the deceased, FEHD had increased the number of memorial sails to eight, including four sails during Ching Ming Festival and four sails during Chung Yeung Festival, in 2020. FEHD had also allowed the public to witness the service of scattering ashes at sea on the ferry for free on the last Saturday of each month but visits were currently suspended owing to the pandemic. In addition, the Department had removed the cap on the number of sets of cremated ashes that might be placed in a public niche;
- (vi) the Department had invited the duo, Softhard, to film a promotional

video on green burial in order to promote the central register for the service;

- (vii) more than 40 000 extendable niches were provided in Stage 2 of Tsang Tsui Columbarium and Stage 1 of Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase VI; and
- (viii) if anyone would like to arrange talks and visit the relevant facilities and learn of the service, they could contact the Department.

4. **Mr HO Hin-ming** supported the removal of the cap on the number of sets of cremated ashes to be placed in a public niche by the Department. However, he noted the size difference between private niches and family niches. Thus, he enquired how the Department would place the ashes of more than one deceased persons in one niche.

5. **Mr LEE Pak-ho of FEHD** stated that since January 2014, the Department had removed the cap on the number of sets of cremated ashes that might be placed in a public niche on the ground that the use of niches could be optimised. People could also choose the kind of container to hold the ashes of the deceased.

6. **Mr Pius YUM** raised the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) the Department should actively promote green burial to tackle the serious shortage of public niches;
- (ii) he suggested that the Department could consider transforming cremains into ash crystals to facilitate family members to pay tribute to the deceased with no need to apply for a public niche;
- (iii) he enquired the Department about the number of places where cremains could be temporarily stored;
- (iv) he pointed out that about 7 000 deceased people opted for green burial in one year, accounting for 14% of the total number of deaths. It showed that the majority still chose to wait for niches;
- (v) he said that currently, only a few private columbaria had obtained the

licence for undertakers of burials; and

- (vi) he requested the undertakers of burials for actively introducing the Temporary Storage Service for Cremains provided by the Department to the bereaved family members when assisting them in making after-death arrangements for the deceased.

7. **Mr LAM Tak-shing** put forward the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) he opined that there was a considerable demand for green burial. Thus, he wished that the Department could step up publicity such as setting up display boards or hanging banners so that more people could know about green burial and the excessive demand for public niches could be mitigated;
- (ii) he advised the Department to provide facilities for temporary storage of cremains and spare more space for the placement of cremains; and
- (iii) he asked about the cap on the number of sets of cremated ashes that might be placed in a public niche.

8. **Mr TSANG Kin-chiu** held the view that the promotional video for green burial was appealing. However, he reminded the Department that the target group of green burial should be the elders. Thus, senior celebrities should be invited to play a role in the promotion.

9. **Mr LEE Pak-ho of FEHD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) the development of green burial was still at a preliminary stage. The Department would pay close attention to new ways to commemorate the deceased in foreign countries such as the production of ash crystals mentioned by Members;
- (ii) the usage rate of ash bags in Kwai Chung Crematorium was 15% while the usage rate of niches in Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III was 70%. The overall usage rate was 34.3%;

- (iii) apart from Wo Hop Shek Columbarium Phase III, the Department had also reserved spaces for temporary storage of cremains in other locations;
- (iv) the target of green burial was not limited to the elders but the general public. The Department had strived to grasp opportunities to promote green burial. Apart from deploying staff to attend meetings, the Department had sent letters to residential care homes for the elderly, day care centres for the elderly and schools and arranged talks and free transport pickup for the public to visit Gardens of Remembrance and witness the service of scattering ashes at sea. They had also collaborated with non-governmental organisations like Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and St. James' Settlement to organise life and death education activities; and
- (v) he reiterated that the Department had removed the cap on the number of sets of cremated ashes that might be placed in a public niche. If a deceased person was a close relative or in a close relationship with the person whose ashes were the first placed in a niche, his/her ashes could be interred in the same niche. There was no limit on the number of sets of ashes to be placed in a niche.

10. **Mr CHEUNG King-fan** suggested that the Department could provide user account services under the Internet Memorial Service and he pointed out that the link for reporting problems in the webpage no longer worked.

11. **Mr LEE Pak-ho of FEHD** thanked Members for their opinions and stated that the Internet Memorial Service was provided for bereaved family members and friends to create a memorial webpage for the deceased who had used the burial services provided by FEHD. When lodging an application, the applicant had to enter an email address for receiving a confirmation email with hyperlink from the Department to activate his / her accounts. The applicant could also set the memorial webpage as a private or public one.

**Strong Request for Enhancing Anti-mosquito Operations around Lok Man District**

**(Paper No. 19/20)**

**Severe Mosquito Problem and Street Hygiene Problem in Kai Tak District**

**(Paper No. 20/20)**

12. As agenda items 2 and 3 were both related to mosquito infestation, after consulting Members, **the Chairman** announced that the two items would be discussed together.

13. **Mr YANG Wing-kit** introduced Paper No. 19/20.

14. **Mr CHEUNG King-fan** introduced Paper No. 20/20.

15. **Mr LAM Ming-wai, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kowloon City) of FEHD**, gave a consolidated reply:

- (i) the Department was all along very concerned about the environmental hygiene condition and mosquito infestation in Kai Tak area and Kowloon City District;
- (ii) apart from the regular anti-mosquito work, including removing stagnant water, trimming grass to discourage the resting of adult mosquitoes on the site and carrying out fogging in the scrubby areas to kill adult mosquitoes, the Department would also send staff to inspect construction sites and housing estates in the district and take appropriate actions when necessary such as providing advices on mosquito control for the relevant persons in charge;
- (iii) the departmental staff had all along been maintaining close liaison with staff from the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS). They had inspected Lok Man Sun Chuen and nearby areas with District Council members and the staff from HKHS at the beginning of May in view of the mosquito infestation and discovered that the slope of the hill behind Lok Man Sun Chuen was overgrown with weeds. Since the slope was managed by the Architectural Services Department and the Water Supplies Department (WSD), the Department had referred the situation to the relevant departments for follow-ups;

- (iv) if the Kowloon City District Office (KCDO) coordinated joint operations, the Department would actively participate in them; and
- (v) if any problems involving other departments were found during inspections, the departmental staff would relay the situation to the relevant departments for follow-ups.

16. **Mr YANG Wing-kit** made the following opinions:

- (i) he thanked the efforts made by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and HKHS. However, each department worked individually and thus the anti-mosquito work turned out to be ineffective; and
- (ii) he requested the Home Affairs Department (HAD) for coordinating joint operations and inviting FEHD, district offices, the Housing Department and the Highways Department (HyD), etc. to take part in the inter-departmental meetings of the district-based task force so as to step up mosquito control work.

17. **Mr Samson LI, Executive Officer I (District Management) of KCDO**, stated that he would review the information about joint operations conducted in the past after the meeting before discussing with Members again.

18. **Mr YANG Wing-kit** enquired whether the Department would take up a coordinating role and he said that he would provide more information.

19. **Mr Samson LI of KCDO** stated that he could help coordinate joint operations.

20. **Mr SUEN Yiu-fai, Manager (Property Management) of HKHS**, made a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) HKHS had always been concerned about the hygiene of its rental housing estates. They would conduct anti-mosquito work in Lok Man Sun Chuen with cleansing contractors, horticultural contractors, relevant departments and District Council members of the

constituency, including cleansing nullahs regularly, spraying larvicidal oil every week, inspecting places with stagnant water from time to time and removing stagnant water and rubbish instantly when they were found;

- (ii) to strengthen mosquito control work, HKHS would apply cold fog to kill mosquitoes in summers and request horticultural contractors for trimming plants and clearing weeds regularly in order to prevent mosquito proliferation;
- (iii) HKHS would also remind works contractors and maintenance contractors to pay attention to and cleanse places in construction sites where water might accumulate such as bamboo scaffolds; and
- (iv) HKHS was willing to provide support to the mosquito control work of the relevant departments. They would attend meetings of the inter-departmental task force on mosquito control called by FEHD from time to time and co-organise talks on mosquito prevention with FEHD. They would also tie in with the work of WSD and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and remove miscellaneous items at the back of the hill.

21. **Mr HE Huahan** raised the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) he asked FEHD about the number of cases in which mosquito infestation and stagnant water were identified and the number of prosecutions made during inspections in Kai Tak area;
- (ii) he pointed out that there were many construction sites in Kai Tak area including those for the construction of Inland Revenue Tower, Avenue Park at Kai Tak, Station Square, Kai Tak Sports Park, Nan Fung Commercial Centre and private buildings. As the anti-mosquito measures taken in private sites were more lenient than those in government sites, mosquito infestation in Kai Tak area was relatively serious; and
- (iii) he said that people had sold lunch boxes at the private construction site on Muk Tai Street for a long time and manual workers always

disposed of lunch boxes casually after having meals. Thus, he questioned whether the Department would only deploy staff to conduct blitz inspections after receiving reports.

22. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) the departmental staff would conduct inspections at construction sites including private and government sites in the district at least once a month and take appropriate actions when necessary such as offering advices on mosquito control to persons in charge of the sites;
- (ii) the Department would initiate prosecutions against responsible contractors of the sites where mosquitoes were found to breed in stagnant water. They guaranteed to provide the prosecution number after the meeting; and
- (iii) the Department was concerned about the problem of illegal selling of lunch boxes outside construction sites and in the area of schools in the district and had designated staff to take blitz prosecution actions. He said that he would provide the prosecution number after the meeting.

(Post-meeting notes: FEHD had instituted seven prosecutions against mosquito breeding in construction sites in Kowloon City District from June 2019 to May 2020. Three of them were initiated in the construction sites in Kai Tak area. Moreover, the Department had made 14 prosecutions against illegal selling of lunch boxes in Kowloon City District in the past 12 months, among which 11 were made in Kai Tak area.)

**Concern over the Construction Progress of the Shelter of the Pedestrian Walkway on Hung Hom Road**  
**(Paper No. 21/20)**

23. **Mr KWOK Tin-lap** presented Paper No. 21/20.

24. **Ms Helen WONG, Architect (Works) 4 of HAD**, stated that the installation works of the shelter above the pedestrian walkway on Hung Hom Road commenced in mid-2018 were delayed. The consultancy firm would report the details.

25. **Mr Anthony LEUNG, Deputy Director of Andrew Lee King Fun & Associates Architects Limited**, gave a report as follows:

- (i) the shelter to be installed above the pedestrian walkway on Hung Hom Road was 140 metres long and divided into Section A, B(1-3) and C. Construction of structural columns of Section A, B(2) and C had already been completed and aluminium boards and plastic sheets would be installed;
- (ii) Section B(3) was located at the intersection of pavements. The existing road signs were arranged for removal. The design of the structure of the shelter and the production of materials were underway and the foundation works were expected to be commenced in mid-June; and
- (iii) underground pipelines were densely packed beneath Section B(1). Proper amendments were made on the design of the foundation of Section B(1) at an earlier time. The contractor was now excavating the underground space beneath Section B(1) for the foundation works.

26. **Miss CHAU Hei-man** raised the following views / enquiries:

- (i) she pointed out that the completion date of the works was postponed many times. Her ward office was situated near the works site but she barely saw any workers working at the site;
- (ii) she enquired about the reasons for the delay of the works and wished that the Department could enhance monitoring and expedite the progress of the works; and
- (iii) she said that though the space was wide enough for manoeuvring wheelchairs, the road section was still extremely crowded which affected people living in Hung Hom Estate and people travelling to and fro To Kwa Wan or Ho Man Tin.

27. **Ms Helen WONG of HAD** gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) the Department apologised for the delay of the works and pointed out

that as the underground condition of the site was more complicated than expected, the works were postponed;

- (ii) there were times that no workers were working at the site. It was because HAD was coordinating and communicating with underground utility providers and the relevant departments at this stage to ensure that the works could be carried out according to the actual onsite environment; and
- (iii) upon completion of the construction of the structural columns, the Department would open the road for public access.

28. **Mr Anthony LEUNG of Andrew Lee King Fun & Associates Architects Limited** made a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) the construction of the structural columns of the shelters could be conducted only if the foundation problem of Section B(3) was resolved;
- (ii) since the condition of the foundation structures of the works was complicated, underground pipelines would be damaged if the works were proceeded forcibly; and
- (iii) there were about ten workers on duty at the site. He welcomed Members to monitor the works progress.

29. **Mr KWOK Tin-lap** noted that the remaining works would be passed to HyD after the lift installation works at Dyer Avenue Flyover were completed. Thus, he enquired about the completion date of the lift installation works.

30. **Mr Pius YUM** concurred with **Miss CHAU Hei-man's** opinions. He queried whether the works of Section A could be completed first.

31. **Mr LAM Tak-shing** enquired whether the works at road sections without problems of underground pipelines and hard rocks could be completed first or if the works areas could be narrowed.

32. **Miss CHAU Hei-man** gave the following opinions / enquiries:
- (i) she had made enquiries to the Department the year before last year and the Department said that it was not appropriate to complete the works partially at the road section;
  - (ii) people were worried that the increase in the difficulty of the works would delay the works again; and
  - (iii) she asked why the consultancy firm did not discover the problems of underground pipelines and hard rocks during ground investigation at the preliminary stage.
33. **Ms Helen WONG of HAD** stated that the exact completion date of the lift installation works at Dyer Avenue Flyover was not yet confirmed. However, she expected that the abovementioned works would take time and HyD had to be consulted for the details of the lift installation works.
34. **Mr Anthony LEUNG of Andrew Lee King Fun & Associates Architects Limited** made a consolidated reply as follows:
- (i) he understood Members' request and he would study how to speed up the completion of the works of Section A;
  - (ii) even though the works were carried out partially, there would not be a great difference between the completion date and the initial one;
  - (iii) they would try to clear the works site in order to spare more road space for pedestrians;
  - (iv) he said that the road section where the works took place was 140 metres long in total. Given a limited budget, ground investigation for assessment of underground conditions could only be carried out at some locations. During the works period, complexities were found among trial pits in the underground areas; and
  - (v) the complexity of the works was currently reduced. Thus, he was

confident that the works could be completed in the third quarter of this year.

**Call for Reviewing the Information of Patients Made Available to the Public to Protect Public's Right to Know**

**(Paper No. 22/20)**

**Request for Allocating Additional Resources to Conduct Regular and Frequent Community Cleaning and Disinfection Work in the Light of the Use of the Regal Oriental Hotel in Lung Shin District as a Holding Centre for Test Result**

**(Paper No. 23/20)**

35. As agenda items 5 and 6 were both related to the pandemic, after consulting Members, **the Chairman** announced that the two items would be discussed together.
36. **Mr KWOK Tin-lap** introduced Paper No. 22/20.
37. **Mr PUN Kwok-wah** presented Paper No. 23/20.
38. **Mr LEE Hin-long** raised the following opinions / enquires:
- (i) he concurred with **Mr KWOK Tin-lap**'s opinions;
  - (ii) he hoped that KCDO could ask **Dr CHUANG Shuk-kwan** to send a representative to the meeting on behalf of Members;
  - (iii) he pointed out that the Regal Oriental Hotel was used as a holding centre for test results which terrified the shop operators nearby;
  - (iv) he was informed by citizens that quite a lot of persons under quarantine wearing wristbands were seen going out, which meant a breach of the quarantine order;
  - (v) apart from the cleaning and disinfection work conducted by FEHD, he hoped that other relevant departments would give a detailed account of their anti-epidemic measures so that everyone could put their mind at ease; and
  - (vi) he asked KCDO to help relay Members' opinions.

39. **Mr NG Po-keung** put forward the following comments / enquiries:

- (i) he enquired whether the special street cleansing operation carried out twice a week by FEHD would continue until the holding centre for test result ceased operation;
- (ii) he asked where the streets and rear lanes around the area mentioned in the department's document were;
- (iii) he mentioned that he also received complaints from residents about seeing persons under quarantine going out and breaching the quarantine order;
- (iv) he enquired whether the Department would use the smart anti-microbial coating technology which was effective against bacteria with a long-lasting effect;
- (v) he said that there were around 60 bus routes at the bus stops next to the Regal Oriental Hotel and persons under quarantine might leave on bus after they completed quarantine. Therefore, residents were worried that sporadic cases might emerge in the community; and
- (vi) he requested the Department to clean and disinfect bus stop facilities thoroughly, including the railings and light panels.

40. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** consolidated his response as follows:

- (i) the Department would try to cooperate if resources permitted and would step up the cleaning and disinfection work in the streets;
- (ii) upon the requisition of the Regal Oriental Hotel as the holding centre for test result since late April, the Department had immediately sent staff to inspect the public area outside the hotel and deployed contractors to carry out the special street cleansing operation for three consecutive days;
- (iii) the Regal Oriental Hotel located at the junction between Kowloon

City District and Wong Tai Sin District. FEHD staff of Wong Tai Sin District had already cleaned Lok Sin Road and Fa Po Street during the special operation and staff of Kowloon City District had cleaned streets like Carpenter Road, Prince Edward Road East, Kai Tak Road and Tak Ku Ling Road;

- (iv) the Department would discuss the arrangement for expanding the coverage of the cleaning operation and would reply to **Mr NG Po-keung** after the meeting; and
- (v) he stated that the scope of work of the Department did not include matters like using the smart anti-microbial coating or cleaning bus stop facilities, however, the Department could provide a one-off special cleaning and disinfection service in case of emergency.

41. **Mr NG Po-keung** further enquired whether the Department would continue to carry out the special street cleansing operation until the holding centre of test result ceased operation. He hoped that the Department could coordinate with bus companies so that the companies would take up the cleaning and disinfection work of bus stops.

42. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** stated that the special street cleansing operation would continue until the holding centre of test result ceased operation. The Department would contact bus companies for further arrangements.

43. **Mr LEE Hin-long** reiterated that residents were worried about the Regal Oriental Hotel being used as a holding centre of test result. He wished that KCDO could allay their concerns and asked whether there would be any relief measures to help shop operators whose livelihood was affected.

44. **Mr Samson LI of KCDO** remarked that KCDO had been providing assistance to people under home quarantine. As KCDO acted as an executive role, they could not provide more information on policy matters to Members.

45. **Mr NG Po-keung** said that he was informed by residents and owners' corporations from buildings around the Regal Oriental Hotel, saying that due to the requisition of the Regal Oriental Hotel as the holding centre for test result, they had used more anti-epidemic supplies including face masks and hand wash products than usual. Therefore, they hoped that the Department could provide anti-epidemic

supplies to them.

46. **Ms Eva KWOK, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of KCDO**, noted **Mr NG Po-keung's** views and said that KCDO would relay the views to the relevant department.

47. **Mr HO Hin-ming** pointed out that citizens were most worried that invisible virus carriers might infect taxi drivers when taking taxis to isolation centres which could lead to a community outbreak. Hence, he suggested that the Department should provide transfer service in order to prevent the formation of silent transmission chains in the community.

48. **Ms Eva KWOK of KCDO** understood the concern of the public and would forward **Mr HO Hin-ming's** views to the relevant department.

(Post-meeting notes: KCDO had conveyed Members' opinions to the Department of Health on 12 June and had forwarded the Department's reply to all Members for their perusal on 19 June. On the other hand, FEHD stated that they had included Tak Ku Ling Road in the areas covered in the special street cleansing operation and had informed Mr NG Po-keung of the relevant arrangement. FEHD had also relayed the request of strengthening the cleaning and disinfection work of roadside handrails, railings and bus stops, and the suggestion of using smart anti-microbial coating to HyD and bus companies. The reply from HyD was forwarded to all Members for their perusal on 23 June.)

### **Concern over the Seawater Odour Problem at Hung Hom Harbourfront**

**(Paper No. 24/20)**

### **Request for Decking the Nullah in Front of 2M Cornwall Street to Improve Hygiene**

**(Paper No. 25/20)**

### **The Hygiene Problem of Kai Tak River**

**(Paper No. 26/20)**

49. As agenda items 7 to 9 were both related to the odour problem in sewers, after consulting Members, **the Chairman** announced that the three items would be discussed together.

50. **Dr KWONG Po-yin** introduced Paper No. 24/20.

51. **Mr HO Hin-ming** presented Paper No. 25/20.
52. **Mr CHEUNG King-fan** introduced Paper No. 26/20.
53. **Mr CHENG Chun-wai, Engineer/Kowloon 9 of the Drainage Service Department (DSD)**, consolidated his reply as follows:
- (i) he quoted the information from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), saying that ten cases of misconnection of public sewers to stormwater drains and 17 cases of misconnection of building sewers to store sewers had been recorded since 2015;
  - (ii) the Department would assist EPD in following up the suspected cases of misconnection of public sewers, while the misconnection of private sewers would be followed up by EPD and the Buildings Department (BD);
  - (iii) apart from conducting regular inspections of the public sewers, the Department would also deploy staff to inspect public sewers in response to public complaints. DSD would immediately follow up on the cases of misconnection once they were found;
  - (iv) the construction of new dry weather flow interceptors in the Kin Wan Street box culvert in Hung Hom was included in in the Public Works Programme in 2019. The Department would appoint consultants to conduct investigation, design and construction study on the work concerned;
  - (v) the Department and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology commenced the study of using “odour control hydrogel” in 2018 and according to the study data, the “odour control hydrogel” had a positive effect on suppressing the concentration of hydrogen sulphide; and
  - (vi) the Department wished to enhance and improve the effectiveness of “odour control hydrogel” on inhibiting the generation of volatile organic compounds and other odourous gases. It was estimated that

the relevant extension study would be completed by the end of 2020.

54. **Ms CAI Shuwen, Engineer / Kowloon 3 of DSD**, consolidated her response as follows:

- (i) the Department had conducted a site visit with Mr HO Hin-ming around the area on 29 May and carried out dye tests within the Violet Court area. It was found that sewage had entered the stormwater terminal manhole and then flowed into the nullah. The Department had already referred the situation concerned to EPD and BD for follow-ups;
- (ii) the Department had reviewed the sewage and stormwater system within the Violet Court area with BD on 1 June and reckoned that the sewers and stormwater drains were misconnected;
- (iii) the Department had placed odour control hydrogels at the nullah intake regularly to alleviate the odour problem caused by contaminants at the location; and
- (iv) in response to the odour problem arising from traces of sewage in nullah raised by Mr HO Hin-ming, the Department would remove the traces regularly to prevent the odour problem from affecting others.

55. **Mr Samuel TANG, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional East) 5 of EPD**, consolidated his reply as follows:

- (i) the major pollution sources included the misconnection of building sewers to the buildings or public stormwater drainage system, the misconnection of public sewers to the stormwater drainage system or the leakage of the pipes, and the non-point pollutants in public places which were washed down or flushed down by rain and then entered the stormwater drainage system and eventually, the pollutants were discharged into the coastal water;
- (ii) if cases of misconnection of building sewers were found when tracing the pollution source, they would be referred to BD while the suspected cases of misconnection of public sewers to stormwater

drains would be referred to DSD for follow-ups;

- (iii) the Water Pollution Control Ordinance was targeted at people who discharged sewage illegally, permitted or caused the discharge of sewage. However, there was no legislative provision to compel duty holders of the misconnection of building sewers and the relevant parties, say, the management company or owners' corporation of the building concerned, refusing to make corrections to rectify the misconnection; and
- (iv) if sufficient evidence was gathered, the Department would institute prosecution against duty holders under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

56. **Mr TSANG Fu-pang, Engineer / Kai Tak Development of DSD**, consolidated his response as follows:

- (i) regarding the hygiene and odour problem at the Kai Tak River brought up by **Mr CHEUNG King-fan** in the Paper, the Department had already visited the vicinity of Kai Tak River with Mr CHEUNG King-fan. Oil patches were found on the river surface but no malodour was perceived;
- (ii) DSD had sent staff to Kai Tak River for inspection on April and May but no patches were found, therefore, the Department considered it as an irregular discharge;
- (iii) the Department promised that if oil patches were spotted again, they would inform EPD to take samples and carry out tests;
- (iv) the Department had been deploying staff to inspect Kai Tak River regularly and repair the broken wire fences when necessary;
- (v) the Department believed that this could improve the hygiene problem caused by manual workers; and
- (vi) the Department would prune the plants on both sides of the Kai Tak River where necessary and apply larvicide sand at appropriate

locations to reduce breeding of mosquitoes.

57. **Mr CHEUNG King-fan** deemed that the manual workers would continue to vandalise the wire fences and hoped that the Department could reflect the issue to the responsible person of the construction site. He also asked the Department about the actual position of the containers.

58. **Mr TSANG Fu-pang of DSD** stated that he had issued a warning to the responsible person of the construction site and would place containers that stored maintenance equipment at the locations where wire fences were often vandalised in order to prevent workers from entering the Kai Tak River area for convenience.

59. **Dr KWONG Po-yin** put forward the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) she deemed that the Never Discharge Wastewater into a Rainwater System Announcement in Public Interest produced by the Department in 2014 was not conducive to raising civic consciousness;
- (ii) she enquired about the details of the DSD open day and requested the Department to step up publicity and education;
- (iii) she reckoned that the plan of constructing new dry weather flow interceptors in the Kin Wan Street box culvert at Hung Hom took too long and so, she asked the Department to shorten the project period;
- (iv) she noted that it would take time for the Department to study the effectiveness of the odour control hydrogels on inhibiting the generation of certain volatile organic compounds, therefore, she asked the Department to expand the area for hydrogel testing in order to reduce the concentration of hydrogen sulphide in the district;
- (v) she asked the Department about how they would request for the case records of misconnection of sewers; and
- (vi) she would like to know whether the responsible persons of the project would be held accountable if cases of sewer misconnection were found.

60. **Mr Pius YUM** said that he had lodged multiple complaints about the misconnection at the rear lane of Lok Fu Building in Hung Hom where the pipe extended from the stores at Lok Fu Building to the side of Kai Fu Building. However, as the Department said that no misconnection was found, he invited the Department to conduct a site visit in the area with him later.

61. **Mr LAM Tak-sing** voiced the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) he remarked that the seawater odour problem at Hung Hom Harbourfront had been causing nuisance to residents for a long time. He also pointed out that the odour problem was the worst at the end of the ferry pier;
- (ii) he concurred with **Dr KWONG Po-yin**'s opinions about the odour control hydrogels and the plan of constructing new dry weather flow interceptors in the Kin Wan Street box culvert in Hung Hom; and
- (iii) he was worried that the odour was harmful to health.

62. **Mr CHENG Chun-wai of DSD** consolidated his reply as follows:

- (i) the Department would organise one to two open days on average each year and the relevant information would be uploaded directly to its website. In view of the pandemic, the open day scheduled to be held in the first quarter of the year would be postponed. If Members were interested in the open day, the Department would notify them of the details;
- (ii) the Department promised to invite the relevant department to discuss on the plan of constructing new dry weather flow interceptors in the Kin Wan Street box culvert in Hung Hom after the meeting;
- (iii) DSD had been increasing the application of the odour control hydrogels and had placed them at locations where complaints were often received and places with actual needs; and
- (iv) he reiterated that the Department would continue to assist EPD in following up the suspected cases of misconnection of public sewers,

while the suspected cases of misconnection of private sewers would be followed up by EPD and BD.

63. **Mr Samuel TANG of EPD** consolidated his response as follows:
- (i) according to the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, the Department had no authority to request stores to rectify the sewer misconnection; and
  - (ii) he explained that the Water Pollution Control Ordinance regulated the discharge of sewage. If there was a suspected case of misconnection in private buildings, the Department would refer the case to BD for follow-up. He restated that the Department could only institute prosecution against illegal discharge.
64. **Dr KWONG Po-yin** opined that the open days of DSD failed to promote publicity effectively. She suggested that the Department should strengthen the public promotion of proper ways to discharge sewage. In addition, she asked EPD to provide the prosecution figures of illegal sewage discharge.
65. **Mr Pius YUM** supplemented that the pipes at Lok Fu Building in Hung Hom extended from the stores at Lok Fu Building to the stormwater manhole near Kai Fu Building. He also invited the Department to go on a site visit with him.
66. **Mr Samuel TANG of EPD** said that he would gladly visit the site concerned with **Mr Pius YUM**.
67. **Mr CHENG Chun-wai of DSD** thanked the opinions of **Dr KWONG Po-yin**. He said that the Department would review the current publicity and education work of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance with EPD in order to enhance the public awareness on sewer misconnection and increase civic consciousness.
68. **Mr Samuel TANG of EPD** consolidated his reply as follows:
- (i) he pointed out that most of the private buildings in Kowloon City District were three-nil buildings and did not have owners' corporations, therefore, the building management was relatively poor;

- (ii) the Department had to make sure that the effluent sample contained pollutants before instituting prosecution according to the Water Pollution Control Ordinance;
- (iii) he explained the misconnection cases in private buildings, saying that most of the cases were a misconnection of terminal foul water manholes to the stormwater collection system. The Department reiterated that the Water Pollution Control Ordinance was targeted at people who discharged sewage illegally, permitted or caused the discharge of sewage. However, there was no legislative provision to compel duty holders of the misconnection of building sewers and the relevant people who refused to make corrections (for example, the management company or owners' corporation of the building concerned) to rectify the irregularity;
- (iv) he restated that the Department would refer the cases of sewer misconnection in buildings to BD and they would follow up on the issue and monitor the rectification work of owners' corporations in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance;
- (v) based on the past experience, it would take at least half year for owners' corporations to rectify the misconnection. The Department was willing to discuss with Members on the need to continue the relevant law enforcement actions when the owners' corporation rectified the misconnection. The Department restated that if sufficient evidence was gathered, the Department would institute prosecution against duty holders under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance; and
- (vi) DSD would make regular reports to the Department about the cases of rectifying misconnection of public sewers.

69. **The Chairman** understood the difficulties of the Department, hence, he enquired about the proportion of the cases in three-nil buildings.

70. **Mr Samuel TANG of EPD** replied that most of the cases in Kowloon City District were in three-nil buildings. There were also misconnection cases in individual flats and it was even more difficult to gather evidence and institute

prosecution under these cases.

71. **Mr Pius YUM** enquired whether DSD had removed the hydrogels placed in 2-4 Ma Tau Wai Road (near Station Lane) as he often smelled unpleasant odour in the area.

72. **Mr CHEUNG Chun-wai of DSD** responded that public drainage improvement works were being carried out at 2-4 Ma Tau Wai Road and so, they had to remove the hydrogels in order to let workers clean and rehabilitate the sewers there. He added that drainage improvement works could solve the problem of sewer misconnection. The Department was willing to replace hydrogels at the location concerned and conduct a site visit with **Mr Pius YUM**.

**Request for Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Installation of Internet Protocol Cameras in Kowloon City District to Combat Illegal Waste Disposal (Paper No. 27/20)**

73. **Mr Pius YUM** introduced the Paper and he asked about the purpose of installing the new internet protocol camera at Kai Fu Building of Whampoa Estate, the date of commencement of operation and whether the installation was proposed by some people. He pointed out that a similar camera had been installed in Ming On Street but the effectiveness was not noticeable. As illegal dumping still happened at the place, he asked what follow up actions the Department would take.

74. **Mr LEE Hin-long** said that FEHD had mentioned in its reply that no images captured by the internet protocol camera was ever submitted to any law enforcement agency. He asked if this only referred to the images obtained in Kowloon City District or the whole of Hong Kong. If it was found that other districts did pass the images taken by internet protocol cameras to law enforcement agencies for use, KCDO would follow suit or not, and under what circumstances the information collected would be handed to other law enforcement agencies for investigation purposes.

75. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** replies as follows:

- (i) the video camera mentioned by Mr Pius YUM was not an internet protocol camera and it was not intended for addressing the problem of illegal disposal of waste. The camera was instead a thermal monitor mentioned before by the Food and Hygiene Bureau being put on trial

in Kowloon City District to track the rodents. The images captured were all thermal-sensed, that is, only in red and black. The monitor would function with artificial intelligence for the supervision of rodent infestation in back lanes and so the path and the number of rodents present there could be observed. Different from using baits to detect rodent infestation in the past, the Department planned to use new technology to help strengthen the monitoring of rodent infestation. The plan concerned was under trial and the back lanes covered amounted to 150 in number in the area. The thermal imaging monitor would be placed in different back lanes at different times for testing in stages so that the positive outcome of using the monitor to observe rodent infestation could be confirmed.

- (ii) the purpose of installing an internet protocol camera was to collect more information for the Department to strengthen law enforcement actions as well as enhance the deterrence of illegal dumping of waste;
- (iii) Kowloon City District so far had not provided the information collected by the internet protocol camera to other law enforcement agencies. However, they were required for investigation of criminal cases, the Department might provide the images obtained from the camera to law enforcement agencies; and
- (iv) the coverage area of the Department's internet protocol camera only contained black spots where waste was illegally disposed of. Places other than such locations would not be filmed, and the camera did not bear face recognition function.

76. **Mr Pius YUM** put forward the following views / enquiries:

- (i) the installation position of the camera for filming rodents was overly high, and he queried that the lens for shooting rodents needed not be placed so high;
- (ii) it was hoped that the Department would provide the pictures taken by the thermal monitors to ease the worries of the public; and
- (iii) only two prosecutions had been made in Ming On Street and he

deemed that the number of cases was just too small. He said that littering and accumulation of waste took place in the area for a long time and he hoped that the Department would follow up. Since illegal disposal of waste often occurred in the shops there, he also hoped that the Department could provide the images captured by the internet protocol camera in Ming On Street.

77. **Mr LEE Hin-long** put forward the following views / enquiries:

- (i) after checking the relevant report, he learnt that since 2018, the Department had forwarded the images of the internet protocol camera 37 times to the Police for investigation purposes. In view of this, he enquired about the Department's criteria for passing footages and went further to ask if a court order was required beforehand or the footages would be handed out upon the request of the Police; and
- (ii) he asked if the current internet protocol camera consisted of a face recognition system, the specifications and pixels of the camera, and whether it was easy to insert a face recognition system into the software or hardware. He opined that street cleansing work was important but it was also essential to avoid turning Hong Kong into a city under surveillance, and hence a balance should be struck.

78. **Mr YEUNG Chun-yu** raised the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) he said that the camera mentioned by Mr Pius YUM was found in his constituency a month ago. At that time, he advised FEHD that the camera needed not be placed at such a height, and that the lens should be installed at a lower position;
- (ii) the enquiry phone number shown on the camera was only "1823". He thought it would be better to mark the phone number of FEHD. And afterwards, FEHD's phone number did appear on the video camera for public enquiry; and
- (iii) he suggested that the Department should first submit the information about the location where cameras would be installed to film rodents to the District Council so that Members could explain to the public to

allay their doubts.

79. **Mr WONG Wing-kit** commented that the number of prosecution instituted was relatively low, and he enquired if the number was persistently low, FEHD would review its effectiveness or not.

80. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** gave a reply as follows:

- (i) the thermal imaging camera for filming rodents was a new technology suggested for trial and application by the Department's Pest Control Advisory Section in a bid to track the behaviour and number of rodents;
- (ii) the camera currently shot a thermal image every five minutes and employed artificial intelligence to distinguish whether the image captured belonged to a rodent or not. The number of rodents being active in the back lane could also be confirmed. In the future, the Department hoped to shorten the shooting time of the camera so as to know the exact hiding place of rodents and could then arrange targeted prevention and control work;
- (iii) he would request the contractor to provide Members the images of the thermal imaging camera afterwards so as to ease their worries;
- (iv) the prosecution figure in Ming On Street referred to prosecution cases initiated by the Department based on the information collected from blitz enforcement operations in the early hours of the morning. As to the daily prosecution figure related to Ming On Street, Members would be informed later;
- (v) the criteria for passing the images captured by the internet protocol cameras to law enforcement agencies action would be handed to Members after the meeting;
- (vi) Mr YEUNG Chun-yu's suggestion was noted. The contractor installing thermal imaging cameras would be asked to provide the locations for installing the cameras, which would be forwarded to Members; and

- (vii) the Department would conduct a territory-wide review of the effectiveness of internet protocol cameras every year. After consulting district councils, cameras at the locations where environmental hygiene had improved would be moved and installed at other places in need. However, the cameras at those locations would not be disassembled so as to extend the deterrent effect.

81. **Dr KWONG Po-yin** raised the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) she remarked that the len of the thermal imaging camera was placed too high and too many streets were covered in the area of filming. Also, the angle of the len shooting the rodents passing by was too low and thus, the public queried much about the effectiveness of setting up the camera there; and
- (ii) she hoped that the Department could provide Members with the images taken by the camera and the relevant specifications as soon as possible.

82. **Mr Pius YUM** raised the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) he said that EPD had installed nine internet protocol cameras in the district but only 13 prosecutions were instituted in 2019. He asked why the prosecution figure was so low;
- (ii) he asked whether prosecution could only be made on the condition that the staff of FEHD witnessed the process of disposal; and
- (iii) though there installed an internet protocol camera in his constituency in Wu Kwong Street, he still found household items discarded at the junction of Wu Kwong Street and Baker Street.

83. **Mr LEE Hin-long** hoped that the Department could provide the pictures, formats and images taken by thermal imaging cameras and internet protocol cameras so that Members could study the pictures taken by the cameras. In addition, he also enquired whether the Department had applied artificial intelligence technology when using the cameras, and whether they could be upgraded and incorporated with face

recognition technology in the future.

84. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** said that screenshots of the images taken by the thermal imaging camera would be provided to Members after the meeting to relieve their concerns. In addition, artificial intelligence technology would only be applied in thermal imaging cameras. According to his understanding, the artificial intelligence technology would only be used to discern if the images captured were those of rodents.

85. **Mr TANG Wai-kuen of EPD** gave a reply as follows:

- (i) an internet protocol camera was installed at the junction of Wu Kwong Street and Baker Street in Hung Hom because the renovation of the shops nearby caused the disposal of construction waste on the site. The situation had improved after the installation of the camera;
- (ii) if the illegal dumping of household waste and furniture was still found at the above site, the Department could forward the information about the illegal disposal of household waste, including usual time of disposal, to FEHD for follow-ups; and
- (iii) the Department would continue to refer to the data collected by internet protocol cameras and arrange blitz enforcement operations.

86. **Mr Pius YUM** said that, as observed, waste was still dumped there and so he wished FEHD to continue with the operation.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had sent the list of the locations where thermal imaging cameras were installed for shooting rodents in Kowloon City District, the project briefs and screenshots of images to all members. In addition, the Department had initiated 39 and 22 prosecutions in respect of illegal shop front extension and violation of cleansing legislation respectively in the past 12 months. The Department would only consider providing the footages of the cameras to other departments in accordance with Section 58 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Chapter 486) when law enforcement actions and prosecution were required.)

**Request for reviewing the Effectiveness of the Installation of Internet Protocol Cameras in Kowloon City District to Combat Illegal Waste Disposal**

**(Paper No. 28/20)**

**Request for Taking Joint Operations to Improve the Problem of Shop Operators Occupying Pavements for a long period of Time in the District**

**(Paper No. 29/20)**

87. In view that agenda items 11 and 12 were related to street obstruction, it was announced that the discussion of the two items be combined.

88. **Mr Pius YUM** presented Papers No. 28/20 and 29/20, stating that the residents near Dyer Street had lodged complaints to KCDO on the street obstruction issue. Thus he hoped that KCDO would follow up and solve the problem at the above places.

89. **Dr KWONG Po-yin** said that joint operations were held in the past and staff of the relevant departments would go to Dyer Street prior to operation and warned the shop tenants by telling them the date of operation. As a result, joint operations failed to achieve good effects. The illegal occupation of streets resumed soon in Dyer Street afterwards and therefore, she requested for more joint operations with a view of enhancing the effectiveness of actions taken.

90. **Mr YANG Wing-kit** advised that the joint action should be directed against the air cargo company there and prosecution should be filed because the company did not give clear instructions to the foreign domestic helpers hired and teach them how to handle goods properly. The Department should therefore prosecute the air cargo company instead of the domestic helpers who helped handle the goods.

91. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** gave a reply as follows:

- (i) the Department came to note that the customers of the air cargo company often stayed around the places and packed items for mailing during holidays;
- (ii) at present, the staff of the Department would inspect the places during holidays and strengthen the cleansing work at the places;
- (iii) the Department would enforce law on a few conditions for law

enforcement including that the items laid down by the person concerned at a place were regarded as waste, and the person left the place without arranging appropriate disposal;

- (iv) according to the observation of the Department, many foreign domestic helpers gathered there to chat or pack goods on holidays, so FEHD staff faced certain difficulties in law enforcement; and
- (v) the Department would make all reasonable efforts to address the request for joint operations.

92. **Mr Samson LI of KCDO** said that the Department received complaints from residents in Dyer Street in early May and had given response. If necessary, the Department could coordinate a joint operation to enhance the effect.

93. **Ms LAW Lai-yi, Operations Officer (Kowloon City) of HKPF**, stated that the Police would continue with their longstanding policy and try their best to make efforts to carry out joint operations.

94. **Mr MA Hei-pang** put forward the following opinions / enquiries:

- (i) he was pleased that various departments were willing to carry out joint operations;
- (ii) he remarked that the District Office had participated in 167 joint operations in 2019. Given that Kowloon City District had 25 sub-districts, 6.7 joint operations were conducted in each sub-district per year, which was a relatively small figure;
- (iii) the number of prosecutions for shop front extension instituted by FEHD in 2019 was 264, that is, only 11 prosecutions were carried out at each sub-district per year, which also stayed low;
- (iv) he believed that discretion was given to cases of shop front extension in the past three years, which made the shops in the area get used to it. Therefore, the problem of shop extension in the area was extremely serious, particularly in the vicinity of To Kwa Wan Market; and

- (v) it was learnt that the Police's joint operations had been suspended since July last year. He hoped that joint operations would be resumed as soon as possible to solve the long-disturbing problems in the district, including the area near To Kwa Wan Market and Ma Tau Kok Road, also Lok Shan road, Sheung Heung Road, Ha Heung Road and other black spots.

95. **Mr Pius YUM** presented the following views:

- (i) the residents at Dyer Street were always disturbed by the noises generated by the foreign domestic helpers packing goods there during holidays;
- (ii) the lady who complained to KCDO earlier was not satisfied with the reply from the Department, and so she lodged a complaint again, hoping that KCDO would conduct joint operations;
- (iii) after complaints from residents in the district were received, a new vegetable stall was found to have opened next to the junction of Ma Tau Wai Road and Wuhu Street, which caused environmental hygiene problems. He urged FEHD to follow up;
- (iv) it was known that miscellaneous items were placed by vegetable stall owners and shop tenants on the road surface of Ming On Street and Bulkeley Street for a long time, and the view of drivers was blocked. Thus he hoped that the Police would take follow-up action; and
- (v) he thanked the traffic branch of the Police for taking quick follow-up action for the problems in Ming On Street and Bulkeley Street, and for sending officers to follow up the problems there last week.

96. **Mr YEUNG Chun-yu** raised the following opinions:

- (i) the shop front extension and the bad cityscape, which remained as the focus of discussion in the past few terms of DC, were longstanding problems in Hung Hom and To Kwa Wan. If the joint operations were effective, the discussion would not be ongoing up to now;

- (ii) it was believed that simply by increasing the number of joint operations was not enough. The degree of enforcement by various departments was utterly important. He had once witnessed that various departments argued about the worth of a piece of waste in an operation and subsequently the waste was not removed, hence spoiling the effect of the joint operation; and
- (iii) it was hoped that various departments could provide clear guidelines for front-line law enforcement staff to observe and increase the number of joint operations to improve the effectiveness of taking action at different hygiene black spots.

97. **Mr MA Hei-pang** considered that the extension problem of some shops was terribly serious and the shop tenants took the occupation of roads as a matter of course. For instance, in To Kwa Wan Market area, shopkeepers there still stacked styrofoam boxes to the height of a man, blocking the view of pedestrians and vehicle drivers. As many pedestrian crossed the roads there, the above condition posed serious safety hazards to traffic. A traffic accident did occur at the spot earlier, and therefore he hoped that various departments could solve the problem as soon as possible to avoid the occurrence of traffic accidents in the future.

98. **Mr LAM Tak-shing** presented the following views:

- (i) the issue of shop front extension in the district was frequently discussed in district council meetings, but the outcome of the action taken by the relevant departments was not ideal. Therefore, it was believed that the way and tactics of taking joint operations should be reviewed;
- (ii) the relevant departments did carry out joint operations at the black spots suggested by Members, but the shops often occupied spaces illegally soon after operations ended;
- (iii) with street sleepers and scavengers wandering in the areas, the problem of accumulation of waste on the streets was difficult to solve;
- (iv) the hygiene problems were basically caused by fruit stall or vegetable stall operators in the areas. Relying merely on the cleaning efforts of the Department could not fully address the problem. Therefore, we

hoped the Department could strengthen publicity work and remind shop owners the penalties for committing the offence of shop front extension; and

- (v) he said that there were already three food stalls at the corner of Ming On Street and Ma Tau Wai Road, hindering residents from walking and crossing the roads. A large amount of sundry items, garbage and styrofoam boxes were placed on roads. And he asked the relevant departments if new measures were formulated to resolve the problem.

99. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD**, in response, gave a reply as follows:

- (i) the Department had tried its best to clean up the sundry items accumulated at the black spots in the area, and taken enforcement actions against shops that illegally occupied public places to expand the area for operating business;
- (ii) earlier on, Mr Pius YUM and Mr LAM Tak-shing mentioned that two food stalls were newly opened in Wuhu Street and they drew our attention to the environmental hygiene of nearby places. The Department had offered advices to these food stalls before they started operation, hoping that the persons in charge and their workers would maintain good hygiene while operating business. However, the condition was not at all satisfactory. The Department had filed eight prosecutions against the vegetable stalls in the past three days; and
- (iii) the Department would actively participate in joint operations.

100. **Mr Samsom LI of KCDO** stated that KCDO would organise a joint operation at Dyer Street as soon as possible. And KCDO would proactively take part in the operations jointly held with FEHD.

101. **Ms LAW Lai-yee of HKPF** stated that the Divisional Commander concerned would be notified about the locations mentioned by Mr MA Hei-pang and Mr Pius YUM as well as the details about the road surface occupation. The Police would try the best to partake in joint operations.

**Request for Stepping up the Working Group on Environmental Improvement  
Projects of Refuse Collection Points  
(Paper No. 30/20)**

102. **Mr NG Po-keung** presented the Paper.

103. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD**, in response, gave a reply as follows:

- (i) the Department understood that water dripping from air-conditioners was a common phenomenon in summer, particularly at old buildings;
- (ii) besides handling complaints from the public, the Department would also dispatch staff at different times, including early morning, evening and night time, to conduct inspection at some black spots of dripping of air-conditioners with many passersby, such as bus stops at roadside, minibus stops and pedestrian crossings and other places. In most cases, owners or occupants of the units concerned would take corresponding actions on their own after receiving notifications requesting action (including verbal warnings or letters of advice) issued by the staff of FEHD to reduce the nuisances caused by dripping from air-conditioners;
- (iii) the Department had also printed posters and leaflets for distribution to owners' corporations, mutual aid committees, property management companies of buildings and the public, reminding them to maintain and repair air-conditioners regularly to prevent nuisances caused by dripping of air-conditioners; and
- (iv) to eradicate the dripping problem of air-conditioners, good management of buildings was essential. However, because of the lack of proper management in many three-nil buildings in the area, the problem was not easy to deal with. The Department would do its best to enforce the law with limited resources in order to alleviate the impact of such problem.

104. **Mr YEUNG Chun-yu** enquired if residents or Members could clearly video the dripping of air-conditioners from the units concerned and said, if so, it would help much the Department to enforce the law.

105. **Mr TSANG Kin-chiu** said that water dripping from air-conditioners was a serious problem in the district. In his constituency, there was a bus stop outside Chung Nam Mansion at 68-88 Ma Tau Chung Road. Passengers lining up for buses at the stop had to tolerate water dripping from air-conditioners. I hoped the Department would follow up this issue.

106. **Mr NG Po-keung** put forward the following views / enquiries:

- (i) he enquired FEHD if the eight nuisance notices issued by the Department the persons or owners of the premises causing nuisances was the total number in the entire Kowloon City District or just Lung Shing Area; and
- (ii) how much time would be allowed by FEHD for repairing the air conditioner after confirming the dripping issue and at what stage it would serve a nuisance notice.

107. **Mr LEE Hin-long** put forward the following views / enquiries:

- (i) he enquired how much time would be given to the occupants or owners to repair their air conditioners after the Department had issued verbal warnings, letters of advice or nuisance notices;
- (ii) he believed that complaints about water dripping from air-conditioners could worsen relations between neighbours and thus he hoped that the Department would deal with the cases mainly by persuasion; and
- (iii) he revealed that complaints from residents were received recently regarding the dripping of air-conditioners at Sin Hua Mansion in Ma Tau Wai Road and Mei King Mansion Phase II on Lok Shan Road. He urged the Department to follow up.

108. **Mr LAM Tak-shing** put forward the following views / enquiries:

- (i) it was hoped that the publicity materials distributed by the Department could help enhance its communication with owners' corporations;

- (ii) water dripping from air-conditioners at old buildings in the area was more severe. He expected that the Department would conduct more inspections and publicity at old buildings;
- (iii) he deemed that the situation in Wuhu Street and Marsh Street was awkward. The situation was reported to the Department earlier, but no improvement was shown. He hoped that the Department would deal with the matter further; and
- (iv) he believed that if staff of the Department could judge by naked eyes that water dripped from which air-conditioners, they should immediately enforce the law to reduce nuisances caused to residents and shop tenants.

109. **Mr Pius YUM** pointed out that Po Loi Street and 99-100 Wuhu Street are black spots of air-conditioner dripping in the district, and he hoped that FEHD would take necessary action.

110. **Mr LAM Ming-wai of FEHD** responded as follows:

- (i) if citizens or Members could provide photos or videos to the Department, it would help the Department understand which units caused the dripping problem and the usual time of dripping;
- (ii) according to the law, staff of FEHD should witness the nuisance incident personally before issuing a nuisance notice. Therefore, staff of the Department could arrange inspections and follow-up actions when dripping occurred after obtaining adequate information;
- (iii) the Department was aware of the locations named by Mr TSANG Kin-chiu, Mr LEE Hin-long, Mr LAM Tak-shing and Mr Pius YUM, and the Department would take action;
- (iv) the eight nuisance notices issued by the Department referred to the total number in the entire Kowloon City District;
- (v) the owners or occupants concerned should resolve the dripping

problem of the air-conditioner within two days after receiving the nuisance notice. According to the Department's experience, most of the repairs could be done within the time limit. If the owners or occupants notified the Department that repairs could not be completed within two days, they would be asked not to activate the air conditioner in question so as to avoid causing nuisance to others. The Department would only prosecute the owners or occupants when they failed to take corresponding action and let the matter go on after a nuisance notice was served;

- (vi) the biggest problem faced by FEHD staff was that some households were not willing to allow them to enter their units and the problem of water dripping from air conditioners was more serious at night. The air-conditioners in buildings were so densely packed that it was not easy for FEHD staff to be sure about which air-conditioners were dripping;
- (vii) currently, the Department mainly adopted the method of persuasion when dealing cases of dripping; and
- (viii) the Department would also put up posters and distribute leaflets at the black spots where air-conditioners always dripped to strengthen publicity.

**Motion: Establishing the Working Group on Environmental Improvement Projects of refuse Collection Points**

**(Paper No. 31/20)**

111. **Dr KWONG Po-yin** presented the Paper.

112. **The Chairman** announced that the motion would be put to a vote and Members indicating support included Dr KWAN Ka-lun, Mr MA Hei-pang, Mr WONG Wing-kit, Mr LAI Kwong-wai, Miss CHAU Hei-man, Mr LEE Hin-long, Mr KWOK Tin-lap, Mr LAM Tak-shing, Mr Pius YUM, Miss Jakki MAK, Mr SIU Leong-sing, Mr YEUNG Chun-yu, Mr NG Po-keung, Mr Ho Hin-ming, Mr CHEUNG King-fun, Mr YANG Wing-kit and Dr KWONG Po-yin. The Chairman announced that the motion was unanimously passed by all Members.

**Request for Setting up the Working Group on Maintaining Cleanliness in the District**

**(Paper No. 32/20)**

113. **Mr YEUNG Chun-yu** introduced the Paper.

114. **The Chairman** announced that the motion would be put to a vote and Members indicating support included Dr KWAN Ka-lun, Mr MA Hei-pang, Mr WONG Wing-kit, Mr LAI Kwong-wai, Miss CHAU Hei-man, Mr LEE Hin-long, Mr KWOK Tin-lap, Mr LAM Tak-shing, Mr Pius YUM, Miss Jakki MAK, Mr SIU Leong-sing, Mr YEUNG Chun-yu, Mr NG Po-keung, Mr Ho Hin-ming, Mr CHEUNG King-fun, Mr YANG Wing -kit and Dr KWONG Po-yin. The Chairman announced that the motion was unanimously passed by all Members.

**Any Other Business**

115. **The Chairman** requested Members to peruse Paper No. 33/20, that is, Annual Report on District Minor Works in Kowloon City District in 2019-20. The Secretariat had forwarded the report to all Members via email before the meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting**

116. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held on 14 July 2020 (Tuesday) and the deadline for submission of papers would be 26 June 2020 (Friday). There being no other business, **the Chairman** declared that the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

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Chairman

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Secretary