

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**  
**Strategies and Tasks on Improving Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong**

**Purpose**

This paper highlights the major tasks undertaken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in 2022-23. It also sets out the strategies and actions to be taken to maintain and improve environmental hygiene in Hong Kong as well as the work on market services and hawker control in 2023-24<sup>1</sup>.

**Review of the Major Tasks in 2022-23**

2. Over the year, FEHD continued its efforts in providing a clean and hygienic living environment for the public to reduce the risk of spreading virus. It provided cleansing services in public places and venues, and also carried out monitoring and enforcement work. In parallel, it worked with the public to enhance environmental hygiene through public education and publicity. The tasks undertaken/accomplished by FEHD in different programme areas are elaborated in paragraphs 3 to 31 below.

**Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots**

3. FEHD is responsible for the environmental hygiene of public places. It provides major support for the work of the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force<sup>2</sup> led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, who steers the efforts of various bureaux and departments to enhance the overall environmental hygiene and cityscape in Hong Kong. The Task Force launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots in mid-August 2022,

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<sup>1</sup> This paper does not cover the work relating to crematoria, columbaria, slaughterhouses, the holding of Lunar New Year Fairs and the Centre for Food Safety.

<sup>2</sup> The Task Force steered by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration is mainly supported by the Environment and Ecology Bureau. Members of the Task Force come from 18 bureaux and departments, including the Environmental Protection Department, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, the Development Bureau, the Housing Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Buildings Department, the Drainage Services Department, FEHD, the Highways Department, the Home Affairs Department, the Information Services Department, the Marine Department, the Radio Television Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Lands Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and the Transport and Logistics Bureau.

which aims to tackle over 600 hygiene blackspots<sup>3</sup> in the territory and strengthen the cleansing of about 4 000 public places as well as the clearance of dangerous/abandoned signboards. In parallel, law enforcement has been stepped up, while public education and publicity have been enhanced. With the concerted efforts and active facilitation of various departments, the work of tackling hygiene blackspots has been progressing well, improved environmental hygiene is found in various districts across the territory.

4. Many “long-standing, major and difficult” environmental hygiene and street management issues involve the functions of multiple departments, giving rise sometimes to unclear demarcation of responsibilities and powers, and causing the problems to remain unresolved for years. The Task Force has handled these issues at root by clarifying the role of the lead department(s) and work demarcation of other concerned departments, rationalising procedures, consolidating efforts and establishing “standard modes of operation” for implementation by the relevant departments at district level.

#### Shop front extensions (SFEs)

5. Tackling hygiene blackspots with illegal SFEs is one of the priorities of the Task Force. Since October 2022, the enforcement approach of joint operations by FEHD and the Hong Kong Police Force to remove obstructive items illegally placed on the streets has been successively adopted in all districts across the territory. With a higher non-compliance cost inflicted on shop operators, this approach has proved more effective in combating illegal occupation of public places by shops. SFE has seen significant improvements in various districts.

6. Fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Nuisance) Ordinance can tackle the problem of SFEs in a more efficient and effective manner. They can also complement the summons system which deals with more indirect and/or more serious and complicated cases. In 2022, FEHD issued nearly 16 000 FPNs, 504 of which were issued in the Southern District.

#### Mosquito and rodent control

7. To prevent mosquito infestation and vector-borne diseases such as Zika virus infection, dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis, FEHD implements a series of control measures every year.

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<sup>3</sup> The Government will consider factors pertaining to individual locations and update the list of blackspots under the Task Force as appropriate.

8. On mosquito control, a total of 26 imported dengue fever cases and no local cases were reported in Hong Kong in 2022. Apart from the three regular phases of Anti-mosquito Campaign and two rounds of special territory-wide thematic mosquito prevention and control operations conducted by FEHD, various departments continued to adopt the modus operandi of the All-out Anti-mosquito Operations in 2021 before the onset of the rainy season, eliminate mosquito breeding grounds early and control adult mosquitoes by fogging operations until the end of the rainy season. In addition, FEHD provided various government departments with technical support and training so as to enhance the effectiveness of the pest control measures.

9. Under section 27 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132), the estate and building management is legally liable for mosquito breeding found. In 2022, 20 prosecutions were brought against management bodies and premises occupiers or owners by virtue of the provision. Meanwhile, the Pest Control Inspection Teams (PCITs) of FEHD visited 1 601 construction sites in 2022. In collaboration with FEHD's district pest control offices, a total of 172 prosecutions were instituted for mosquito breeding found in construction sites.

10. On rodent disinfestation, apart from the application of effective rodenticides and trapping devices, effective rodent control depends on the scrupulous implementation of fundamental control measures and the maintenance of environmental hygiene. In addition to the two regular phases of anti-rodent campaigns held from 3 January to 11 March and from 4 July to 9 September 2022, anti-rodent operations were launched in designated areas in May 2022 as targeted anti-rodent efforts by improving environmental hygiene, stepping up rodent disinfestation and taking enforcement actions. The elimination of the three fundamental survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages, was supplemented by a variety of direct control measures including poisoning, trapping and destroying rat holes. In 2021, FEHD launched an enhanced version of anti-rodent operations in designated areas, so as to expand the scope of the operations. Starting from October 2022, the anti-rodent operations in designated target areas were renamed "strategic anti-rodent operations" and fully implemented in all districts. More resources are devoted to tackling priority rodent blackspots. Thermal imaging cameras are used for detecting rodent activities at suitable locations to evaluate the effectiveness of the operations.

11. As regards innovative technologies, FEHD has completed the trial of a large robotics ultra-low volume fogger in collaboration with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), and has put the equipment into use in all District Environmental Hygiene Offices. The robotics fogger can be installed on vehicles. The range of the sprayer is wider than that of the knapsack sprayer being used. This can facilitate the fogging operations for

killing adult mosquitoes in large areas and places that are difficult to reach. With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the anti-rodent work, FEHD is implementing a series of more targeted new measures which include:

- (1) capturing rodents in small hours by its 19 overnight rodent control teams set up in July 2022;
- (2) using new technologies, tools and baits to enhance the effectiveness in capturing rodents, such as wider application of T-shaped bait boxes at suitable locations;
- (3) conducting strategic anti-rodent operations against over 100 priority rodent blackspots across the territory, and using thermal imaging cameras in various places to monitor the effectiveness of the rodent control efforts; and
- (4) working with a local university to develop a new calculation methodology for the Rodent Infestation Rate in rodent surveillance by taking into account various types of data (such as number of complaints, and numbers of trapped and captured rodents).

12. In order to successfully deal with the rodent infestation problem, an inter-disciplinary, cross-sectional and public participation approach, as well as the joint efforts of all concerned bureaux/departments, are required. Apart from conducting anti-rodent work in public places, FEHD also formulated the Code of Practice for Rodent Management and Checklists for Anti-rodent Work for different venues in October 2022. The Code of Practice and checklists are provided to the government departments concerned for adoption, and to private property management agents through property management organisations as an aid to enhance the anti-rodent effectiveness and strengthen the supervision of contractors in private properties. In supporting the Cross-sectoral Territory-wide Anti-rodent Action launched by the Government on 28 December 2022, FEHD continues to tackle rodent infestation through surveillance, prevention and control, including continuous anti-rodent operations in rodent blackspots and premises under its management; wider application of new technologies and tools; and promotion of the issued rodent control guidelines, management rules and checklists to relevant departments and stakeholders through seminars and video clips.

#### Enhancing environmental hygiene standards

13. In-house staff and cleansing service contractors of FEHD are responsible for daily street sweeping and routine street washing, collecting household waste, and managing public toilets and refuse collection points (RCPs). FEHD will continue to provide focused cleansing services where needs arise, for examples, posting toilet attendants at public toilets with high utilisation rates, and enhancing litter bin emptying and cleansing services in busy areas.

14. The responsibilities of managing, cleansing and maintaining private streets and private rear lanes rest with the owners concerned. Relevant government departments have been assisting and encouraging owners of private buildings to form owners' corporations and actively promoting sound property management by owners so as to improve the environmental hygiene. For private streets and private rear lanes where the public can gain free access to, but with no daily street cleansing service arranged by the owners and where poor hygiene condition persists, FEHD will, upon the request of the District Councils and subject to the availability of resources, consider providing daily street sweeping service.

15. FEHD is responsible for the management of 805 public toilets and 34 aqua privies across the territory. It was announced in the 2019-20 Budget that the Government would make an additional allocation of over \$600 million to implement the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme, under which FEHD would roll out the refurbishment or facelifting works for about 240 public toilets under its management by phases in five years starting from 2019-20, so as to improve toilet facilities and the level of hygiene. Refurbishment/facelifting works for 48 public toilets (including those at major tourist spots)/aqua privies were completed in 2022. As far as the Southern District was concerned, the refurbishment works for Stanley Municipal Services Building Public Toilet and Stanley Tytam Village Public Toilet were completed in 2022. On top of routine cleansing services, FEHD has extended dedicated deep cleansing teams to all public toilets over the territory in its street cleansing service contracts in order to strengthen regular deep cleansing work.

16. FEHD issued about 46 400 FPNs in relation to public cleanliness offences in 2022, about 90% of which were related to littering. FEHD has installed Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at illegal dumping blackspots to plan for more effective enforcement actions and achieve better deterrent effect. As at December 2022, about 400 illegal dumping blackspots in various districts across the territory had IP cameras installed. Local IP cameras have been installed at (1) the junction of Hing Wo Street and Ka Wo Street outside Tin Wan Market, (2) the bin site RCP opposite to Pokfulam Village, (3) the pavement in front of No. 37 Repulse Bay Road, (4) Ap Lei Chau Praya Road (near pier), (5) Shum Wan Road, (6) the roundabout at Nam Fung Road, (7) the Bisney Road Junction of Victoria Road, (8) the pavement opposite to lamp post no. 43176 Nam Fung Road, (9) the bin site RCP opposite to No. 33 Sassoon Road, (10) the pavement in front of Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market, (11) Shek Pai Wan Road opposite to lamp post no. 34409, (12) Chung Hom Kok Temporary RCP, (13) Old Main Street, Aberdeen, and (14) side lane adjacent to No. 3 Welfare Road, Wong Chuk Hang. FEHD will closely monitor those blackspots and suitably adjust its action plans in the light of actual circumstances, including timely change of IP camera locations, so as to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement actions.

17. To further crack down on unauthorised display of commercial bills and posters on streets since 2011, FEHD has issued FPNs to offenders using easy-mount frames and similar devices to display commercial bills or posters in public places without permission. Over 2 600 FPNs were issued in 2022 with 40 issued in the Southern District. FEHD will continue to take stringent actions against such activities and consider mounting special enforcement operations in different districts as appropriate.

18. On the innovation and technology front, FEHD continues to apply mechanised and automated cleansing technologies/equipment and modern advanced technologies widely, including the trial use of mini mechanical sweepers and improved solar-powered compacting refuse bins (CRBs), and the remote monitoring of the operation of solar-powered CRBs. On the enhancement of public toilet service, FEHD has been working with EMSD to launch a “smart toilet pilot programme”, and to consider making use of the Government-Wide Internet of Things (IoT) Network for developing a system and IoT solutions applicable to public toilets in order to collect useful data for better efficacy of cleansing and maintenance of public toilets. In addition to strengthening anti-epidemic measures against the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-microbial coating has been used at public toilets with high utilisation rates where coating is applied to frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs and handrails of toilets, surfaces of toilet seats and hand-dryers, so as to improve the air quality and hygiene of public toilets.

19. To improve refuse collection service in rural areas, FEHD will put in place newly-designed fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities (including solar-powered CRBs, solar-powered/easy-thrown aluminium RCPs and solar-powered mobile refuse compactors) at 500 priority locations. These new refuse collection facilities will adopt a fully-enclosed design and run on solar power to activate the internal automatic sensor function, thereby increasing the refuse storage capacity and enhancing pest control service for better environmental hygiene in the surrounding areas.

#### Regulatory control of food premises

20. For better allocation of resources for monitoring the hygiene conditions of food premises, and to ensure their compliance with the hygiene standards as stipulated under the law and the relevant licensing conditions, FEHD determines the frequency of inspections to food premises based on their potential risk levels. To enhance flexibility and efficiency in monitoring, ad hoc enforcement operations are also mounted in different districts during different seasons. In 2022, 3 152 prosecutions were instituted against law-breaking licensed food premises, 75 of which had their licences suspended and 9 with licences cancelled for repeated contraventions of legal requirements or licensing requirements or conditions. A list

of food premises with their licences suspended and cancelled over the past 12 months has been uploaded to FEHD's website for public access.

21. FEHD has been vigilant in taking measures against irregularities related to the storage and sale of chilled meat and poultry at improper temperatures in fresh provision shops (FPSs). The measures include imposing an additional licensing condition, whereby all meat or poultry to be delivered to licensed premises for sale must be directly delivered into the premises without being left or kept outside the premises. FEHD also focuses much of its efforts in cracking down, at the retail level, on the sale of problematic meat and poultry from illegal sources. It will continue to devote efforts to curbing the unscrupulous business practice of selling chilled meat and poultry as fresh meat and poultry. FEHD staff are always on the lookout for intelligence leading to blitz operations against any such irregularities. If there is sufficient evidence substantiating that FPSs or market meat stalls are involved in these malpractices, their licences or tenancies will be cancelled or terminated forthwith. In 2022, FEHD terminated the licences of eight FPSs and the tenancy of one market stall selling fresh meat for such illegal business practices.

#### Water seepage in buildings

22. Basically, water seepage and dripping air-conditioners in private buildings are problems related to building management and maintenance that property owners have the major responsibility to resolve. Affected households should quickly approach the property owner concerned to carry out investigation so as to identify the source of water seepage or dripping as well as conduct repair works if the water seepage or dripping is suspected to originate from the flat on the upper floor or next door. The property owner concerned should engage a building technician or a licensed plumber to pinpoint the source of seepage and commission the required professional to carry out repairs. If water seepage is found in private properties and creates health nuisance, poses risks to the structural safety of the building or results in the wastage of fresh water, the Government will intervene and handle the case in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) or the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102). FEHD will not participate in the reinstatement or repair works of the areas or locations affected. If necessary, members of the public may consider mediation or engaging a consultant/lawyer to instigate civil action as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for water seepage problems.

23. The re-organisation of the Joint Office (JO) for investigation of reports on water seepage in buildings set up by FEHD and the Buildings Department (BD) is completed. Regional joint offices for Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories West and New

Territories East have been set up to enable JO staff of BD and FEHD to work in the same office with a view to creating synergy and expediting the processing of cases. In December 2021, JO set up the Customer Service Team to provide the public with the information about water seepage in buildings, and engage with property management agents (PMAs) and professional bodies to enhance their understanding of water seepage in buildings, the maintenance and management responsibilities of the owners concerned, as well as the work of the Government in handling water seepage in buildings. Promotional and educational activities (e.g. on-street promotional events and seminars) will also be organised to disseminate the aforesaid messages.

24. To encourage more PMAs to participate in the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Water Seepage in Residential Building launched by JO in private housing estates, in July 2022, the Customer Service Team simplified the handling procedures required to be taken by PMAs. As a result, the staff of participating PMAs, while handling reports of water seepage in housing estates, can help identify the source of seepage and advise the occupants concerned to address the problem through mediation.

#### Market services

25. The temporary market in Tung Chung Town Centre (i.e. Sunlight Market) was commissioned in March 2023. The Government is also taking forward six new market projects which are at different planning stages, including the development of new public markets in Tin Shui Wai, Tung Chung Town Centre, Tseung Kwan O, Kwu Tung North New Development Area (NDA), Tung Chung New Town Extension and Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA. The works for the new public market in Tin Shui Wai have commenced, with completion expected in 2027.

26. FEHD is also pressing ahead with the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) to improve the facilities of public markets under FEHD. The MMP aims to improve the operating environment of public markets, thereby facilitating tenants' business operation and, at the same time, providing market patrons with a more pleasant shopping environment. The pioneering project of the MMP is the overhaul of Aberdeen Market which has re-opened in April 2023. Lai Wan Market was closed in early 2023 for overhaul works, while the preparatory and consultation work for the proposed overhaul or redevelopment projects in four markets, namely Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market, Kowloon City Market and North Kwai Chung Market, is underway. In addition, we have carried out minor

refurbishment or improvement works for 16 markets<sup>4</sup>. The refurbishment or improvement works of 14 markets have been completed, while those of and the remaining two are expected to complete in phases in 2024.

27. Apart from the routine maintenance and repair works of all markets, FEHD also carried out a variety of improvement works in 12 markets and 1 cooked food market in 2022-23. The works included installation of closed-circuit television systems, upgrading of fire service systems and electrical installations, refurbishment of toilets, installation of roller shutters, as well as improvement of lighting, drainage, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

28. FEHD keeps under close review the usage and development potential of the existing public markets and cooked food markets, with a view to formulating appropriate development plans to meet the policy objectives of optimising land uses, benefitting the public and promoting district development. Due to demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, some public markets have gradually lost their appeal over time. Some of them have low patronage and high vacancy rates. Closing these markets may release precious land resources for more gainful uses to better serve the community. When drawing up closure plans for markets, FEHD will consult the District Councils concerned and the affected market tenants.

29. In 2022, FEHD continued to organise a variety of promotional activities in the markets to enhance their overall business environment. These included festive decorations and celebrations, thematic activities, distribution of souvenirs, as well as display of posters in ten languages on food items commonly found in public markets.

### Preventing avian influenza

30. To control the risk of avian influenza, the prohibition of overnight stocking of live poultry at retail outlets will remain enforced. Offenders will be prosecuted and the permissions granted to them for selling live poultry may be revoked. In addition, apart from compliance with the special licensing or tenancy conditions on avian influenza control, live poultry retailers are also responsible for preventing customers from touching live poultry. FEHD continued to implement a series of enhanced measures to prevent avian influenza,

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<sup>4</sup> Including Ngau Tau Kok Market, Yeung Uk Road Market, Luen Wo Hui Market, Fa Yuen Street Market, Quarry Bay Market, Shui Wo Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market, Mong Kok Cooked Food Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Shek Tong Tsui Market, Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market, Yan Oi Market, Sai Kung Market, Po On Road Market, Wong Nai Chung Market and Smithfield Market.

including (a) stepping up collection of faecal and drinking water samples and swab samples taken from chopping blocks and dehairing machines at live poultry retail outlets for testing of avian influenza viruses; (b) conducting regular inspections to live poultry retail outlets to ensure compliance with the special licensing or tenancy conditions on avian influenza control; (c) cleansing and disinfection of FPSs selling live poultry after the close of business every day and daily cleansing of live poultry market stalls after business hours, to be followed by thorough cleansing and disinfection by FEHD contractors, and cleansing of common parts of markets with disinfectants three times daily by FEHD contractors, with particular attention paid to the cleanliness of loading/unloading areas and temporary storage areas for chicken cages at markets; and (d) strengthening inspections, washing and disinfection of public places where wild birds gather, and taking stringent enforcement actions against feeding of wild birds which contaminates public places.

### Public education

31. FEHD's Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak continued to promote the message of keeping Hong Kong clean through various channels. Located at Kowloon Park, Tsim Sha Tsui, the Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre of FEHD organised some 780 talks for the public and schools in 2022. Topics covered knowledge of domestic hygiene, pest control and food safety. To strengthen publicity, a two-week activity was held. Under the epidemic, the Centre continued to provide educational information on health for various target groups. For examples, Healthy Living Handbooks were distributed to students of kindergartens and primary schools to promote good habits of hygiene practices, while relevant videos and information materials were provided for elderly centres and elderly homes. Moreover, the Centre had its exhibition hall on the ground floor facelifted to include a virtual reality photo zone. Interactive games with elements of augmented reality were added to introduce the services of FEHD in an interesting and engaging way. An exhibition area for presenting winning entries of various competitions held by the Centre was set up to enhance the promotion of maintaining environmental hygiene.

### **Strategies and Tasks in 2023-24**

32. In order to maintain and improve the hygiene conditions across the territory, FEHD will, in addition to the work carried forward from 2022-23, strengthen efforts in the following areas in 2023-24. It was announced in the 2023-24 Budget that an additional funding of \$500 million would be allocated within two years for FEHD to enhance environmental hygiene services, particularly strengthening the street cleansing and refuse collection services, stepping up measures on rodent control and improving the hygiene of public markets in response to the

epidemic. Meanwhile, FEHD will strengthen inspections and enforcement actions to raise the community's awareness about hygiene.

## **I. Enhancing Hygiene Standards**

### District Matters Co-ordination Task Force

The tasks of the Task Force led by the Deputy Secretary for Administration include:

- (1) conducting a comprehensive review on the existing statutory powers and penalties regarding environmental hygiene. The first stage is to consult the Legislative Council on the preliminary proposal to increase the fixed penalty level for offences such as littering, SFE, deposit of waste, etc. under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) while other proposed legislative amendments will be put forth in mid-2023;
- (2) enhancing publicity and public education as well as encouraging participation of various sectors of the community in order to raise public awareness of environmental hygiene; and
- (3) livening up public space and improving streetscapes, including landscaping, beautifying road signs and upgrading street furniture.

FEHD will continue to support the work of the Task Force. As far as the hygiene blackspots under its purview are concerned, FEHD will step up inspection and find out the reasons before taking specific follow-up actions, such as enhancing cleaning service, publicity and education, and strengthening clearance, pest control and enforcement actions, with a view to maintaining environmental hygiene.

### Cleansing service

33. FEHD will continue to step up cleansing work in public places/venues (such as public streets, rear lanes, cooked food areas and public toilets under its management). Improvement measures will be targeted at areas in unsatisfactory hygiene condition in various districts.

34. Over the past four years, FEHD has rolled out refurbishment or facelifting works for more than 190 public toilets. The works for 95 toilets were completed and the works for about 60 toilets will progressively commence in 2023-24. In parallel, different "smart public toilet systems" are being tried out to collect useful data for enhancing service standards.

35. To complement the introduction of municipal solid wastes charging, relevant bureaux and departments (the Environment and Ecology Bureau, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and FEHD) are discussing the transfer of refuse collection service from FEHD to EPD in phases. Further co-ordination and follow-up on the specific implementation details are underway.

36. On innovation and technology, FEHD will continue to put on trial mechanised and automated cleansing techniques/equipment and modern state-of-the-art technology at different locations and in relation to various services<sup>5</sup>, with a view to raising the hygiene standard mentioned above.

#### Stringent enforcement actions

37. FEHD will continue to adopt the “zero tolerance” approach to public cleanliness offences and strictly enforce the \$1,500<sup>6</sup> fixed penalty on offenders. Actions such as routine patrols and blitz operations will be targeted at areas in unsatisfactory hygiene condition and prosecutions will be instituted against offenders based on the intelligence obtained. The number of dedicated enforcement teams will be increased from 40 to 52 in 2023-24 to step up inspections of relevant blackspots and prosecutions arising from anti-littering enforcement.

#### Hygiene condition of food premises

38. FEHD will continue to inspect food premises and take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed operators and food premises that are not up to the hygiene standard. Targeting irregularities of food premises such as food preparation, scullery, improper storage of articles, illegal disposal of refuse at rear lanes, FEHD will pay more attention to the compliance of relevant licensing conditions and adoption of effective pest control measures by licensed food premises in inspections, and will request the person-in-charge of the food premises to follow up and rectify any potential rodent infestation as soon as possible, with a

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<sup>5</sup> To enhance the service quality of RCPs, FEHD continues to put on trial improved solar-powered CRBs for waste collection services at several designated locations and atomised ozonated water technology at designated RCPs. To address the cleanliness and hygiene, service quality, management effectiveness and user experience of public toilets, FEHD will work with EMSD for continuous enhancement of smart public toilet systems and IoT solutions for public toilets.

<sup>6</sup> The Task Force led by the Deputy Secretary for Administration is conducting a comprehensive review on the existing statutory powers and penalties regarding environmental hygiene, including an increase of fixed penalty level for offences such as littering, etc. under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570).

view to eradicating the rodent problem. Moreover, FEHD will mount territory-wide thematic enforcement operations to combat the irregularities in a more targeted manner.

## **II. Mosquito and Rodent Control**

39. Prevention and control of mosquito-borne diseases continues to be one of the important tasks of our pest control services in 2023-24. FEHD will continue to step up mosquito control work and launch the Anti-mosquito Campaign in the year. The first phase of the Anti-mosquito Campaign 2023 was conducted from 20 February to 17 March 2023. Throughout the year, FEHD will continue to inspect and eliminate mosquito infestation spots in the territory. It will target locations that pose a “mosquito-related health hazard”<sup>7</sup> by enforcing the relevant legislation effectively. In view of the fruitful results, FEHD will keep on deploying the PCITs to step up inspections of construction sites and enforcement actions against mosquito breeding. The inter-departmental anti-rodent campaign will continue to be organised over the territory. The first phase of the anti-rodent campaign in the year was conducted from 2 January to 10 March 2023. Anti-rodent operations in designated target areas will be carried out at appropriate times in 2023. Besides, night rodent operations will be introduced to all districts in 2023-24.

40. As for innovative technologies in respect of the above efforts to enhance hygiene standards and mosquito and rodent control, FEHD will continue to apply technologies in cleansing through the use of machines and automation, as well as modern advanced technologies<sup>8</sup>, on a trial basis in various locations.

## **III. Market Services and Hawker Control**

41. Apart from the Sunlight Market project, the Government will continue to take forward six other new market projects which are at different planning stages. New approaches to the design, construction and management of these projects are under consideration.

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<sup>7</sup> FEHD will take immediate actions in the following places which pose a mosquito-related health hazard:

- (a) any places with potential mosquito breeding grounds within 500 m radius of the location of a recent local or imported case of dengue fever;
- (b) any places with potential mosquito breeding grounds within 2 km radius of the location of a recent local case of Japanese encephalitis; and
- (c) any areas where the area gravidtrap indices for *Aedes albopictus* are above 40%.

<sup>8</sup> Regarding rodent surveillance, FEHD identifies hotspots of rodent activities by using thermal imaging cameras for better deployment of targeted rodent prevention and control work. FEHD will also continue to deploy thermal imaging cameras for detection of rodent activities in anti-rodent operations in designated target areas.

42. When identifying markets for implementation of projects of different scales under the MMP, the Government considers various factors, including the geographical location and distribution, condition of facilities, business viability, community needs and tenants' readiness. We will continue to press ahead with the various projects under the MMP.

43. In 2023-24, FEHD plans to draw up proposals for or carry out improvement works in 15 markets, 3 cooked food centres and 2 cooked food markets. The works include replacement of floor tiles, improvement of lighting facilities, replacement of air-conditioning-related facilities, installation of elevators and closed-circuit television systems, upgrading of barrier-free facilities, refurbishment of toilets in markets, as well as upgrading of fire service and electricity systems.

44. Regarding routine duties, FEHD will continue to upgrade the standard of market management by conducting inspections to ensure good hygiene conditions and compliance with terms of tenancy by the tenants. To improve the overall business environment, FEHD will continue to maintain close dialogue and exchange views with the Market Management Consultative Committees, organise promotional activities and explore feasible measures that can promote the vibrancy of markets. FEHD has also progressively extended the intensive anti-rodent operation to all of its markets and will strengthen the night rodent control work. It will continue to deploy its manpower to the markets to take appropriate enforcement actions where necessary.

45. As for hawker control, FEHD will continue to control on-street hawking activities in accordance with the existing policy so as to strike a proper balance among allowing legal hawking activities, maintaining environmental hygiene and protecting the public from nuisance. In addition, FEHD will consolidate the achievement of reducing fire risks under the Hawker Assistance Scheme by taking stringent regulatory actions against licensees who have illegal structures at their stalls in hawker areas.

#### **IV. Public Education**

46. The Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre of FEHD will continue to promote public health and environmental hygiene messages to the public through various channels so that hygiene standards at the community, household and personal levels can be raised. The Centre will organise talks, exhibitions and other programmes (including public health activity weeks). Its publicity vehicle (i.e. the Mobile Education Centre) will continue to visit places such as schools, housing estates and public parks to enhance the outreaching publicity and educational work. Letters will be sent to invite various groups to visit the

Centre. Souvenirs will be prepared for distribution to visitors and activity participants to promote health messages. Health information on personal, food and environmental hygiene will be provided for the public through animated videos, fun game sheets and games on the website of the Centre. In addition, FEHD will continue to promote the message of “Keep Hong Kong Clean” to the public through Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak’s Facebook and Instagram pages, TV APIs and posters featuring Ah Tak.

## **V. Inter-departmental Operations**

47. For district management problems of public concern and areas of work requiring inter-departmental actions, FEHD will, under the co-ordination of the departments concerned, provide support so as to resolve the problems with joint efforts.

### **District Action Plan**

48. In line with FEHD’s overall strategy, the District Environmental Hygiene Offices have formulated individual district action plans to achieve the above objectives. The 2023-24 Southern District Action Plan is set out in the **Appendix**.

49. FEHD will implement the above strategies and perform the tasks set out in the District Action Plan. It will also review the service needs from time to time to ensure environmental hygiene.

### **Advice sought**

50. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and comment on the measures.

**Southern District Environmental Hygiene Office**

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

3 May 2023