

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2020

Date : 5 May 2020 (Tuesday)

Time : 2:36 pm

Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr TING Tsz-yuen (Chairman)	DC Member	2:36 pm	6:01 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming (Vice-Chairman)	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	DC Chairman	2:36 pm	6:25 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	DC Vice-Chairman	2:38 pm	6:24 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:36 pm	6:12 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	”	2:59 pm	6:32 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	”	2:36 pm	7:07 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	”	2:36 pm	6:12 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	”	2:36 pm	6:57 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	”	2:48 pm	5:00 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	3:38 pm	6:10 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	”	2:36 pm	2:56 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	”	2:36 pm	6:06 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming	”	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	”	2:36 pm	6:58 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	”	2:36 pm	6:44 pm
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	”	2:41 pm	4:48 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	”	2:46 pm	6:28 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	”	2:36 pm	5:50 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	2:36 pm	7:24 pm
Ms NG Ting-lam	”	2:49 pm	4:32 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	”	2:36 pm	7:11 pm
Mr SHEK William	”	2:36 pm	7:17 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	”	2:36 pm	6:51 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	”	2:48 pm	5:14 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	”	2:45 pm	6:45 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	2:36 pm	6:49 pm
Mr WONG Ho-fung	”	2:58 pm	7:33 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	”	2:36 pm	4:00 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	2:36 pm	6:01 pm
Mr YEUNG Sze-kin	”	5:29 pm	7:33 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	2:36 pm	6:17 pm

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael Ms LEE Yin-ching, Karen (Secretary)	DC Member Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office	2:36 pm	7:33 pm
<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr WONG Shek-hay, Sebastian Mr LAI Wing-chi, Derek	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2 District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent, Sha Tin District Food and Environmental Hygiene Department		
Mr WU Tak-tong Mr NG Raymond Tjeng	Housing Manager (Tai Po, North & Sha Tin 3), Housing Department Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional N)4, Environmental Protection Department		
Mr LI Ho-yin, Simon	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department		
<u>In Attendance by Invitation</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr SZETO Dick-fung Mr YUEN Sze-chun Ms YU Ka-ying, Tamari Mr LEE Pak-ho Mr LEUNG Man-tik	Assistant Divisional Officer (Fire Safety Inspection Team/ New Territories), Fire Services Department Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Sha Tin), Lands Department Wetland & Fauna Conservation Officer (Special Duties 2), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Senior Health Inspector (Administrative & Development) (Special Duties), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Assistant Public Relations Manager (External Affairs), MTR Corporation Limited		
<u>Absent</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	DC Member " (")	(Application for leave of absence received) (")	

Action

Welcoming Message

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the 3rd meeting of the Health and Environment Committee (HEC) of the year.

2. The Chairman informed attendees that some media being present as observers, were taking photographs, making video or audio recordings.

Application for Leave of Absence

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat of the Sha Tin District Council (District Council) had received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following members:

Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	Official commitment
Mr MOK Kam-kwai	(")

4. Members unanimously endorsed the applications for leave of absence submitted by the members above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes of the Special Meeting Held on 3 March 2020
(HEC Minutes 2/2020)

5. Members unanimously confirmed the above minutes.

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10 March 2020
(HEC Minutes 3/2020)

6. Mr Simon LI, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)² of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) proposed the following amendments:

“149. The response of Mr Simon LI were summarised below:

- (a) installation of solar-powered electronic mosquito repellent rods at Wong Nai Tau Garden was funded under the district minor works of the District Council last year to drive mosquitoes away from the area with electromagnetic waves. The main effect was to repel mosquitoes. Some members of the public had reported a decrease in mosquito bites, but more data needed to be collected for re-assessment; and”.

7. Members unanimously confirmed the amended minutes of meeting.

Minutes of Special Meeting Held on 12 March 2020
(HEC Minutes 4/2020)

8. Members unanimously confirmed the above minutes.

Matters Arising

Responses of the Relevant Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Meeting on 10 March 2020
(Paper No. HE 17/2020)

9. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said that the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre had not been opened as a designated clinic. Recently, the public reported that it was very inconvenient to go to Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre (MCHC) to use maternal and child services due to the closure of Ma On Shan MCHC. As the epidemic situation had slowed down, the public proposed to reopen the Ma On Shan MCHC. Therefore, a provisional motion would be proposed later to request the government to reopen the hospital as soon as possible.

10. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) many MCHCs and clinics were closed as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19. However, as the epidemic situation had slowed down, he asked about the arrangements for reopening of the clinics; and

- (b) it was reported that the government had entrusted Mannings to assist in the provision of drug delivery services of public hospitals. As the clinics resumed service one after another, he asked how long the delivery arrangement would last and when non-emergency follow-up services would resume. He hoped that the Secretariat would assist in requesting the department to give a response.

11. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he said that in the HEC, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had sent a permanent representative to attend the meetings, but the Department of Health (DH) and Hospital Authority (HA) did not send a permanent representative to attend the meetings. He said that in Mr YIP Wing's questions, he was like a pen pal with relevant departments. After the questions were asked, the department only responded in writing. He expressed his dissatisfaction with such an arrangement;
- (b) he said that in his question, none of the relevant departments sent representatives to attend the meeting; and
- (c) the Assistant District Officer requested that some specific words in his question should be changed to "Taiwan Authorities", which made him not knowing whether to laugh or cry. He believed that the relevant wording was a statement of fact, but it was not approved by the Sha Tin District Office (STDO). He wanted to get a reply from the STDO, so he had no choice but to change those words. However, the relevant departments did not send representatives to attend the meeting. He was deeply dissatisfied with this. He requested that the relevant questions should be reserved for discussion at the next meeting and all relevant departments should send a representative to attend the meeting. He said that the Assistant District Officer had the responsibility to urge the department to attend the meeting. If the department did not send representatives, he believed that it would be difficult for the elected Council to advise the government on welfare matters.

12. Mr Wilson LI said that some residents had reflected that the epidemic situation had slowed down and they hoped that the arrangements of the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre and the Ma On Shan MCHC could be properly handled as soon as possible.

13. Mr CHAN Pui-ming referred to the views of the STDO on Mr Michael YUNG's question, saying that he would like to know what the views of the STDO were. He asked whether the STDO could provide members with copies of the letters on relevant opinions.

14. The Chairman said that Mr Michael YUNG's request for the agenda to be adjusted would be settled later.

15. Mr Sebastian WONG, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) 2 gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he responded that the STDO noted the opinions said by Mr Michael YUNG. If the question involves relevant departments, the Secretariat would urge the department to attend the meeting and answer the questions from DC Members; and

- (b) he responded to Mr CHAN Pui-ming's suggestion, pointing out that the letter was a correspondence with Mr Michael YUNG. He had also sent a letter to Mr Michael YUNG. He said that he had communicated with Mr Michael YUNG and explained the contents clearly. Since a decision had been made on the incident, the justifications would not be repeated at the meeting.

16. Mr CHAN Pui-ming asked whether the letter had been sent by the Secretariat or by the STDO. He said that if it was the former, since the Secretariat was acting on behalf of the District Council, he did not understand why members could not learn about the situation. He hoped that the Chairman would request the Secretariat to provide the letter. He understood that the Official Languages Officer (OLO) would assist in amending the words in questions to make the writing more smoothly. However, if it involved amending the words related to the content, there would be an opportunity to misinterpret the original intention of the question and therefore he wished to know about the practice.

17. The Chairman said that Mr Michael YUNG said that no department was present to respond to his questions. Therefore, his questions would be left for discussion at the next meeting in order to have sufficient time for inviting relevant departments to attend the meeting to answer members' questions.

18. Dr LAM Kong-kwan said that "Wuhan pneumonia" was used in the paper. He believed that this name should not be used anymore and requested that it should be changed to "coronavirus". He thought that there were some problems with the paper and hoped that the Secretariat would follow up the matter.

19. Mr Raymond LI said that the use of word in the paper was decided by the member who asked the question, and the Secretariat or the STDO should not be requested to modify them. He hoped that the members would respect each other.

20. Mr YIP Wing said that the question was written by him, he believed that Wuhan was the first region to pneumonia break out but not anywhere else. He hoped that members would respect each other during the next four years of their terms.

21. The views of Mr Chris MAK were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that Dr LAM Kong-kwan's statement expressed his own ideas. Members needed to respect and be considerate of the speeches of other members. Therefore, he proposed an open ballot on whether to amend the relevant words;
- (b) he hoped that Dr LAM Kong-kwan could provide all the papers related to Wuhan to the members of the HEC to discuss whether to change them on a case-by-case basis. He considered that this approach was fairer to every member who had mentioned "Wuhan pneumonia"; and
- (c) he said that the closure of the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre caused inconvenience to the public. Some members of the public were afraid to approach the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre because they believe it was used as a designated clinic. DC Members had already explained to the public that it was not used as a designated clinic. He also said that he did not understand why the clinic needed to be closed. He hoped that the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) would provide clear

information. He said that during the epidemic, the FHB did not clearly explain to the public whether the office was used as a designated clinic and why it was needed to be closed. He hoped that the Chairman would assist in following up this incident.

22. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he would invite the relevant department to attend the meeting to answer related questions in due course; and
- (b) he believed that there was no need to vote. He said that each member had the right to choose the wording of his questions.

23. Mr LO Yuet-chau said that he did not agree the method suggested by Dr LAM Kong-kwan. He believed that the word was only named after the place of origin such as Japanese encephalitis, German measles and African swine fever, which was a respect for the place of origin. He said that in his question, he also mentioned Coronavirus, also known as Wuhan pneumonia. He believed that if the question was revised, it would be disrespectful to the questioner.

24. Mr Michael YUNG said that in respect of his question, he accepted the opinion to change the relevant wording, but he believed that this was only a deception. He understood that the World Health Organisation (WHO) would not name the diseases by region but he believed that the poor work of the WHO had caused the current result. Moreover, he believed that the folk wisdom needed to be respected. The folks said that the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in the South China Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, so people simply called it Wuhan pneumonia. He believed that there was no problem. In his question, he listed “coronavirus (Wuhan pneumonia)”, and in his subsequent writings, he used the word “Wuhan pneumonia” instead of “coronavirus”, which made everyone felt cordial with the name commonly known.

25. Mr HUI Yui-yu considered that even if the authority had already named an official name, as long as the common name did not violate the relevant laws and cause confusion, it was not necessary to ban the members to use the common name. He believed that the use of “Wuhan pneumonia” by committees was justified as in most Hong Kong people’s perception where Wuhan was the initial and serious place of the epidemic although there was no clear evidence that COVID-19 originated in Wuhan. He also agreed with the Chairman that election was not needed for the use of words in naming the virus. This was because he thought that how to name the disease was an individual right and it was not suitable to deny Mr YIP Wing’s choice through voting.

26. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that it was reasonable for different stakeholders and members to have different views on the name, but as long as they understood the meaning of the name, there was no need to change it. He believed that the choice of terms was the decision of both parties and should not be changed unless the parties were willing to change the terms; and
- (b) he said that, as he did not believe that the procedures of the departments concerned would be effective in epidemic prevention, he wanted to know the details of the equipment, configuration and procedures mentioned in the department’s reply, but

there was no response from departments. He hoped that FHB, DH and HA could request a response regarding the relevant software, hardware and strategies to prevent the outbreak of the epidemic in the community.

27. The Chairman said that after the meeting, the Secretariat would be requested to write to the FHB, DH and the HA to request permanent representatives of the departments to attend the meetings.

28. Mr Chris MAK expressed his respect for the Chairman's decision that there was no need to vote on the change of name. As Dr LAM Kong-kwan had pointed out that many papers mentioned "Wuhan pneumonia" and requested for changes, he hoped that the Chairman would ask Dr LAM Kong-kwan to list all the papers that mentioned "Wuhan pneumonia" for further discussion.

29. The Chairman said that he would not consider Mr Chris MAK's suggestion. The issue would be further processed if Dr LAM Kong-kwan provided the relevant papers.

30. The Chairman asked the members whether they agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr SIN Cheuk-nam.

31. Members agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr SIN Cheuk-nam.

32. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam moved the provisional motion below:

"Background:

To contain the epidemic, the Government announced in mid-February that Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre would be reserved as a designated clinic for the Wuhan Pneumonia, and Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre (MOSMCHC) would be closed until further notice.

To our knowledge, the Government has yet to use Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre as a designated clinic, but members of the public originally scheduled to visit MOSMCHC have been referred to Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre (LYMCHC) instead. Shutting down MOSMCHC has not only caused inconvenience to the Ma On Shan residents, but will also cause both mothers and children adverse health effects due to increased infection risks to them during their ride to LYMCHC by public transportation.

Therefore, we propose the following motion:

Motion

The Committee strongly requests that the Government reopen MOSMCHC expeditiously."

Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr CHENG Tsuk-man, Mr Chris MAK, Mr Johnny CHUNG, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr YIP Wing seconded the motion.

33. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that there was a dental clinic in the building and suggested that DH and HA should be required to take epidemic prevention, quarantine and cleaning measures for the building.

34. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam was aware of Mr CHAN Pui-ming's proposal and would deal with it together if other members had any comments.

35. Mr Michael YUNG suggested adding "Since the epidemic has slowed down" before "the Committee strongly requests". He pointed out that since there were only single-digit confirmed cases per day and there were no local cases, such a modification would make the request sound more reasonable.

36. Ms TSANG So-lai proposed to add "and the area in the vicinity" after "the building" as members of the public were concerned about the hygiene conditions near the health centre.

37. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam moved the amended provisional motion below:

"Background:

To contain the epidemic, the Government announced in mid-February that Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre would be reserved as a designated clinic for the Wuhan Pneumonia, and Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre (MOSMCHC) would be closed until further notice.

To our knowledge, the Government has yet to use Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre as a designated clinic, but members of the public originally scheduled to visit MOSMCHC have been referred to Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre (LYMCHC) instead. Shutting down MOSMCHC has not only caused inconvenience to the Ma On Shan residents, but will also cause both mothers and children adverse health effects due to increased infection risks to them during their ride to LYMCHC by public transportation.

Therefore, we propose the following motion:

Motion

Since the epidemic has slowed down, the Committee strongly requests that the Government reopen MOSMCHC expeditiously and reinforce the anti-epidemic and cleansing arrangements for the building and the area in the vicinity."

Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr CHENG Tsuk-man, Mr Chris MAK, Mr Johnny CHUNG, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr YIP Wing seconded the motion.

38. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 37.

Responses of the Relevant Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Special Meeting on 25 March 2020
(Paper No. HE 18/2020)

39. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

Proposed Estimates and Funding Proposals of Local Organisations under Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment) of 2020-2021

(Paper No. HE 19/2020)

40. The Chairman said that he proposed to set aside \$2 million for the working group and \$31,700 for local organisations to apply for funding. He said that he would deal with the working group funding first.

41. Members unanimously endorsed the proposed estimates to reserve funds for the Working Group.

42. The Chairman said that according to the paper, a total of seven applications for group activities were approved by Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment), including Century Women Association (Sha Tin), Force Association, Fung Wu Kindness Alumni Association, Heng On Estate Residents' Committees, Sha Tin Community Association, Societas Linguistica Hongkongensis and Hong Kong Sports Education. He asked members to declare their interests with the above organisations.

43. Mr CHING Cheung-ying thought that local organisations must be professional organisations in the area of environment or health if their activities were to be included in Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment). Otherwise, they should be included in Expenditure Head 10 (Community Development). He opined that the nature of the activities applied for was mainly socialising. Only the approach and purpose of establishment of the Hong Kong Sports Education were close to the requirement of Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment). The applications of other activities should be included in Expenditure Head 10 (Community Development). He hoped that the Secretariat could clarify the classification.

44. The Chairman opines that he approved the funding of the activities beforehand. The listed scope in the activity application which provided by the organisation conformed to the terms of reference of the HEC. He opined that it would be more suitable to include the activity application in Expenditure Head 10 (Community Development). Therefore, the process of approval would be stricter.

45. The views of Mr Chris MAK were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the organisation had a purpose for establishing it. If the purpose of the organisation had nothing to do with the hygiene environment, the organisations needed to explain. He asked whether he could apply for funding by adding environmental protection and health content to the comprehensive performance;
- (b) he believed that Societas Linguistica Hongkongensis clearly promoted healthy living through lecture and therefore the application should be approved;
- (c) he asked how the rope skipping activity of Hong Kong Sports Education could improve the environmental hygiene. He opined that it was far-fetched to include the application in Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment); and

- (d) he hoped that the Chairman and the Secretariat could be the gatekeeper, and avoid organisations to organise activities ingeniously.

46. The Chairman said that healthy lifestyle was under the scope of HEC. If the activities involved healthy lifestyle, environmental hygiene and environmental protection, they should be included in Expenditure Head 4 (Health and Environment). He said that when approving the funding, it would be based on the nature of the organisation and the activity application.

47. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that as the organisations grew, the scope of services would gradually become diversified; and
- (b) he said that the document failed to show the contents of the events, implementation details and promotion goals, and he could only trust the Chairman's handling. He believed that it was prudent to postpone the funding application if the activity was not urgent, and only approve the funding after the information papers were provided at the next meeting for members' information.

48. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that the paper only showed the organisations of the activities, the names of the activities and the funding application amount. Even though the names of the activities contained certain wordings including environmental protection and health, he believed that it was necessary to know about the percentage of relevant content involved in the activity; and
- (b) he believed that it was necessary to learn about the effectiveness of the activities, the target groups and the effectiveness of the organisation's past activities. He hoped to approve the funds only after referring more information.

49. The Chairman said that the proposed funding of the organisations in the district would be postponed to the next meeting. He asked the Secretariat to prepare application documents of the organisational activities for members' reference.

Proposal for Refurbishing Kak Tin Village Public Toilet
(Paper No. HE 20/2020)

50. The Chairman invited Mr Derek LAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent, Sha Tin District of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to briefly introduce the paper.

51. Mr Derek LAI briefly introduced the paper.

52. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying was summarised below:

- (a) he thanked Mr Derek LAI and his colleagues from the FEHD. He said that the FEHD had notified Kak Tin Village's representatives of the project planning and arrangements, and the village representative supported the plan;

- (b) he hoped that more water pipes and wash basins would be provided in the mobile toilet facilities to facilitate cleaning;
- (c) he believed that the six-month construction period was long, and hoped that the FEHD would urge the contractor to expedite the construction; and
- (d) he said that the utilisation rate of the public toilet was not high, but the cleaning environment was not good. He hoped that the FEHD could supervise the cleaning of public toilets after the renovation works.

53. The views of Mr HUI Yui-yu were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that the construction cost of public toilets was expensive. He would like to know the tendering process and whether bid-rigging would be involved;
- (b) he asked whether the renovation project would involve demolition and replacement of walls and floor tiles, and whether underground pipes would be included. He would like to know the detailed procedures and related expenditure of the project;
- (c) he believed that the project would take a long time. He asked the department whether the contract restricted the daily construction time of the workers. He hoped that there would be a system to prompt the contractor to complete the project as soon as possible; and
- (d) he asked about the standards and sources for planning the ratio of male and female toilets.

54. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the Buildings Department (BD) had guidelines on the ratio of male and female toilets in new shopping malls;
- (b) it was known that the Government kept a list of contractors that were allowed to submit a tender in respect of the scale of the projects. He believed that government departments had measures to monitor bid-rigging. He asked Mr Derek LAI to provide additional information;
- (c) he said that it was troublesome to wash hands in mobile toilets. No electric lights were installed in such facilities, making it inconvenient to use the toilet at night;
- (d) he would like to know how often the containers that contained urine and faeces were cleaned and whether they would overflow;
- (e) he said that due to the epidemic, squat toilets were currently suspended. He asked whether reducing the number of squat toilets would be considered under the design of renovated public toilets to prevent virus transmission; and
- (f) he said that the hand sanitiser container and electronic faucet were easily damaged, and he hoped that the department would pay attention to it.

55. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned about when the acceptance test would be completed and open for use after completion. He said that the Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet was completed as early as December last year and was still not open for use;
- (b) he wanted to understand the difference between the Staff Room and the Attendant Room in the architectural drawing. He believed that since there was Staff Room for outsourced cleaners to use, there was no need to waste space to set up an Attendant Room; and
- (c) he opined that the design of the urinal needed improvement.

56. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that toilets should be covered with toilet cover when flushing. Since squat toilets could not be installed with toilet cover, he asked if there was a long-term plan to replace all squat toilets with toilets; and
- (b) he said that toilet covers and dung tanks were often damaged. He said that the toilet covers were damaged in less than a month, and thus the toilet could not be covered. The dung tanks in the public toilet opposite Yan On Estate were overflowing. He asked whether the project included improvement works for sewers and tanks.

57. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that during the public toilet renovation project, it was expected that two mobile toilets would be provided for nearby villagers to use. He said that the facilities of the mobile toilets were adequate for general clean use, and the department knew that the water flow was slow. He said that he was now studying with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) whether it was possible to connect public toilet hoses for villagers' use, but the issue of drainage needed to be considered;
- (b) the department was learning whether there would be mobile wash basins for villagers to use;
- (c) he said that the renovation works were undertaken by the ArchSD and tendered through government procedures. He said that the cost of the renovation project included re-planning of toilet compartments and replacement of wall tiles, floors and pipes;
- (d) he said that the project would exchange the male and female toilets in order to meet the standard of 1:2 ratio between male and female toilets. He said that he could only try to meet the proportions because of space constraints;
- (e) he said that mobile toilets mainly relied on natural lighting. The department tried to install dry battery lights, but they were often stolen. The department and the ArchSD discussed connecting the power supply of the project to the mobile toilet to install electric lights;

- (f) he said that the department would clean and suck faeces for mobile toilets every day to keep the mobile toilet clean;
- (g) he said that staff rooms had been set up in toilets for a long time for other cleaning staff to sign in. After the refurbishment, they still needed to provide a place for them to sign in and get the tools. That room had nothing to do with the toilet attendant's room; and
- (h) the department had requested the ArchSD to improve the quality of hand sanitiser containers and electronic faucets. Regarding the monitoring procedures for toilet cleaning and maintenance, it had been reported to the ArchSD that damaged equipment must be properly repaired within a short period of time.

58. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:

- (a) he asked when the public toilet would be opened after the renovation works; and
- (b) Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet was completed as early as December last year and was still not open for use. He was worried that the same situation would happen in the Kak Tin Village Public Toilet. He hoped that Mr Derek LAI would help follow up the matter.

59. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether the department would discuss with the supplier of mobile toilets to install solar-power lights. He said that in the project implemented by the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works, the consultant company installed solar-power lights for the roads. He suggested installing solar-power panels on the top of mobile toilets and solar-power lights in the toilets;
- (b) he said that the problem of damage to hand sanitiser containers and electric faucets often occurred in various districts. He wanted to know whether it was because of the quality of the procurement or the high rate of usage; and
- (c) he said that the design of some public toilets was not satisfactory. He asked whether the department would report and provide advice to the ArchSD.

60. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to know the arrangement of toilets and squat toilets. According to the floor plan, the area of the squat toilet was smaller than the toilet. He asked whether the area was the criteria of determination for setting up a toilet or squat toilet. If not, he asked why the squat toilets were not replaced with toilets; and
- (b) he said that the Attendant Room had lockers. He wanted to know whether the lockers allowed employees to store personal belongings or cleaning utensils, and why they were not allowed to store personal belongings in the staff room.

61. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that if damage was found, he would ask the ArchSD to follow up. If the hand sanitiser container or electric faucet was damaged, and if it could not be repaired, the FEHD would request to replace the equipment of the same brand and style. If it could not be provided, a full set of facilities must be replaced. He said that he would actively follow up with the ArchSD;
- (b) he said that because some members of the public needed to use squat toilets and in order to cater to the habits of Asians, there was no plan to completely abolish squat toilets for the time being;
- (c) he said that the engineering problem of Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet had not been resolved and therefore it was not open for use. He said he would follow up the project;
- (d) he said that he would request the ArchSD to monitor the construction progress of the contractor according to the time specified in the paper and complete the work within the specified time; and
- (e) he said that the mobile toilets were provided by the contractor on a contractual basis. The contract did not specify the provision of providing electric lights. He believed that solar lights were a good suggestion, and the department would consider purchasing and installing them on their own.

62. The Chairman asked whether the design of mobile toilets included installation of solar lights.

63. Mr Derek LAI added that the new mobile toilet contract might include the device.

64. The Chairman requested Mr Derek LAI to follow up the project of Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet after the meeting.

65. The Chairman announced that the discussion on this item was ended.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming on Wuhan Pneumonia Assessment and Quarantine Measures
(Paper No. HE 21/2020)

66. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he said that at the last meeting, he hoped that the departments would give their replies respectively, but the FHB, the DH and the HA did not send representatives to attend this meeting. He hoped that as the epidemic eased, the departments would attend the next meeting to explain the latest policy;
- (b) he said that the prospective residents of Chun Yeung Estate were still waiting for in-take. He would like to know the future arrangements of Chun Yeung Estate;

- (c) he would like to know about the resumption arrangements for public services, such as Ma On Shan MCHC, and related epidemic prevention arrangements;
- (d) he would like to learn about the improvement measures of Hong Kong's medical system and quarantine; and
- (e) the issuance of People's Republic of China Permit for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao was currently suspended. If the Lo Wu Control Point was closed for more than half a year, he would like to know about the communication and arrangements between the government and relevant Chinese authorities.

67. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that the current question was like talking to himself. He would like to know the response of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to relevant departments and non-permanent representatives. He said that the purpose of asking questions was to interact with the department on follow-up questions after written questions;
- (b) he suggested that the Chairman should add information papers to the meeting of the HEC to require the departments to attend the meetings; and
- (c) he believed that the Pro-democracy Camp had obtained the majority of seats in the Council, and thus the government departments adopt a non-cooperative attitude. For example, they were absent from the meetings or briefly answered the questions. He believed that this act could not bring advantages to the community.

68. The view of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that the department had not provided clear and detailed answers to the questions, nor had it been able to convince members. He hoped that the FHB, the DH and the HA would send representatives to attend the meetings; and
- (b) he hoped that the HEC would write to the FHB, the DH and the HA to request them to send representatives to attend the meetings.

69. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped that the DH and the HA would provide regular data on infectious diseases such as rat hepatitis E virus, Japanese encephalitis, dengue fever and Influenza;
- (b) the Prince of Wales Hospital was currently implementing the extension project, and he hoped that the HA could provide an update on the progress; and
- (c) he said that territory-wide policies were closely related to the districts, and believed that government departments had the responsibility to explain the relevant work to the Committee. He hoped that the Chairman would invite the relevant departments to attend the next meetings.

70. The Chairman said that the document had already provided data to answer the questions, but failed to give a comprehensive response. As the relevant departments had not yet sent representatives to attend the meeting, subsequent discussion would be allowed at the next meeting until the relevant departments send representatives to attend the meeting and answer members' questions.

Question to be Raised by Mr LO Yuet-chau on the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's Prosecution of Spitting and Fouling in Private Housing Estates
(Paper No. HE 22/2020)

71. The views of Mr LO Yuet-chau were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that the FEHD's written reply failed to give a positive response regarding the management company's inability to enforce spitting and defecation in private housing estates due to the limitations of the land lease and the deed of mutual covenant of the building. He asked the FEHD to explain clearly whether prosecution could be instituted; if not, why not; and
- (b) he expressed regret that the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) did not send officers to attend the meeting. He opined that during the epidemic, some members of the public still neglected the environmental hygiene problems, and the police could help follow up with the problems caused by gambling.

72. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) according to section 8A(1) of "Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation", no person should spit in or into any common part of a building. According to section 8(1) of "Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation", no person should obey the call of nature in any common part of a building. He said that the department would enforce the law in accordance with the law;
- (b) he said that the department mainly enforced the health regulations in public places. The owners' corporations and property management companies of private housing estates not only reminded the residents to keep the place clean, but also perform their responsibilities and exercise their rights under the deed of mutual covenant. He said that the department would be pleased to carry out inspection and help;
- (c) he opined that illegal gambling activities was the main cause of the problem. If this problem could be solved, the problems of spitting, defecation and littering could also be reduced;
- (d) besides the law enforcement by government departments, he said that the management office had the responsibility to provide a clean housing estate environment, such as providing a sufficient number of rubbish bins and advising those residents who were spitting, urinating, defecation and littering; and
- (e) he opined that active participation was needed from all sectors of the community in cleaning Hong Kong campaign. He said that the department would raise public awareness of environmental hygiene through publicity and public education.

73. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:

- (a) he asked if organisations were responsible for the management of private places, such as corporations, could ask the FEHD to initiate prosecution if necessary; and
- (b) he said that people who smoked outside the smoking area at public transport interchanges would also spit on the lid of the trash can. He was worried that the cleaning workers would have contact with sputum, which would cause hygiene risks. He hoped that the FEHD would strengthen inspections and law enforcement around the statutory non-smoking areas of bus stops.

74. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked Mr Derek LAI and the FEHD representatives for dealing with the rubbish problem;
- (b) he believed that some members of the public lacked ethics and cause environmental hygiene problems. He said that it could be solved by three aspects: cleaning, publicity and education, and law enforcement and prosecution. He hoped to completely solve the health problem from the aspect of publicity and education, but the achievements were not obvious. He hoped that the department would strengthen law enforcement and prosecution; and
- (c) he said that if the owners did not clean their pets' fouling, it would affect the environmental hygiene. He also said that the housing estates in the selected area also had the same problem. He hoped that Mr Derek LAI could report the problem of pet fouling to the FEHD and ask the FEHD to solve it.

75. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) according to the reply of the department, the FEHD had the power to enforce the law in public places. He asked whether the department had law enforcement on spitting, urinating and defecation in housing estates that were not allocated by the Housing Department (HD); and
- (b) he said that the HD failed to deduct points for illegal behaviours of residents across housing estates under the deduction system for housing village management. He opined that the measures had loopholes. He also opined that according to Section 8(1) of "Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation", the FEHD could enforce the law in the public areas of public housing estates. He asked whether the department would consider enforcing the law in housing estates.

76. The views of Mr LO Yuet-chau were summarised below:

- (a) he agreed that spitting and defecation were caused by illegal gambling activities. He blamed the HKPF for not sending officers to attend the meeting. He opined that it was the police's responsibility to combat illegal gambling activities. He said that Mr Michael YUNG had noticed that there were no illegal gambling activities in Sha Tin during the tenure of a certain commander. Therefore, he opined that the police could handle the problem; and

- (b) he hoped that the HEC could write to the HKPF after the meeting, requesting an explanation of when to deal with the illegal gambling problem.

77. The Chairman said that he would write to the police after the meeting, demanding them to handle the illegal gambling problem.

78. The views of Mr CHAN Wan-tung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the FEHD could initiate prosecution based on the CCTV images when dealing with the illegal dumping of building debris. However, the FEHD could only initiate immediate prosecution when dealing with spitting, urinating and defecation problems. He hoped that the department could review the related law enforcement method; and
- (b) he suggested that the department and the management company or corporation take joint actions to take surprise prosecution actions in the housing estates.

79. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that the management contracts of Shek Mun Estate Phase I and II were different. He asked that whether points would be deducted if the residents of Shek Mun Estate Phase II improperly disposed cigarette butts in Shek Mun Estate Phase I. Moreover, he asked how the HD would deal with this situation.

80. Mr WU Tak-tong, Housing Manager (Tai Po, North & Sha Tin 3) of the HD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the same housing manager was responsible for the Shek Mun Estate Phase I and II. If the HD staff discovered residents smoking in the estate area, they would immediately initiate prosecution and deduct points; and
- (b) he said that Shek Mun Estate was managed by an outsourced company, lacking permanent HD staff. Since the staff of the outsourced company did not have the authority in prosecution, they could only advise the residents not to do so.

81. The Chairman asked the HD whether there were permanent staff members in the estates who could institute prosecution.

82. Mr WU Tak-tong said that this estate was already outsourced. There were no permanent staff members in the estates. However, the HD had a Special Task Force to inspect the housing estates and initiate prosecution based on the relevant situation.

83. The Chairman said that the members would like to know more about the number and standards of prosecution of the Special Task Force.

84. Mr WU Tak-tong responded that Sha Tin Special Task Force was arranged by the headquarters of the HD. They went to different housing estates to carry out law enforcements against littering and illegal smoking.

85. The Chairman asked whether they went to one estate each month for law enforcement and what the number of prosecutions was.

86. Mr WU Tak-tong supplemented that the Special Task Force would visit different housing estates in Sha Tin every month. He said that there were no relevant figures at the moment.
87. The Chairman asked Mr WU Tak-tong to supplement the related figures after the meeting.
88. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) he responded to Mr Ricardo LIAO that the department would strengthen the law enforcement against littering and illegal smoking at bus stops and public areas;
 - (b) he responded to Mr Wilson LI that the department had enforced the law on dogs' fouling. The related law could only deal with the problem of dog fouling. Apart from the law enforcement, the department also provided the dog latrine and Dog Excrete Collection Bin, and accompanied by promotion and education;
 - (c) he responded to Mr Raymond LI that the representative of the HD had already responded to the relevant questions; and
 - (d) he responded to Mr CHAN Wan-tung that the department could prosecute the car owner for illegal rubbish dumping, based on the vehicle registration marks shown in the videos of webcam. The department could only base on the videos of webcam to ambush on the related time and place in order to prosecute those who littered on the spot. The video clips could not be used for direct prosecution.
89. The Chairman asked Mr Derek LAI to supplement information on joint actions taken with the corporation and management company.
90. Mr Derek LAI responded that the department would consider the related actions. They could contact the department if needed.
91. The Chairman said that the problem of environmental hygiene was mainly caused by illegal gambling activities. He asked the FEHD whether they had taken joint actions with the police or requested the police to deal with the related problems.
92. Mr Derek LAI responded that they had taken joint actions with the police in the public area but the private area was not included.
93. Mr CHENG Chung-hang gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) he said that he was a dog owner. Dog faeces were found near his residence and constituency. The FEHD staff rarely took the law enforcement in his constituency. He said that the coastal area of Ma On Shan and Hang Tai Road was a hot spot for dog walking. He hoped that the department could send more officers to that area to enforce the law;
 - (b) he was aware that it was difficult for the department to enforce the law against dog urination. He hoped that the staff of the department could remind the dog owners to clean up; and

- (c) he said that cleaning dog urine with clean water could only remove the odour, but it might expand the scope of pollution. He asked whether there were other methods that would be more effective in clearing dog urine.

94. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he said that both the FEHD and the police had to deal with the related problems in the private housing estates and public housing estates. He took Yan On Estate as an example, saying that the problem of illegal smoking was serious there;
- (b) he said that the HD outsourced the management of housing estates while the Special Task Force did not enforce the law. He said that since he became the District Councillor of Yan On Estate, he had never seen the Special Task Force enforcing the law in Yan On Estate. He said that some members of the public smoked in the pavilions and threw the beer cans into the planters. He hoped that the officers could call out district management committee as soon as possible to deal with relevant issues across different departments;
- (c) he opined that the Special Task Force did not patrol and initiate prosecution in the housing estates. Therefore, leaflets of selling illicit cigarettes could be distributed in the housing estates, and that the illegal smoking situation was serious;
- (d) he said that when he was patrolling the estate with the staff of the HD, he found that some members of the public were smoking. He requested the HD staff to deal with it and reminded them to issue “points deduction slip”, the HD staff advised the related person to stop smoking only after his request. He said that the residents already neglected the advice from the security. It was difficult for the staff to issue “points deduction slip”; and
- (e) he said that the problem of spitting, urinating, defecating and illegal smoking were serious in the public housing estate. He opined that the department had not dealt with it yet.

95. The views of Mr WONG Ho-fung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he doubted the effectiveness of the Special Task Force at the meeting of Development and Housing Committee. He said that he had never seen the Special Task Force in Mei Tin Estate;
- (b) he said that people knew that there were no consequences after defecate, illegal smoking and gambling. If points were deducted, they would comply with the relevant law; and
- (c) he would like to know the numbers and working arrangements of the Special Task Force.

96. The views of Mr YIP Wing were summarised below:

- (a) he believed that the Special Task Force was not effective. He said that the situation of throwing objects from a height was serious in Chung On Estate. He would like to know the number of Sha Tin Special Task Force and the frequency of patrolling in Chung On Estate each year. He said that he had never seen the Special Task Force visiting Chung On Estate;
- (b) he had patrolled the illegal gambling blackspots in Chung On Estate with the police. However, the police did not issue the Fixed Penalty Tickets; and
- (c) he said that at the last District Council meeting, the police did not issue the Fixed Penalty Tickets of the prohibition on group gathering to Ms LEE See-yin and other people. He inquired about the reasons for it.

97. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that the HD did not enforce the law in the housing estates;
- (b) he said that he had discussed the issue of illegal gambling in housing estates at other committee meetings. The HEC needed to be directed against the problem of spitting and fouling the street;
- (c) he said that other than the private housing estates, the related problems frequently happened in the public housing estates. Apart from FEHD, he opined that the HD was the major department handling it. He had yet never seen the HD advising and enforcing the law on spitting and fouling the street;
- (d) he hoped that the department would increase the number of the Special Task Force; and
- (e) he said that the FEHD should strengthen communication with the HD in order to assist the HD to deal with the problems.

98. Mr Sebastian WONG responded to Mr Michael YUNG that due to the epidemic in the last few months, the STDO tried to avoid having meeting in order to eliminate the large gatherings of people. Also, the District Council Conference Room was arranged for holding various District Council meetings. The department would continuously monitor the epidemic in order to arrange suitable timing for having the District Management Committee meeting.

99. The Chairman hoped that the HD would give a reply on the number of Special Task Force and its number of law enforcement actions, and also provide relevant data on illegal gambling activities and cleaning issues in housing estates.

100. Mr WU Tak-tong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the related number of law enforcement actions would be supplemented at the next HEC meeting;

- (b) he said that there was only one Special Task Force team in Sha Tin. That Special Task Force was also in charge of Tai Po and North District. The Special Task Force would, according to the schedule, conduct surprise patrols and prosecute the offenders each housing estates; and
- (c) he said that the Special Task Force could only verbally advise the inter-housing estate offenders.

101. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he asked that whether the District Management Committee meetings could not be convened if the epidemic had not passed. He said that the problems in the district would continuously accumulate;
- (b) he said that the content of his question was just the statement of facts; and
- (c) he opined that STDO cared about the political issues more than the people's livelihood. It should coordinate the departments to deal with the livelihood problems. He said that the logo of the STDO represented not only the Government, the business sector and the community, but also other District Offices, government departments and the public. He hoped that it could take care of what the public cared.

102. The views of Mr WONG Ho-fung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that there was only one Special Task Force team working for Sha Tin, Tai Po and North District. Therefore, the members had never seen them enforcing the law; and
- (b) he said that Sha Tin had a large population and there was a large number of housing estates in the district. He hoped that the department could consider adding more number and manpower for the Special Task Force.

103. The Chairman said that he hoped the HD would consider increasing the manpower of the Special Task Force and the authority of law enforcement of the frontline staff.

104. The Chairman announced that the discussion on this item ended.

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Provision of Refuse Bins in the Sha Tin District

(Paper No. HE 23/2020)

105. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that before March this year, for Sha Tin Town Centre, rubbish bins were placed outside the Sha Tin Market only. In the middle of March, he had reported to the FEHD that some members of the public disposed rubbish into the planters next to the bus stop at Pak Hok Ting Street. The department then placed the bins after that. After his had raised the question, the number of rubbish bins in Sha Tin Town Centre had increased. He asked the department about their criteria of placing rubbish bins;

- (b) he said that there were eight and five bins placed on the Man Lai Road and outside Man Lai Court respectively. Comparing to the Sha Tin Town Centre, he opined that the distribution of the rubbish bins was unequal. He would like to know the reasons for it;
- (c) he was worried that the shopping malls would refer to the FEHD as an example to decrease the number of rubbish bins. He had counted the number of rubbish bins in each shopping mall in Sha Tin Town Centre;
- (d) New Town Plaza had now placed transparent rubbish bags for public use. He opined that the location was not prominent. It was difficult for the public to notice it. He said that such deed did not show much meaning;
- (e) he said that rubbish bins were not provided in the concourse of Sha Tin Station. He found that some members of the public disposed rubbish into the waste paper bins of the ATM. He opined that it was unfair to the banks;
- (f) he said that the locations of the rubbish bins in Citylink Plaza was not prominent. He would like to know the intention of placing rubbish bins in such locations;
- (g) he said that rubbish bins had not been seen in Sha Tin Station for a long time. However, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTR) replied in writing that there were five bins in Sha Tin Station. He would like to know whether the rubbish bins were placed in the unnoticeable locations which could hardly be seen; and
- (h) he asked the FEHD whether they had provided the shopping malls with guidelines on the locations of rubbish bins.

106. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he said that although the number of rubbish bins in Sha Tin District had decreased, it were not yet replaced by plastic rubbish bags. He would like to know how the department would deal with it if the FEHD failed to supplement the rubbish bins because of the social movements or other reasons;
- (b) he hoped that the EPD could educate the public to reduce waste at the source, not just relying on the waste charging scheme; and
- (c) according to the written reply from the MTR, the paid area of Tai Wai Station and Sha Tin Station had forty and five rubbish bins respectively. He asked, comparing to the earlier time, how many rubbish bins had been removed, and how many rubbish bins were placed in the unpaid area.

107. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to know the FEHD's criteria of placing rubbish bins;

- (b) he expressed regret over New Town Plaza not sending representatives to the meeting. He said that since the rubbish bags were not opened, the public needed to open the plastic bag themselves, which was unsanitary. He hoped the management company could make related arrangement to improve the situation;
- (c) he asked whether the FEHD would use plastic rubbish bags as replacements if social movements happened or the rubbish bins were damaged; and
- (d) he said that MTR decreased the number of bins in each station. They did not provide additional rubbish bins until the members made a request. He would like to know what the standard was, and whether a decrease in the number of rubbish bins was also found in other MTR stations.

108. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to know what the FEHD's standards of distancing of bins were; and
- (b) he asked the department whether they would consider placing bins without ashtrays next to the bus stops in order to minimise the cases of passive smoking.

109. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the number of rubbish bins at Sha Tin Centre Street, Pak Hok Ting Street, Wang Pok Street and Tam Kon Po Street had decreased. During the social movements, forty-six bins were damaged and lost. For the purpose of safety, the department had removed thirty-two bins. Currently, the department had successively put the bins back to the original places. If there were any social movements again, the department would not exclude the possibility to temporarily remove the bins, but would provide transparent plastic rubbish bags for public use instead;
- (b) he said that no bins with tripods were being used in Sha Tin;
- (c) he said that the department had no comment on the number of bins in the shopping malls, and the malls could increase or decrease the number of bins according to their needs;
- (d) the department hoped that the public could reduce waste at the source, so a narrow-mouthed bin was designed to reduce the amount of waste. In response to the waste reduction at the source strategy, the department and the EPD continued to communicate on the number and design of rubbish bins;
- (e) he said that some bus stops were not non-smoking areas. If ashtrays were not provided, the public might discard cigarette butts on the street; and
- (f) he said that the department had not yet set a standard for the distancing of rubbish bins and it was handled flexibly. A distance of less than 100 metres was maintained as far as possible. The department adopted an open attitude towards the location of rubbish bins.

110. Mr SZETO Dick-fung, Assistant Division Officer (Fire Safety Inspection Team/ New Territories) of the Fire Services Department responded to question (g), saying that if there were refuse rooms or refuse chutes in the housing estates, residents should try their best to use them. If the housing estates did not have these facilities, the rubbish bins shared by the residents must be placed at the corner of the stairs to avoid blocking the escape route.

111. Mr YUEN Sze-chun, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Sha Tin) of the Lands Department responded that the land leases of private land such as shopping malls and residential buildings governed the development and use of related land, and the placement of rubbish bins was a matter of property management, generally not within the scope of land lease supervision. For example, the land deeds of New Town Plaza and CityLink Plaza did not mention relevant matters.

112. Mr LEUNG Man-tik, Assistant Public Relations Manager (External Affairs) of the MTR gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that there were 5 rubbish bins in the paid area of Sha Tin Station. Since the platform of Sha Tin Station was long, the rubbish bins might be unnoticeable; and
- (b) he said that the number of rubbish bins would be reduced based on risk assessment but the company would closely monitor the cleanliness of the station and strengthen cleaning if necessary. He said that the cleanliness of the station was in good condition and the company would review the placement of rubbish bins in the station from time to time.

113. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to know whether rubbish bins could be placed at the stairs if there were refuse rooms or refuse chutes in the housing estates at the same time. He said that there was an increase in take-away litter at the stairs of housing estates during the epidemic. He considered that providing rubbish bins would better fulfill the principle of environmental hygiene;
- (b) he hoped that the representative of the MTR would respond to the problem of rubbish bins at CityLink Plaza and the gate area at Sha Tin Station; and
- (c) he said that the District Lands Office, Sha Tin (DLO/ST) had said in previous cases that items placed in the housing estates that were not listed in the land lease, such as vending machines, electronic lockers, rubbish bins and chairs and tables, were a violation of the title deed. He said that he had reported to the STDO in the last-term Council but the STDO did not follow up the matter. He would like to check with the DLO/ST to see whether the above statement was correct.

114. Mr Ricardo LIAO said that residents who were in his constituency hoped to add rubbish bins or mask collection boxes at the stairs. It was reported that the fire escape routes must be kept at 1.3 metres in width. He asked whether the ordinance applied to staircase corners.

115. Mr SZETO Dick-fung responded that the stairs were the main escape route in case of fire. The department recommended that debris should not be placed in the escape route to avoid obstructing escape. In order to strike a balance between fire safety and sanitation needs, the department recommended that residents should try to use refuse rooms and refuse chutes as far as possible. If additional rubbish bins were needed, the volume should not exceed 50% of the width of the stairs to avoid blocking the fire escape routes.

116. Mr YUEN Sze-chun responded that the lease terms of each piece of private land were not the same. Each case depended on the actual situation and the relevant lease terms, and it was difficult to generalise the situations. He said that he would follow up with Mr WAI Hing-cheung after the meeting.

117. Mr LEUNG Man-tik responded that whether the malls would place rubbish bins according to their actual needs. He said that he could follow up the situation with Mr WAI Hing-cheung after the meeting.

118. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said that he had mentioned earlier that the number of rubbish bins was imbalanced and he hoped that the FEHD would give a response.

119. The Chairman asked all departments to respond to Mr WAI Hing-cheung after the meeting.

120. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on this item.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix on Nuisance Caused by Wild Pigs in the Sha Tin District

(Paper No. HE 24/2020)

121. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised as below:

- (a) he expressed his gratitude to the representatives of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for taking the time to attend the meeting;
- (b) he said that the problem of wild pigs' nuisance was caused by the public feeding wild animals and attracting wild pigs to the residential areas for food. He said that the AFCD dealt with the problem by reducing the nuisance of wild pigs, reducing food incentives and by education. However, he considered that the resources devoted to education were insufficient and the public was not aware of the risks of feeding wild pigs. He would like to know the resources and related result of the investment that the department had on education;
- (c) he would like to know the location of the wild pigs after sterilisation by the department and the impact of that location on nearby residents;
- (d) he said that some members of the public reported that they were unable to contact the AFCD to deal with the problem of wild pigs' nuisance due to the epidemic. He asked whether the department could provide the public with information on handling relevant issues;

- (e) he would like to know from the FEHD whether the design of the new rubbish bins was aimed at monkeys or wild pigs. He said that some staff said that there were no rubbish bins which were designed to tackle the wild pig problem; and
- (f) he considered that the role of STDO was passive. He said that the handling of related issues required the cooperation of government departments. He hoped that the STDO would convene a District Management Committee meeting and increase publicity and education on the wild pig issue in Sha Tin.

122. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that in addition to wild pigs, monkey nuisance was also serious. The AFCD also went to Tai Shui Hang to teach management companies to use green laser pointers to drive away monkeys. He was concerned that the high power of the laser pointer would violate the law and the AFCD might need to formulate laser pointer standards for reference;
- (b) he said that the public seldom fed wild pigs. The wild pigs went to Tai Shui Hang Village to search for food because of the earlier fire in Ma On Shan. He hoped that FEHD would communicate with representatives of the village to implement a new type of rubbish bin trial plan;
- (c) he would like to know the number of cases illegal feeding of wild animals prosecuted; and
- (d) he asked about the validity period of the contraceptive vaccine and whether there were other contraceptive methods.

123. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that several rubbish bins in the constituency were damaged by wild pigs recently. He asked whether the rubbish bins could be fixed so that the wild pigs could not tip over;
- (b) he said that the foot-operated rubbish bins were more likely to be turned down. he hoped that the department would consider improving the design; and
- (c) he said that the situation of feeding wild pigs was more serious in Ka Keng Court. He hoped that the AFCD would reinforce the relocation of wild pigs and prosecute those who fed wild pigs illegally.

124. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised as below:

- (a) he asked whether the expert advisory group set up by the AFCD included members and stakeholders of the constituency to resolve the impact of wild pigs on residents;
- (b) he would like to know the effectiveness of wild pig management measures and the related data;

- (c) he would like to know the effectiveness of the pilot project to improve the design of rubbish bins and when the department would extend the plan to the entire Sha Tin District; and
- (d) he said that the public might not know that they could seek help from the STDO, so the department did not receive any requests for assistance. He hoped that the STDO would assist in collecting relevant information and strengthen communication and cooperation with the FEHD and the AFCD.

125. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that due to the human development of countryside, the construction of houses had changed the foraging environment of wild pigs, which had caused the problem of wild pig nuisances;
- (b) he said that after the AFCD caught the female wild pigs, the young wild pigs would rush into the road recklessly and this caused chaos;
- (c) he said that the department had put a new type of rubbish bins on Keng Hau Road that could not be tipped over by wild pigs;
- (d) he considered that the reason why wild pigs were close to residential houses was they were fed illegally and because of the illegal cultivation on the mountainside. He asked the AFCD and the LCSD whether they could prosecute people who illegally fed wild animals. He would like to know how the DLO/ST handled illegal land reclamation issues; and
- (e) he would like to know where the AFCD would relocate the wild pigs.

126. The views of Mr WONG Ho-fung were summarised as below:

- (a) he considered that the new design of rubbish bins could effectively prevent wild animals from tipping over the rubbish bins. He would like to know from the AFCD when the plan would be fully implemented;
- (b) he said that the FEHD could only initiate prosecutions based on the impact of illegal feeding on environmental hygiene. He asked whether the department would consider amending the law; and
- (c) he asked whether the AFCD would consider taking joint enforcement actions to combat illegal feeding.

127. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that the Kwong Hong Constituency had received multiple complaints of wild pig nuisances but the AFCD had not taken any action in the district. He said that female wild pigs were more aggressive when they were with young wild pigs. He reported that some members of the public were worried about potential danger;

- (b) he said that the department put up banners in the constituency to remind the public not to feed wild pigs. As far as he knew, the public did not feed wild pigs in the area. He hoped that the AFCD and relevant departments would inspect the Kwong Hong Constituency to look into the wild pigs' problem;
- (c) he would like to know what channels of complaints and enquiries were available when members of the public were harassed by wild pigs and what follow-up actions were taken by relevant departments; and
- (d) he said that he had visited Wong Nai Tau and Shek Kwu Lung Village and found wild pigs digging the ground. He hoped that the department would sterilise wild pigs in the Kwong Hong Constituency.

128. Mr YEUNG Sze-kin said the operations of the department did not cover Kwong Yuen Estate and Kwong Hong Constituency. He said that he often saw wild pigs in groups and he hoped that the department would enhance operations in the area.

129. The views of Mr George WONG were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that the FEHD had 65 prosecution cases involving feeding wild animals in the past five years. He considered that the prosecution actions of the department were insufficient;
- (b) he said that the department had said a year ago that new-style rubbish bins would be placed. He asked when a new-style rubbish bin would be placed in the district; and
- (c) according to the Wild Animal Protection Ordinance, the penalty for feeding wild animals in country parks was \$10,000 and feeding in urban areas was \$1,500. He would like to know why the penalty for feeding in the urban area was lower than that in the country parks. He considered that the Government needed to review the ordinance.

130. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FEHD and the AFCD were now implementing a trial project on rubbish bins to prevent wild animal nuisances. There were 3 designs of rubbish bins. The first was a large 660L rubbish bin with a fence. This design could prevent wild pigs from tipping over and monkeys from climbing into the rubbish bins. The second model was a large rubbish bin with pedals to prevent wild pigs and monkeys from nuisances. The third one was a small rubbish bin with a pedal, which also required a pedal to open the lid;
- (b) he said that the above three types of rubbish bins were being tested in different pilot schemes. If the results were significant, the department would consider using them in other suitable locations. He said that the pilot scheme would be implemented throughout Hong Kong and would be considered for formal use after evaluation and improvement; and

- (c) he said that the public feeding of wild animals and birds in public places did not violate the cleanliness regulations. However, under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness) Ordinance, Chapter 570 of the Laws of Hong Kong, it was an offence for anyone to feed animals or birds and contaminate public places. The staff of the department could issue fixed penalty notices to them. He said the department had initiated 65 prosecutions in the past 5 years.

131. Ms Tamari YU, Wetland & Fauna Conservation Officer (Special Duties 2) of the AFCD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the department managed wild pigs in a multi-pronged approach, including controlling wild pig nuisances, reducing food inducements for wild pigs and educating the public;
- (b) regarding to the control of wild pig nuisances, the department had suspended hunting work since 2017 and replaced it with wild pigs' contraception and sterilisation. She said that the validity period of the contraceptive injection could last for 4 to 6 years, and the department would also regularly inject for the wild pigs;
- (c) she said that the department would consider the causes of the appearance of wild pigs before taking action, such as the number and population structure of wild pigs that caused nuisance in various locations, the food source that attracted wild pigs, the location and time of wild pigs' appearance, and the safety of the public. Then the department would assess the feasibility of the operation and take further action when appropriate;
- (d) she said that if the wild pigs were caught near the mountainside, after the anaesthetic injections, the wild pigs might immediately escape back into the mountain. If the terrain was steep, the wild pigs might slip off the mountainside or fall into the water. Therefore, some areas were not suitable for such operations;
- (e) she said that wild pigs moved and had a wide range of activities. The department would conduct operations against wild pigs of the same population. Therefore, operations in other areas could also help solve the wild pig problem in another area;
- (f) she said that the population structure of wild pigs would be considered when returning them. In order to protect the rights and interests of animals, female wild pigs would be returned in situ or nearby, and the reunion of female wild pigs and their young wild pigs would also be observed;
- (g) she said that wild pigs would be relocated to suitable rural areas, and the location of relocation would be decided based on the ratio of male to female wild pigs. She said that no wild pigs relocated to the countryside had caused any nuisances to the residential areas so far;
- (h) she said that the department would monitor and track wild pigs with good health to learn about the migration range of their population and whether they had returned to the nearby residential areas to cause nuisances;

- (i) she said that the department continued to educate the public, including educational work in country parks and educational seminars in schools. As the epidemic eased, the department would consider starting relevant work again; and
- (j) she said that the department could take enforcement actions in the no-feeding areas under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Chapter 170), and would also liaise with the FEHD or other departments to take prosecution or follow-up actions in the no-feeding areas to deal with the problem of wild pigs nuisance.

132. Mr Sebastian WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the AFCD was the more appropriate department to conduct on-site inspections and hunting operations; and
- (b) he said that the area committees under the STDO acted as a bridge between local stakeholders and government departments. He said that members of the West Two Area Committee had raised questions about wild pigs. The STDO also invited the AFCD, FEHD and HD to attend meetings last year. The members and departments continued to exchange views on wild pigs. He said that the department would continue to provide a platform to reflect public opinions to the department so that more effective operations would be taken at the district level.

133. The Chairman left the meeting early and the meeting was presided over by Mr CHAN Pui-ming, the Vice-Chairman.

134. The Vice-Chairman said that some members mentioned the issue of illegal reclamation, but the representative of the DLO/ST had left. He hoped that the STDO would reflect relevant opinions to the DLO/ST.

135. The Vice-Chairman said that cleaning service would be conducted in the conference room at 6:30 pm. He hoped that the members who wished to raise subsequent questions would put the question in a brief manner. He said that arrangements would be made after the discussion on this agenda item was over.

136. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised as below:

- (a) he asked if the FEHD could provide photos and information of the three new-style rubbish bins to members after the meeting;
- (b) he would like to learn from the AFCD whether they would only conduct capture operations in the areas where wild pigs attacked members of the public; and
- (c) he considered that holding educational seminars in schools was not very effective. He suggested that the department allocate additional resources to identify those people who fed wild pigs regularly and educate them directly.

137. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised as below:

- (a) he considered that conducting the education work in country parks by the AFCD would not be very effective. He suggested that the education work could be implemented near residential areas; and
- (b) he said that the prosecution authority of the FEHD and AFCD were limited. Since the problem of wild pig nuisances originated from illegal feeding, he hoped that the relevant departments could enhance the deterrent effect of prosecution of feeding of wild animals.

138. Mr Derek LAI briefly introduced the designs of three new-style rubbish bins.

139. The Vice-Chairman asked Mr Derek LAI whether he could provide the photos, descriptions and current location information of those three styles of rubbish bins to the HEC after the meeting. Mr Derek LAI said that relevant information would be provided to members after the meeting.

140. Ms Tamari YU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the department would consider the reasons for the appearance of wild pigs before taking action. If it was caused by environmental hygiene, solving the related hygiene problems would reduce the appearance of wild pigs. She said that wild pigs that appeared because of rubbish problem were more afraid of people and it was more difficult to take action against them;
- (b) she said that the department would also consider whether the capture area was close to residential areas and whether they could ensure the safety of the public and wild pigs. She said that she did not want to cause casualties to the public or wild pigs during the operations;
- (c) she said that some people would oppose and impede the department from taking capture actions. Furthermore, capture should not be the only way to deal with the nuisance caused by wild pigs. She said that the causes of the appearance of wild pigs should be made known and settled at the source; and
- (d) she said that the department would first hold educational seminars in country parks and schools. The relevant plan would also be extended to feeding blackspots and sterilisation operations, so as to enhance public awareness of the relevant work and educate the public to adopt the correct attitude towards wild animals.

141. The Vice-Chairman hoped that the Secretariat would follow up the written reply of the supplementary information with the FEHD and DLO/ST.

142. The Vice-Chairman announced the end of discussion on this item.

Question to be Raised by Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599)
(Paper No. HE 25/2020)

143. The Vice-Chairman said that since the representatives of government departments failed to attend the meeting, the question would be discussed at the next meeting.

Information Item

Report of Working Group
(Paper No. HE 26/2020)

144. Members noted the above paper.

Information Papers

Green Burial 2020
(Paper No. HE 29/2020)

145. The Vice-Chairman said that since the conference room needed to be cleaned, he asked the members whether cleaning service should be conducted first or they would carry on the discussion on the remaining agenda items.

146. Members said that they would carry on the discussion on the remaining agenda items.

147. The Vice-Chairman suggested that Green Burial 2020 (Paper No. HE 29/2020) should be discussed first. Since the re-prioritisation of the agenda items required approval by more than half of the members present, he asked the members if they agreed.

148. Members unanimously endorsed the re-prioritisation of the agenda items.

149. Mr LEE Pak-ho, Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development) (Special Duties) of the FEHD introduced the papers.

150. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised as below:

- (a) he asked whether the department had conducted traffic assessments for neighbouring areas during the peak period of ancestral worship after adding new niches. He would like to know the carrying capacity of the neighbouring road network and the carrying capacity of public transportation;
- (b) he suggested that the niche policy should be optimised by merging the niches of members of the same family, so as to reduce traffic pressure during ancestral worship;
- (c) he said that it was difficult to confirm the identity of the deceased in the temporary storage of ashes, and he asked how to avoid confusion of ashes;
- (d) he asked whether the week threshold for aborted fetuses could be broadened and placed in Garden of Forever Love; and

(e) he would like to know the progress of the Shek Mun Columbarium in Sha Tin.

151. Mr Jimmy SHAM said that making good use of the niche policy to allow close relatives or closely tied of the deceased to be placed in the same niche. He would like to know whether someone's ashes could be placed in the same niche of her husband. If not, he suggested that the department consider the relevant arrangements.

152. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that there were no barrier-free facilities on the ferry for scattering cremated ashes at sea. It was difficult for wheelchair users to move. He suggested that the department should consider the relevant arrangements;
- (b) he would like to know the department's staffing arrangement and scope of work in respect of scattering cremated ashes at sea each time; and
- (c) he said that the water-soluble plastic bags provided by the department failed to meet the needs of people of different religions. He suggested that the department should consider the relevant arrangement and confirm the status of the ashes in advance before cremated ashes were scattered at sea.

153. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised as below:

- (a) he would like to know the traffic of the Memorial website and the data of the public using the website to mourn for their ancestors. He was concerned that using the website to mourn for the ancestors failed to comply with traditional filial piety;
- (b) he considered that the functions of the website overlapped with other social platforms; and
- (c) he asked the department how many resources had been injected into the website.

154. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised as below:

- (a) he asked whether it would set up a Garden of Remembrance in Shek Mun;
- (b) he would like to know the use of "Digital Worshipping Station" and the reactions of the public to it. He asked whether "Digital Worshipping Station" would be added to other Gardens of Remembrance or the newly built ones;
- (c) he considered that there were too few places for family members or relatives and friends to who joined the farewell ceremony of scattering cremated ashes at sea, and he proposed to increase the number of places;
- (d) he would like to know the arrangements and restrictions of sea memorial activities;
- (e) he asked how to solve the problem if the family members of the registrants of the central register did not arrange green burial according to their wishes; and

- (f) he asked about the definition of “closely related ancestors” in the policy of making good use of niches.

155. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised as below:

- (a) he considered that the publicity of green burial was insufficient, and he suggested that the department should strengthen publicity to let more people know about the programme;
- (b) he said that the demand for scattering cremated ashes at sea had increased, and he hoped that the department would provide additional services during holidays; and
- (c) he hoped that the department would cater for the needs of different religious ceremonies in the programme of scattering cremated ashes at sea.

156. Mr LEE Pak-ho gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) foetuses under 24 weeks could not be issued a cremation permit. Therefore, parents could apply for burial at Garden of Forever Love for foetuses under 24 weeks of age. Parents could apply for cremation for foetuses over 24 weeks old;
- (b) the department would identify suitable locations throughout Hong Kong for the construction of public columbarium, and would also reserve space for the construction of gardens of remembrance. He said that when the department built the columbarium, it would calculate the overall traffic flow;
- (c) he said that the department had not yet collected data on the reduction of traffic load resulted from making good use of niches;
- (d) to encourage the public to make good use of the niche, when applying for a new public columbarium, if the niche would store the ashes of more than one deceased, the department would provide an additional ballot paper;
- (e) he said that the family members of the temporary storage of ashes must hold a permit for collecting ashes, which set out the information of the deceased. The department also provided radio frequency identification and barcodes to properly record the ashes. When family members received the ashes, both parties must sign to confirm the identity of the deceased;
- (f) he said that the columbarium in Shek Mun had not yet been completed;
- (g) he said that in the policy of making good use of niches, ancestors who shared niches needed not to be related by blood. The department would also consider applications by cohabitants, but proof of residential address must be provided;
- (h) the department was aware that the public views on the addition of barrier-free facilities on ferries for scattering cremated ashes at sea, but currently it was very difficult for the relevant vessels to meet the relevant conditions. He said that the department would contact individual family members to solve the problem;

- (i) he said that the ferry service of scattering cremated ashes at sea was under an outsourced service contract. The service provider was responsible for liaising with family members and arranging seats. Staff of the FEHD would also, on the ferry, explain the ash scattering process and open the memorial website;
- (j) he said that although family members could decide whether water-soluble plastic bags would be used, the use of plastic bags could ensure that the entire ashes would dissolve in the sea, and prevent the ashes from being left in the chute and affecting the next user;
- (k) he said that it took time for the community to accept green burial. The department would continue to increase the utilisation rate through promotion. As of February, the mobile application of the memorial website had been downloaded approximately 7 000 times. Due to the epidemic, the downloads of related app increased in February and March;
- (l) he said that all new columbarium would have gardens of remembrance if feasible. The next new garden of remembrance would be located at the Tsang Tsui Columbarium in Tuen Mun. It would be the largest columbarium in Hong Kong with over 10 000 plaques;
- (m) he said that the department would flexibly adjust the quota of participants based on the number of passengers carried by the ferry and the application of each family member;
- (n) as more and more people participated in sea memorial sails, an applicant could only bring 1 relative or friend. During the Ching Ming Festival this year, the department had organised 6 activities as required with about 400 participants;
- (o) he said that the central register was voluntary. When the department received an application from a registrant, it would also send a letter to the relevant contact persons to let them know the wishes of the registrant. If the family members did not choose green burials, the department could only respect the wishes of the family members;
- (p) he said that in the policy of making good use of niches, the department would also consider those people who were cohabitants;
- (q) he said that the department would organise activities in residential care homes/centres for the elderly. In addition to the District Councils, the department also visited the area committees for publicity last year; and
- (r) he said that the department would review the application situation from time to time and increase the frequency of the ferry service of scattering cremated ashes at sea if necessary.

157. The Vice-Chairman asked the representative of the STDO to respond to the support for ethnic minorities regarding funeral and interment.

158. Mr Sebastian WONG said that green burial was a policy of the FEHD. If the department needed support in respect of ethnic minorities, the STDO was willing to provide assistance.

159. The Vice-Chairman learnt that the FEHD would provide 40 000 temporary storage facilities for ashes in the next two years. He hoped that the department would provide the completion time and location after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The department had increased the temporary storage of ashes in appropriate locations in Wo Hop Shek.)

160. The Vice-Chairman announced the end of discussion on this agenda item.

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2020 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. HE 27/2020)

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 March 2020)
(Paper No. HE 28/2020)

161. The Vice-Chairman said that due to the time constraints, he hoped to shorten the time of the meeting, and members were asked to make brief comments.

162. Mr Raymond LI considered that it took more time to discuss the paper and hoped to leave the paper for discussion at the next meeting.

163. Mr Michael YUNG said that if the paper was discussed at the next meeting, the timing would be no longer appropriate. He suggested having short questions and short answers. The members could ask department representatives to follow up this matter after the meeting if the members had the needs.

164. The Vice-Chairman asked members to give comments briefly so that Mr Derek LAI could give a brief response.

165. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he said that with the onset of the rainy season, there were more construction sites in the constituency, which was likely to cause mosquito problem and rodent infestation. He would like to know about the inspections of construction sites carried out by the FEHD;
- (b) he said that during the epidemic, the rodent control in the community was suspended and he would like to know the situation; and
- (c) he said that restaurants occupying public places and the ways of handling food waste were not satisfactory. He would like to know whether the department would conduct spot checks other than general inspections, and deal with the issue and communicate with relevant departments.

166. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that members of the public had reported that there were mosquitoes in high-rise residential buildings. He said that the housing estates and shopping malls in the constituency were managed by different property companies, and he hoped that the department and the management office would strengthen cooperation to deal with mosquitoes; and
- (b) he said that Ma On Shan Promenade was infested with mosquitoes but the number of mosquito traps was insufficient. He asked whether the LCSD would consider installing small solar-power mosquito killers to improve the mosquito problem on the promenade. He would like to know what new measures the department had.

167. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that the Mosquito Control Campaign and the Rodent Control Campaign had similar locations and personnel in charge. He asked whether the two were working at the same time and whether there was work aimed at mosquitoes;
- (b) he would like to know about the cooperation between the department and local stakeholders in anti-mosquito work;
- (c) he said that he did not know about the cooperation and communication between the FEHD and the HD on mosquito control. He hoped that the paper could explain the relevant work with more details;
- (d) he would like to know the criteria of the department for the removal of banners; and
- (e) he hoped that the department would strengthen hygiene education on mosquito control, cleaning and rodent control.

168. The views of Mr YEUNG Sze-kin were summarised as below:

- (a) he commended the FEHD for conducting mosquito killing operations in Kwong Yuen Estate once every two weeks; and
- (b) he hoped to find suitable locations in Kwong Yuen Estate and Kwong Hong District to install ovitrap and mosquito traps as soon as possible.

169. Mr LO Tak-ming said that when reporting the mosquito problem in Shui Chuen O Estate to the HD, the department said that the FEHD was responsible for it. However, Shui Chuen O Estate was not mentioned in the paper. He would like to know the reasons and hoped that the department would pay more attention to Shui Chuen O Estate in anti-mosquito work.

170. The views of the Vice-Chairman were summarised as below:

- (a) he said that the land in the constituency involved different stakeholders and he hoped that the department would work closely with all stakeholders; and

- (b) he hoped that the department would follow up with the members of the relevant constituencies on construction arrangements for the Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet and Sheung Pai Tau Village Public Toilet after the meeting.

171. Mr Ricardo LIAO said that the residents of Shek Kwu Lung Village and hikers were concerned about the renovation project of the public toilets in Shek Kwu Lung Village. He said that he had never seen the contractor carrying out construction works, and he would like to know the current progress of the project and the obstacles.

172. Mr Derek LAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that even though the pest control team was in charge of both the anti-mosquito and anti-rodent campaigns, the purposes and work of the two campaigns were different;
- (b) he said that the purpose of providing papers was to encourage the public to actively participate in relevant campaigns, such as cleaning up stagnant water at home to reduce mosquito infestation;
- (c) he said that starting from 15 April, relevant departments had jointly participated in the territory-wide All-out Anti-mosquito Operations. The department had also used sprays to kill mosquitoes in 35 places near residential areas and bushes;
- (d) he said that as summer was coming, the second phase of the mosquito control campaign was implemented to strengthen the effectiveness of mosquito control;
- (e) he said that he would follow up with Mr CHENG Chung-hang on mosquito problem in housing estates and shopping malls;
- (f) he said that the department would work with the HD or other relevant departments to deal with the mosquito problem in the housing estate;
- (g) he said that mosquito control work was being carried out in public places near Shui Chuen O Estate, such as the vicinity of Pok Hong Estate. He said that he would review the contents of the relevant papers;
- (h) he said the department would work with the DLO/ST to carry out operations to remove banners in accordance with the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials; and
- (i) he said that the department was communicating with the Pest Control Advisory Section on the installation of mosquito traps.

173. The Vice-Chairman announced the end of discussion on this item.

174. Members noted the above paper.

Date of next meeting

175. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 7 July 2020 (Tuesday).

176. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

September 2020