

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of  
the Tuen Mun District Council**

Date: 11 March 2024 (Monday)

Time: 2:36 p.m.

Venue: Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) Conference Room

**Present :**

Mr KWAN Ke-lin, Michael, JP (Chairman)	District Officer (Tuen Mun), Home Affairs Department and TMDC Chairman
The Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth, SBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Yau-hoi, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member
Ms CHING Chi-hung, MH, JP	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo, MH	TMDC Member
Ms SO Ka-man	TMDC Member
Mr WAN Tin-chong, MH	TMDC Member
Mr TSANG Hin-hong, MH	TMDC Member
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member
Mr YIP Man-pan, MH	TMDC Member
Ms LAI Ka-man	TMDC Member
Mr HO Jun-hang, Benton	TMDC Member
Mr LI Chiu-hung	TMDC Member
Mr LAM Tik-fai	TMDC Member
Ms CHAN Mang-yi, Vincci	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Ho-ting, Mac	TMDC Member
Dr CHAN Kwai-wao	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Tsim-heng	TMDC Member
Ms MAK Mei-ye, Pamela	TMDC Member
Mr CHUI King-hang	TMDC Member
Mr FUNG Pui-yin	TMDC Member
Mr FUNG Yuk-fung, MH	TMDC Member
Mr TSANG Hing-chung	TMDC Member
Mr YIP Kat-kong, Kenneth	TMDC Member
Mr IP Chun-yuen	TMDC Member
Mr CHENG Yin-kwan, Andy	TMDC Member
Mr TSOI Shing-hin	TMDC Member
Mr TSE Wing-hang	TMDC Member

Ms TSE Yuk-ling	TMDC Member
Mr KWONG Man-tik	TMDC Member
Mr CHUNG Kin-fung	TMDC Member
Mr LAU Chun-fai, Lawrence (Secretary)	Senior Executive Manager (District Council), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

By Invitation :

Ms HO Chui-hang, Edith	Senior Engineer, Tuen Mun, Drainage Services Department
Mr NG Yiu-lun	Senior Marine Officer, Planning and Development (3), Marine Department
Mr LAM Yiu-kai	Marine Officer, Harbour Patrol Section (3), Marine Department
Mr PUN Pui-hong, Peter	Senior Assistant Shipping Master, Harbour Patrol Section (3), Marine Department
Mr YUEN Wai-on	Senior Assistant Shipping Master, West, Marine Department

In Attendance :

Ms LEUNG Chue-kay, Koronis	Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) 1, Home Affairs Department
Mr CHAN Yik-lung, Eron	Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) 2, Home Affairs Department
Mr LAU Yu-hang, Henry	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Miss YU Mei-yu, Melinder	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Ms CHAN Yin-ling, Cannes	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Miss FONG Yuen Wah, Irene	Senior Liaison Officer (4), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Ms LEE Hang-yi, Wilda	Senior Engineer 5 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms HON Hin-yan	Chief School Development Officer (Tuen Mun), Education Bureau
Ms HO Yuen-ming, Agnes	District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun), Social Welfare Department
Mr FUNG Koon-yue	District Environment Hygiene Superintendent (Tuen Mun), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr WONG Chun-hung, Samuel	Chief Manager/Management (Tuen Mun and Yuen Long), Housing Department
Ms TAM On-kei, Susan	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories North), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TSENG Chieh, Elsa	District Leisure Manager (Tuen Mun), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr NG Kwok-cheung	District Commander (Tuen Mun), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LAU Hung-yin	Chief Inspector of Police (Tuen Mun), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWOK Ho-ling	Officer-in-charge, District Intelligence Section, TMDIST, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEE Chi-keung, Kenneth	District Lands Officer/Tuen Mun (District Lands Office, Tuen Mun), Lands Department
Ms CHANG Yuet-ming, Charlene	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tuen Mun), Lands Department
Mr AU Hei-fan, Raymond	District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West, Planning Department
Mr CHEUNG Chi-yeung, Fabian	Chief Transport Officer/New Territories North West, Transport Department
Ms CHAN Mei-ting, Emily (Assistant Secretary)	Executive Officer I (District Council) 1, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

**I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all Members present to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the seventh term TMDC. He also extended welcome to government department representatives in attendance at the meeting.

2. The Chairman requested that members of the public observing the meeting take note that the areas on either side of the screen of the overhead projector located at the back of the conference room were designated as press areas. Only journalists who were registered and issued with a media sticker as identification were permitted to stay. Other members of the public were required to stay in the public galleries to observe the meeting. Journalists should also stay within the press areas for photographing.

3. The Chairman continued that, as the audio recording of the meeting would be uploaded to the TMDC website, Members who wished to speak should first press the “Request to Speak” button under the screen of the audio system and wait to speak, and should speak only after he signalled them to do so. The meeting would be conducted according to the order of business on the agenda. To ensure the efficiency of the meeting, the Chairman asked all Members to keep their speeches concise and avoid repetition.

**II. Absence from Meeting**

4. The Secretary reported that the Secretariat had received no applications for leave of absence from Members.

**III. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting held on 5 January 2024**

5. The Chairman stated that the draft minutes of the first meeting held on 5 January 2024 were sent to all attendees for perusal on 7 March 2024, and no suggestions for amendments were received thereafter. No Member proposed amendments at the meeting, and the Chairman thus declared the minutes confirmed.

**IV. Matter Arising**

**(A) Study on Issues of Community Concern and Collection of Public Views**

**(TMDC Paper No. 9/2024 & 10/2024)**

6. The Chairman stated that during the first TMDC meeting held on 5 January 2024, Members were asked to collect opinions from residents and relevant parties on two research topics, namely “Transport Infrastructure and Facilities” and “Stimulating Local Employment”, for submission of a summary of the views and

suggested corresponding measures to the Government. In this regard, Members submitted reports to the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) and the Social Welfare and Housing Committee (SWHC) under the TMDC for preliminary discussion. Subsequently, the Secretariat compiled relevant information, and the summary reports were included in the annexes to the two papers. The Chairman pointed out that both topics were long-standing concerns for residents of the Tuen Mun District and required extended discussion and follow-up. In response, he suggested selecting several key projects from the opinions and proposed solutions collected by Members for further in-depth discussion by the relevant committees, and then for deliberation and approval by the TMDC before submission to relevant departments for consideration. As for “Transport Infrastructure and Facilities”, he recommended prioritising the discussion on “Optimising Facilities of the Tuen Mun Road Bus-Bus Interchange (TMRBBI)” and “Improvements Works on Lung Fu Road, Wong Chu Road and Hoi Wing Road”. Regarding “Stimulating Local Employment”, he suggested having further discussion on “Transformation of Industrial Buildings” and “Accelerating Revitalisation”. The Chairman hoped that Members would follow up on the issues along the aforementioned direction and provide government departments with suggestions of reference value and practicality.

7. Mr Mac CHAN expressed his support for discussion and follow-up arrangements for the two topics. He pointed out that the issues were long-standing problems in the Tuen Mun District, which were undoubtedly difficult to tackle, leading to their unresolved status over the years. He believed that with various expertise within the TMDC, Members could brainstorm and find innovative ways to solve these problems; and with more data and information provided by relevant departments, the TMDC could collect opinions from the public more appropriately and conduct more specific discussions, allowing for a more efficient resolution of the issues.

8. Mr CHUNG Kin-fung expressed his support for the follow-up arrangements for major issues. Regarding the follow-up handling of the issues, he believed that the transport issue related to the TMRBBI was relatively easier to address, which the TD could primarily follow up on. However, as for revitalisation of industrial buildings, it would involve cross-departmental work, including the Planning Department, the Town Planning Board, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, and the Development Bureau (DEVB). Therefore, he hoped that more representatives from relevant departments would be invited to attend the TMDC meetings in the future, allowing the authorities to directly hear Members’ opinions and respond to their questions during discussion.

9. Ms SO Ka-man expressed support for the Chairman's proposal to focus discussions on transport facilities and revitalisation of industrial buildings. Regarding the transport issue, she suggested that in addition to the two discussion items mentioned by the Chairman, the TMDC should consider discussing the franchise of the Tai Lam Tunnel within the year. She continued that reducing the toll for Tai Lam Tunnel would help alleviate the overall traffic congestion in Tuen Mun, and believed that the franchise was a long-standing issue and a concern for various stakeholders, hence it must be resolved promptly. Given the severe traffic congestion in Tuen Mun, she hoped the TMDC would seize the opportunity to delve into this issue.

10. The Chairman stated that the purpose of selecting discussion items was to provide direction for discussion at the coming committees' meetings, and in the coming year, the TMDC would not be limited to discussing only the two selected items. Regarding the Tai Lam Tunnel, there was currently limited room for discussion in the TMDC as its franchise period had not expired. He pointed out that the public might be more concerned about the tunnel toll charges after the end of the franchise period, as well as other traffic arrangements and road facilities. Therefore, the TMDC would still have the opportunity to discuss this topic in the future.

11. Mr Fabian CHEUNG of the Transport Department (TD) stated that the Build-Operate-Transfer Franchise of the Tai Lam Tunnel would expire in May 2025, after which it would be taken over by the Government to become a government tunnel. The Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) and the TD had set up an inter-departmental working group to carry out the necessary preparatory work for the takeover of the tunnel, including the preparation for setting up HKeToll facilities in order to launch free-flow tolling service as soon as the Government took over the tunnel. The Government was also reviewing the future toll levels of the Tai Lam Tunnel, and would take account of relevant factors such as traffic management needs, the capacity and capability of road network in the vicinity, and the impact on alternative routes.

12. Mr Leo CHAN stated that the Chairman raised two important items for discussion, among which the revitalisation of industrial buildings involved the policy on the use of industrial buildings across the territory. He hoped that opinions from stakeholders in the Tuen Mun District could be effectively reflected to relevant policy bureaux. He suggested that after the policy bureaux collected opinions from all districts in Hong Kong, they should study how to remove red

tape for the policy to promote the revitalisation of industrial buildings. In addition, he believed that the transport issue in the Tuen Mun District, such as providing additional services at the TMRBBI, was more easily achievable at the District Council level. He suggested that in addition to inviting departments to respond, professional opinions could also be sought, for example, by inviting representatives from professional associations in construction industry, such as the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, and the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, to attend the TMDC meetings.

13. Mr MO Shing-fung supported focusing the discussion at the next TTC meeting on transport issues on the TMRBBI, Lung Fu Road, Wong Chu Road, and Hoi Wing Road. However, he also wanted to know how to optimise and enhance the transport connectivity within the Tuen Mun District, such as the plans prepared by the TD, bus companies, and minibus operators to optimise bus routes, increase service frequency on minibuses, light rail routes and bus routes, or introduce new routes. In this regard, he hoped that relevant public organisations could provide an overview on the latest development in public transport route planning at the next TTC meeting.

14. The Chairman concluded the discussion by saying that for certain district-specific topics, such as transport facilities at the TMRBBI, he hoped that relevant departments would follow up promptly after discussions at committees' meetings. Other topics that involved broader scopes, such as revitalisation of industrial buildings, were not unique to the Tuen Mun District, but it was still worth discussing at the District Council level as it would have an impact on employment and economic ecology across the Tuen Mun District. Regarding other issues of concern to Members, the TMDC would continue to follow up. The suggestion to invite representatives of relevant departments to attend meetings would also be considered by the TMDC, and relevant departments would be invited to provide corresponding information for Members' reference in order to facilitate effective discussions. He indicated that the two topics would be further discussed by the TTC and the SWHC.

## **V. Discussion Items**

### **(A) Concern about Vessel Berthing Problems at Tuen Mun River and Berthing Facility Issues at Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter** **(TMDC Paper No. 11/2024)**

15. The Chairman welcomed Mr NG Yiu-lun, Senior Marine Officer, Planning and Development (3), Mr LAM Yiu-kai, Marine Officer, Harbour Patrol Section (3), Mr Peter PUN, Senior Assistant Shipping Master, Harbour Patrol Section (3),

and Mr YUEN Wai-on, Senior Assistant Shipping Master, West, of the Marine Department (MD); and Ms Edith HO, Senior Engineer, Tuen Mun of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) to the meeting. The Chairman stated that regarding the captioned issues, Mr CHUNG Kin-fung and Mr CHUI King-hang, the proposers of the paper, along with Legislative Council (LegCo) Members Hon Steven HO Chun-yin and Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding, previously sent a letter to the DEVB, the TLB, the DSD, and the MD, and the MD had provided a response. Members could first have a discussion on it, and then refer the issue to the District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC) for further follow-up.

16. Mr CHUNG Kin-fung, the first proposer of the paper, stated that he previously visited Tuen Mun River with the representatives from the MD, the DSD, and other government departments. Given the multitude of government departments involved, he would like to invite each responsible department to provide an overview of the issues concerning berthing and rubbish in Tuen Mun River. He suggested that the MD, the DSD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) should each supplement information within their respective purview before answering Members' related questions. Then, the issue could be referred to the DFWC for in-depth discussion.

17. Ms Edith HO of the DSD stated that the DSD was mainly responsible for the maintenance of Tuen Mun River to ensure its proper functioning and drainage capacity. The suggestion regarding interception of floating refuse and environmental pollutants should be followed up by other government departments. In this regard, the DSD had forwarded the letter from Members to the relevant departments for follow-up.

18. Mr CHUI King-hang expressed concern that the issue of insufficient berths in Tuen Mun River had been worsening. Due to the severe lack of berths in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter, boats were increasingly tending to berth further inside Tuen Mun River. He considered fishbone berthing spaces as one of the potential solutions, although the MD had reservations about the suggestion. Overall, due to the limited space for embarking and disembarking and insufficient berths in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter, it was not uncommon to see passengers disembarked from a boat in a dangerous way, such as "jumping from one boat to another", "climbing the boulders along the shore", and "making use of hand-pulled ferries or rafts made by themselves", exacerbating the issue of illegal berthing in Tuen Mun River. In response, he suggested that floating docks should be added along both sides of Castle Peak Bay Waterfront Promenade, which would not only improve



safety for embarking and disembarking but also guide boats to exit from Tuen Mun River. He hoped that government departments would not only adopt short-term measures to combat illegal berthing but also establish ongoing measures to improve the situation. Moreover, regarding the marine refuse and pollution caused by discharge of waste oil from illegally berthed boats, he recommended that the DSD install floating barriers at the river mouth south of Sun Tuen Mun Centre. In the long run, since the two issues were closely related, he hoped that government departments could address the root causes of the illegal berthing problem to improve the overall condition of Tuen Mun River.

19. Mr IP Chun-yuen expressed that some Members did not receive the relevant response from the MD. He also enquired whether Tuen Mun River was currently fully open, allowing any vessels to enter and berth legally. Furthermore, he sought to understand the current division of responsibilities and criteria for the management of silt and rubbish in the river channel, including the section north of Tuen Mun Station, the section between Tuen Mun Station and Tuen Yee Bridge, and the section between Tuen Yee Bridge and Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter, and which government departments were in charge. In addition, in response to the DSD's statement that matters other than flood drainage were outside their purview, he asked which departments were responsible for follow-up. Lastly, there were currently large-sized cradles, spanning tens of meters in both dimensions, used for engineering purposes at Tuen Mun River. He wanted to know the departments responsible for managing the facilities, as well as clearance arrangements.

20. Mr CHUNG Kin-fung asked the DSD about which department should follow up on the management of facilities such as floating barriers. He noted that the DSD stated they were responsible for the maintenance of river channel, and he questioned whether setting up floating barriers in river channel also fell under their purview. He continued that the issues of Tuen Mun River involved cross-departmental work; for example, nails and ladders on riverbanks were managed by the CEDD; rubbish floating on Tuen Mun River was managed by the FEHD; and rubbish at riverbed was managed by the MD. Therefore, he wanted each department to clarify their respective management responsibilities. In addition, he made enquiries about the legality of berthing in Tuen Mun River and the unauthorised structures at the river. He mentioned that the issues of Tuen Mun River greatly troubled the residents of Lung Mun Oasis and Glorious Garden. During an inspection, he compared the situation of illegal berthing in Tuen Mun River from years ago using satellite images and found that the situation had worsened. Moreover, due to social gathering restrictions during the pandemic, gathering on boats became prevalent, with the associated vessels discharging

sewage into Tuen Mun River. While this might be tolerable in the winter, it led to foul-smelling water in the summer, affecting environmental hygiene. Therefore, he hoped to identify the responsible departments for the aforementioned issues.

[Post-meeting note: The CEDD provided supplementary information after the meeting, clarifying that they were not the managing department for the nails and ladders on riverbanks. In past joint operations, the Department was responsible for assisting relevant departments in removing nails and ladders from river walls.]

21. Mr NG Yiu-lun of the MD stated that regarding the responsibilities among various departments for cleaning up rubbish in Tuen Mun River, the MD was primarily responsible for clearing floating marine refuse, including the floating refuse within the Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter area. As for the rubbish in Tuen Mun River, it was followed up by other relevant departments. In response to Mr CHUI King-hang's suggestion about fishbone berthing spaces and floating docks, generally, public landing facilities set up by the Government, including public piers and landing steps, were mainly for local vessels to embark and disembark passengers, not for long-term berthing of vessels. If necessary, crew members could use ferry services and public piers for safe landing or boarding. Regarding the suggestion of fishbone berthing spaces, the Department conducted the "Assessment of Typhoon Shelter Space Requirements" in 2022 and carried out a feasibility study on setting up fishbone berthing spaces. The results showed that the use of fishbone berthing spaces required pre-planning, design, and assembly based on the size of berthed vessels, which had less flexibility and was not suitable for shared use by local vessels of various categories and sizes on a first-come, first-served basis. Moreover, fishbone berthing spaces occupied more water body area, so the number of vessels that could be berthed in the same water body area would have to be reduced by half, and it would not be possible to arrange all vessels in Tuen Mun River and Castle Peak Bay to berth. Therefore, the Department believed that fishbone berthing spaces were currently not feasible for Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter. Regarding the suggestion of setting up floating barriers to intercept rubbish in Tuen Mun River, if any relevant policy bureaux or departments intended to do so, the Department would also provide advice on maritime navigation safety.

22. Mr LAM Yiu-kai of the MD stated that the Department had previously responded to enquiries from some LegCo Members regarding berthing regulations in Tuen Mun River. According to current legal requirements, except in restricted waters, local vessels might be anchored at any safe and suitable locations within

Hong Kong waters according to their daily needs. Since Tuen Mun River was not in restricted waters, local vessels were allowed to berth there. However, the MD would not tolerate any violations of maritime legislation. For instance, between June 2023 and February 2024, the Department conducted 27 patrols in the waters of Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter, Castle Peak Bay, and Tuen Mun River. During these patrols, removal notices were affixed on 278 unauthorised floating structures, including cradles and rafts, to request owners to remove the objects within a specified deadline. Out of these, 204 unauthorised floating structures were removed before the deadline. Given the severity of the situation in the aforementioned waters, the Department, in collaboration with the Marine Police, initiated a joint operation on 26 February to strengthen enforcement. During the operation, it was found that 21 unauthorised floating structures identified earlier were cleared as instructed. For the remaining eight that had not been cleared, the Department arranged a contractor for the removal. The Department would continue to cooperate with the Marine Police and arrange joint operations as resources allowed. He added that during the last joint operation on 26 February, the Department issued removal instructions to 14 newly identified unauthorised floating structures and would continue to monitor the situation in March.

23. Ms Edith HO of the DSD stated that the Department was responsible for maintenance work and ensuring drainage capacity. To this end, it carried out regular desilting operations for the section north of Tuen Mun Station, while desilting operations for the section south of Tuen Mun Station were managed by the CEDD.

24. Mr TSANG Hin-hong mentioned that some Members did not receive response letters from the MD regarding the captioned matters. He noted that residents living along Tuen Mun River, including residents of Yau Oi Estate, reported that the problem of vessels berthing in Tuen Mun River was becoming increasingly serious. He learnt that the MD did not adopt a lax attitude towards the berthing of vessels and had recently launched joint operations with the Marine Police to clear illegal maritime obstructions. In this regard, he enquired whether the Department had initiated actions to track individuals who illegally placed obstructions. He also asked what measures the Department would take if an individual was identified for repeated violation. In addition, he sought to understand how various departments coordinate the clean-up of rubbish in the river channel. Finally, regarding flood drainage, the DSD indicated that different departments were responsible for clearing in different waters. He enquired whether departments would prepare and coordinate with each other in advance to

prevent obstructions from affecting flood drainage work.

25. Mr CHAN Yau-hoi agreed with the Chairman that the captioned matters were complex and involved the management work of many government departments. Since the matters would be followed up by the DFWC, he suggested that the Secretariat invite representatives of relevant departments to attend the DFWC meeting so that all government departments could prepare relevant information for Members' reference. He highlighted that he would be asking at the DFWC meeting about how the law enforcement departments handled violations related to Tuen Mun River.

26. Mr NG Yiu-lun of the MD stated that on 5 February 2024, the Department received a letter from LegCo Members Hon Steven HO Chun-yin and Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding, along with Mr CHUNG Kin-fung and Mr CHUI King-hang of the TMDC, and it made a reply on 26 February 2024. If necessary, the Department could forward the letter via the Secretariat to all Members for their reference.

27. Mr LAM Yiu-kai of the MD responded that regarding how the Department handled unauthorised floating structures, under normal circumstances, the Department followed established procedures to give owners of unauthorised floating structures an appropriate notice period, requesting them to remove the structures. If no one claimed ownership, the Department would arrange a contractor to remove and dispose of the structures to prevent reusing. Regarding collaboration with other departments, the MD always actively maintained contact with relevant departments and invited them to launch joint operations and work together to address the issues in Tuen Mun River. The Department was currently awaiting responses from relevant departments.

28. The Chairman stated that a copy of the reply letter from the MD had been forwarded to him, and noted that the content of the letter was similar to the MD's response at the meeting; therefore, he asked the Secretariat to forward the reply letter to Members.

[Post-meeting note: On 5 April 2024, the Secretariat forwarded the MD's response letter dated 26 February 2024 and addressed to relevant LegCo Members and TMDC Members, via email to all TMDC Members for their reference.]

29. Mr KAM Man-fung suggested considering enacting legislation to designate Tuen Mun River as a no-berthing area. He mentioned that he followed up on the

issue in the previous-term TMDC, during which inter-departmental joint actions were initiated. The joint actions, coordinated by the Tuen Mun District Office (TMDO), involved a wide range of departments, including the TMDO, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the CEDD, the DSD, and the MD. The CEDD assisted relevant departments in removing berthing bollards from river walls. Subsequently, as boat owners could no longer secure their boats through bollards, they ceased to berth there. In response, he suggested that when the DFWC discussed this issue, representatives of the CEDD should be invited to the meeting to explore the possibility of regularly dispatching staff to saw off illegally added berthing bollards next to river walls, to prevent vessels from berthing. He believed that by legislating and amending regulations to designate Tuen Mun River as a no-berthing area, or by having the CEDD regularly remove unauthorised mooring facilities, the problem could be effectively resolved.

[Post-meeting note: The CEDD provided supplementary information after the meeting regarding the request for regular actions, indicating that the current mechanism required coordination by relevant departments and notices to be affixed for removal of properties or structures on unleased land in accordance with the existing legislation, Cap. 28 Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance. Only then could the Department assist in removing unauthorised mooring facilities on river walls.]

30. Mr Mac CHAN expressed that some Members did not receive the response letter from the MD, making it difficult to discuss based on the content. He stated that a typhoon shelter was used for two purposes: for regular berthing facilities, or for vessels to take shelter during adverse weather conditions. Geographically speaking, Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter was quite distant from the other 14 typhoon shelters in Hong Kong, making it necessary for nearby vessels to berth in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter. According to the records of LegCo, when super typhoon Mangkhut hit Hong Kong in 2018, the usage of Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter reached 100%, whereas those in urban area did not reach 100%. In this regard, he wanted the MD to provide data on the usage rate of Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter during major typhoons over the past few years at the upcoming meeting of the DFWC. In addition, he enquired about the current studies and long-term planning of the MD regarding designated berthing areas, dragon boat berthing spaces, and expansion of typhoon shelters. He hoped that the Department would submit documents at the upcoming DFWC meeting to enhance the efficiency of the discussion.

31. Mr CHUI King-hang expressed that in addition to setting restricted areas for berthing, authorities needed to seriously address the issue of illegal berthing with ropes. He also questioned the effectiveness of the MD's actions in combating illegal berthing, suggesting that berthing regulations should evolve with the times and not adhere to outdated concept for regulation, in order to meet current needs. In addition, he believed that the Department's statement that there was not enough space in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter for fishbone berthing spaces did not reflect the whole situation. He pointed out that if smaller boats in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter could berth peripherally, there would be potential to free up more space. However, the current situation was mainly due to the lack of space for embarking and disembarking in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter.

32. Mr NG Yiu-lun of the MD stated that the Department would send the typhoon shelter usage data to Members through the Secretariat. Regarding the future planning and berthing arrangements in typhoon shelters, the Department completed the "Assessment of Typhoon Shelter Space Requirements 2022-2035" in 2022. The results showed that the overall supply of typhoon shelter berthing area in Hong Kong until 2023 would be sufficient to meet the needs of local vessels. In this regard, the Department would continue to closely monitor the development of the situation. If future regular assessments revealed a shortage of typhoon shelter berths, the Department would explore the feasibility of expanding existing typhoon shelters or constructing new ones. In addition, if other bureaux and departments needed existing typhoon shelters to be expended to cater for their policies, the MD would provide opinions on maritime traffic and vessel navigation safety. Regarding the measure of designated berthing areas, the MD was currently implementing the measure of designating berthing areas according to different types of vessels in Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter on a trial basis. If the administrative measure could improve the order of vessel berthing, the Department would consider gradually implementing the measure in other typhoon shelters on a case-by-case basis. However, implementing the measure of designated berthing areas in typhoon shelters required in-depth consultation with relevant stakeholders in the local community to reach a mutual consensus for smooth execution. As for the suggestion to improve landing facilities, Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter already had various landing facilities and steps for local vessels to embark and disembark passengers. If relevant bureaux and departments required new landing facilities to meet transport needs, the Department would also provide opinions on constructing new landing facilities from the perspectives of maritime traffic and navigation safety.

33. Mr MO Shing-fung stated that the MD indicated during the inspection that the suggestion to add floating barriers could only be considered in coordination with relevant departments, and also mentioned that handling marine floating refuse fell under the purview of the FEHD. In this regard, he enquired whether the Department had discussed relevant plan with the FEHD. He further noted that if the MD resolved the issue of illegal berthing in Tuen Mun River, the vessels originally berthed there might move to berth in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter. However, there were currently not enough berths in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter to accommodate all the vessels. In response, he suggested that the Department explore other methods to resolve the problem arising from the lack of berths, such as adding new berths in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter. He believed that the Department should take the initiative to lead other departments in addressing the issue of illegal berthing. In addition, during a previous inspection, it was observed that the landing facilities at Tuen Mun River were inadequate, and it was not uncommon to see elderly people aged around 70 to 80 disembarking from vessels, potentially posing a danger. He hoped that the Department would proactively address these issues rather than waiting and following up after such issues were raised by other departments. He wanted to know which departments were responsible for these matters so that he could relay concerns to the appropriate department.

34. Mr FUNG Pui-yin expressed that the problems with Tuen Mun River boiled down to insufficient berths in Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter and anchorages. During his previous inspection of Sam Shing, he found that there were not enough spaces and landing facilities for people to safely embark and disembark from vessels, which posed a danger. As a short-term measure, he suggested making improvements to embarking and disembarking facilities, believing that it would be easy to implement and welcome by all stakeholders. Regarding the policy for revitalising Tuen Mun River, the DSD previously conducted an inspection of the water quality and drainage capacity. He pointed out that if vessels continued to be allowed to berth in Tuen Mun River, there would inevitably be issues with garbage discharge, which would in no way improve the overall condition of Tuen Mun River in the long run. He believed that improving Tuen Mun River required comprehensive planning on multiple levels, such as the availability of sufficient space for berthing and the overall cleanliness of the river channel, which were key considerations for the revitalisation of Tuen Mun River.

35. Mr CHUNG Kin-fung suggested that the Chairman consider arranging for TMDC Members and various departments to conduct site inspections of Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter and Tuen Mun River. He pointed out that the captioned matter

fell under the purview of many government departments and could not be resolved easily. He hoped that when the DFWC followed up the matter later, it could work effectively with relevant stakeholders to prevent the condition of Tuen Mun River from worsening. Lastly, he hoped the Chairman could reflect the above situation at the level of district governance to solve the problem.

36. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD stated that the Department regularly arranged cleaning contractors to clear floating refuse on Tuen Mun River.

37. Mr NG Yiu-lun of the MD stated that the Department was primarily responsible for clearing floating refuse within typhoon shelters. As for the floating refuse on Tuen Mun River, the FEHD regularly arranged cleaning contractors to clean up. Regarding the suggestion of installing floating barriers, if any relevant bureaux or departments were interested in setting up floating barriers to intercept floating refuse on Tuen Mun River, the Department would also provide opinions on maritime navigation safety.

38. The Chairman concluded that the captioned matter would be followed up by the DFWC and requested that the MD and the DSD provide the latest information to all Members or the TMDC Secretariat before the next DFWC meeting, to facilitate a more practical and efficient discussion.

## **VI. Items for Information**

### **(A) Achievements of the Tuen Mun District 2024 Year-end Clean-up (TMDC Paper No. 13/2024)**

39. The Chairman stated that the order of agenda items would be rearranged to first discuss Item V (Achievements of the Tuen Mun District 2024 Year-end Clean-up) and then to discuss Item IV (Report by the Tuen Mun District, HKPF).

40. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD stated that to welcome the Year of the Dragon, the Department launched a 21-day year-end clean-up campaign across the territory from 16 January to 5 February 2024. It was one of the major events devised by the Department aimed at improving environmental hygiene. To tie in with the tradition of cleaning up before the Lunar New Year, and the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, the campaign was conducted in the following three phases: The first phase of the campaign focused on cleaning facilities such as public markets, cooked food centres, hawker bazaars, and related hygiene black spots in the district; during the second phase, the Tuen Mun District was divided into 13 sections for cleaning operations and mosquito and rodent prevention and control operations; in the final phase, the FEHD's staff revisited the



spots covered in the first and second phases for additional cleaning to ensure the cleanliness of the district. The results of the clean-up campaign were detailed in the annex to the report for Members' reference.

41. Mr CHAN Yau-hoi mentioned that the overall environmental hygiene condition in the Tuen Mun District, including issues related to rodent infestation, market cleanliness, and shop front extensions, had improved over the past year. He hoped that the Department would continue to make good efforts on community cleansing. In addition, he noticed that residents often placed transportation tools such as wooden carts, iron carts, and bicycles at the central dividers of the carriageways in the areas around Shek Pai Tau Road, Ming Kum Road, and Tsun Wen Road. In this regard, he hoped the Department would follow up on such issue.

42. Mr LI Chiu-hung stated that he and other TMDC Members were invited to participate in the Tuen Mun District 2024 Year-end Clean-up held at On Ting Estate. In this regard, he asked the Department whether On Ting Estate was one of the 14 locations inspected by Members as mentioned in item six of the paper.

43. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the issue of transportation tools being placed at the central dividers of carriageways, the Department arranged regular cleaning of the rubbish at the aforementioned locations. Although transportation tools such as bicycles and trolleys were not considered as rubbish, if any objects hindered street cleaning operations, the Department would affix a notice on the relevant objects to request owners to remove such properties within a specified time. In this regard, the Department would closely monitor the situation at those locations mentioned by Members. Moreover, as illegal parking of bicycles was a street management issue, the Department would initiate joint actions with the Home Affairs Department and the District Lands Office, Tuen Mun, to clear those illegally parked bicycles.
- (ii) Regarding the year-end clean-up campaign, the Department implemented various activities during the campaign period, including a promotional event held on 31 January 2024 at On Ting Estate for the large-scale year-end clean-up campaign. According to statistics, most Members strongly supported the Department's activities and participated in the year-end clean-up campaign.

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD provided supplementary information after the meeting, indicating that their staff had patrolled the area around Shek Pai Tau Road and found a small amount of foam boxes near the central divider of the carriageway. The Department immediately told a contractor to clean up the area. In addition, during patrols, no items were found placed on pedestrian paths or the central divider of the carriageway in the vicinity of Tsun Wen Road. The FEHD's contractor was instructed to enhance patrolling and cleaning around these areas to maintain environmental hygiene. Moreover, scavenging behaviours of scavengers on the streets might lead to environmental hygiene and other issues, representing a complex social issue that involved street management and fell within the purview of various bureaux and government departments. One of the Department's main tasks was to maintain environmental hygiene. Furthermore, miscellaneous articles were found underneath a footbridge near Ming Kum Road, obstructing the Department's cleaning operations. A "Notice to Remove Obstruction" was affixed, requesting owners to remove articles within a specified time. The FEHD conducted two cleaning operations from March to April to clear and dispose of the remaining miscellaneous articles at the spot.]

44. Mr CHUNG Kin-fung stated that regarding the hygiene condition near Shek Pai Tau Road, recently he received complaints about frequent waste disposal on Tsing Yeung Circuit. In this regard, he enquired whether trolleys loaded with rubbish would be confiscated. In addition, he mentioned that he was invited to participate in the year-end clean-up campaign at Wu King Estate and Butterfly Estate, where he received feedback from residents about severe rodent infestations. Regarding the rodent issue, he stated that he visited the San Hui Market last year to inspect the effectiveness of rodent control measures and found that alcohol rodent trapping devices were effective. He pointed out that currently, the Housing Department had to purchase alcohol rodent trapping devices at their own expense for use in public housing estates. In response, he suggested that the Department should intensify the promotion of the innovative alcohol rodent trapping device.

45. Mr FUNG Pui-yin appreciated the effectiveness of the FEHD's year-end clean-up campaign and daily enforcement actions but indicated that there were still many hygiene black spots that needed attention. He pointed out that the act of feeding wild birds at a footbridge near Chi Lok Fa Yuen resulted in wild birds congregating and depositing large quantities of droppings, which had not been cleaned for over three to four months, severely affecting environmental hygiene and the cityscape. In addition, he mentioned receiving complaints about the issue of abandoned bicycles on Wah Fat Street. In this regard, he had made complaints

via the “1823” hotline, and the case was referred to different departments for follow-up, taking a long time to receive a response. Therefore, he enquired how a cross-department complaint would be followed up. Furthermore, he mentioned that the area underneath a footbridge near Pui To Road had been long-term cluttered with rubbish and miscellaneous articles, and he enquired about the daily cleaning work for that area. Lastly, he suggested that the Department provide practical cleaning tools, such as bamboo brooms instead of household plastic brooms, for Members participating in the year-end clean-up campaign.

46. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the issue of waste disposal on Tsing Yeung Circuit, the Department generally provided street sweeping service every day for public places with pedestrian traffic. If scavengers scavenged with trolleys without causing particular environmental hygiene impacts, the Department would not take special action. However, if trolleys or miscellaneous articles hindered the Department's cleaning operations, notices would be affixed according to the laws, requesting owners to remove the obstructions within a specified time. If the notices were disregarded, the Department would proactively deal with the obstructions.
- (ii) Regarding rodent control measures, the Department currently had deployed alcohol rodent trapping devices in refuse depots and public markets under its administration. It was understood that the alcohol rodent trapping device was more effective in indoor environment. For outdoor public places, the Department primarily set up rodent traps as the main rodent control measure. In addition, the Department had recently strengthened rodent control efforts, including increasing the manpower for overnight rodent control roving teams and placing rodent traps at additional hygiene black spots. These measures had been proven to be effective.
- (iii) Regarding the issue of feeding wild birds, the Department identified several black spots in the Tuen Mun District where feeding wild birds was prevalent, including the Light Rail Stop near King Fung Path, Ching Chung Koon on Tsing Tin Road, and the open space in front of Lam Tei Vegetable Market Office Public Toilet. Generally, upon receiving complaints, the Department would arrange vehicles to clean the streets and enhanced promotional efforts at these black spots. He added that feeding wild birds was not unlawful, but the Department would prosecute individuals who littered the streets during the feeding process, and would pay extra attention

to these locations. In addition, as the FEHD was responsible for street cleaning, the structures mentioned above, such as parts of a footbridge, required follow-up cleaning work by related departments like the Highways Department (HyD).

- (iv) Regarding the accumulation of rubbish and articles on Pui To Road, the Department found that street sleepers gathered in this area. Last year, the Department, in conjunction with the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the TMDO, and the HyD, launched a joint operation. The Department was responsible for following up on and dealing with the issue of rubbish and articles accumulated by street sleepers. The Department would assist in cleaning up the relevant articles according to wishes of street sleepers, but would not interfere with any private properties. In addition, the Department also regularly monitored relevant spots and arranged cleaning and street washing work as needed, hoping to minimise disturbance to the public.

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD stated after the meeting that the Department carried out multiple blitz operations in the vicinity of a footbridge near Chi Lok Fa Yuen, issuing a total of two fixed penalty notices to individuals for littering. In addition, the Department erected warning signs and displayed promotional banners conspicuously at the spot, urging the public not to feed wild birds and to be mindful of environmental hygiene, thereby preventing birds from congregating.]

47. The Chairman added that the District Management Committee had also discussed the issue related to the area underneath the footbridge near Pui To Road, and relevant departments would continue to monitor the situation and launch joint operations when necessary.

48. Mr Eron CHAN of the TMDO stated that regarding the issue of illegally parked bicycles, the TMDO was fully implementing the “District-led Actions Scheme”. By systematising complaints received through various departments or the “1823” hotline and conducting on-site inspections, the TMDO followed up on related matters. Joint operations would be carried out each month on selected locations after considering several factors, such as the severity and priority on the waiting list. The TMDO would also collaborate with other departments, including the Lands Department, the FEHD, and the Police Force, to clear illegally parked bicycles through joint operations.

49. Mr TSE Wing-hang expressed his gratitude to the FEHD for the success of the year-end clean-up campaign. He further enquired whether a portion of the 1 445 tonnes of oversized waste collected during the campaign could be recycled. He pointed out that if the collected waste ultimately ended up in the landfill in Tuen Mun, it might not improve the environment. Consequently, he questioned whether there was a recycling process for the collected waste under current system.

50. Ms Vincci CHAN expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the FEHD. She also pointed out that there were several bird-feeding black spots in Leung King Estate. Moreover, as the Department stated that feeding wild birds was not an unlawful act, she was concerned about how the Department discouraged the public from feeding wild birds. She suggested that the Department should intensify its promotional and educational efforts in schools.

51. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the waste collected during the year-end clean-up campaign, citizens could separate recyclables themselves before disposal. Since the primary responsibility of the FEHD was collection and disposal of waste rather than recycling, the Department currently did not recycle the collected waste.
- (ii) Regarding bird-feeding black spots in Leung King Estate, he enquired whether these spots fell within the premises of the public housing estate or were public places. He pointed out that if the spots were public places, the Department would arrange street cleaning and washing. In addition, the Department would conduct blitz operations at these black spots and prosecute those suspected of littering streets during feeding process.

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD stated after the meeting that their staff, together with officers from the TMDO, members of the Area Committee, Tuen Mun North West, and representatives from the management company of Leung King Estate, conducted an on-site inspection on 22 March 2024. They suggested that the management office should deploy additional staff for patrolling and advise residents not to feed wild pigeons, and requested that banners be hung in the area to remind residents.]

52. Mr KWONG Man-tik reported that some mall merchants had previously approached him about the rodent infestation problem in their stores. Although the FEHD had assisted on-site, since malls were not under the FEHD's purview,

the Department could only offer limited help, such as providing advice. He learnt that the management company had also not actively addressed the issue, leading to concerns about the environmental hygiene. Therefore, he hoped that the FEHD could enhance coordination with other departments to follow up on this issue.

53. Mr Mac CHAN expressed support for the continued organisation of clean-up campaigns in the future. He believed that to effectively improve the environment, the Department should not only strengthen enforcement but also enhance education and publicity for young people to raise their civic awareness. In addition, he noted that the term “hygiene black spots” frequently appeared in the Department’s reports. Upon reviewing records of LegCo concerning the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots led by the Deputy Chief Secretary, he found that as of 31 October 2023, there were 31 hygiene black spots in the Tuen Mun District, which differed from the number mentioned in the Department’s reports. In this regard, he enquired whether the 31 hygiene black spots mentioned in the records of LegCo were the same as those reported by the Department. He also asked about the condition of the hygiene black spots inspected by Members, as well as the situation of other hygiene black spots in the Tuen Mun District.

54. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the rodent infestation problem that the mall merchants were concerned about, generally, the management company was responsible for providing pest and rodent control services in areas under its management. If individual merchants wished to further understand pest and rodent control measures, they could visit the website of the FEHD or request more information from the Department's staff.
- (ii) Regarding the query about hygiene black spots, there were currently 31 hygiene black spots identified in the Tuen Mun District. Some of these locations involved issues beyond the scope of hygiene, such as graffiti or illegally parked bicycles. Since several issues involved in these 31 hygiene black spots did not fall under the responsibility of the Department, certain locations had not been included in the year-end clean-up campaign report.

55. Ms TSE Yuk-ling reported that she received complaints about people indiscriminately disposing of refuse near Light Rail Stops, including areas outside Light Rail tracks. In this regard, she enquired whether the responsibility for

follow-up lied with the Department or the MTR Corporation Limited (MTR Corporation). In addition, regarding the issue of feeding wild birds, the practice of feeding by the elderly might stem from personal habits. To prevent the elderly from inadvertently breaking the law, she suggested that the Department should strengthen publicity and education for the elderly before prosecuting, such as erecting warning signs and distributing leaflets.

56. Mr CHUI King-hang stated that the report reflected that the year-end clean-up campaign had been somewhat effective and appreciated the work of the FEHD and frontline staff in this regard. Regarding the 22 “rodent/fly breeding places” mentioned in the report, he enquired about the respective numbers that belonged to rodent and fly breeding places and sought clarification from the Department on the definitions of “breeding places” and “black spots”. In addition, he also noted that currently, a total of 70 rodent infestation black spots had been eliminated across the territory, but at the same time, 59 new rodent infestation black spots had just emerged. In this regard, he wanted the Department to provide further information on the new and previous rodent infestation black spots. Regarding bird-feeding black spots, he received some reports stating that the act of feeding wild birds was found in the vicinity of Tuen Yee Bridge. Thus, he hoped the Department would follow up on the issue.

57. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the issue of indiscriminately disposing of refuse at Light Rail tracks, the Department would be responsible for handling the refuse in a public place, whereas the ambit of Light Rail tracks would be handled by the MTR Corporation.
- (ii) Regarding the issue of feeding wild birds, the bureaux and the Environment and Ecology Bureau had proposed amendments to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance to LegCo. The authorities aimed to extend the existing feeding ban of wild animals to cover wild birds. In addition, they proposed to increase the maximum penalty for illegal feeding from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and one year’s imprisonment. Furthermore, the introduction of a fixed penalty system for illegal feeding activities was suggested, with a fine of \$5,000, to strengthen deterrence effect and curb illegal feeding activities. According to the relevant press release, the proposed amendments were expected to take effect in August 2024.

- (iii) Regarding the enquiry about rodent infestation, he stated that there was currently no detailed information on the 22 “rodent/fly breeding places”. The Department would follow up on this matter later. In addition, places that commonly attracted rodents would be typically defined as a “black spot”, in which the Department would enhance cleaning and carry out anti-rodent operations.
- (iv) Regarding the issue of feeding wild birds in the vicinity of Tuen Yee Bridge, the Department would pay closer attention to relevant spots and arrange street cleaning services.

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD provided supplementary information after the meeting, indicating that contractors had been promptly arranged to clean the streets in the vicinity of Tuen Yee Bridge, upon which the pedestrian paths there were found to be clean. The Department also conducted multiple irregular inspections at the spot and did not discover any instances of feeding wild birds that resulted in public places being dirtied. Warning signs and promotional banners had been erected conspicuously at the site to appeal to the public not to feed wild birds and to be mindful of environmental hygiene in order to prevent birds from congregating. The “22 rodent/fly breeding places” mentioned in the year-end clean-up campaign report referred to the number of rat holes/nests eliminated by the Department during the campaign, in which tests were first carried out at the rat holes and rodenticides were applied until there were no more rodent activities inside, after which the holes were filled with cement. Moreover, the priority rodent black spots included those released by the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force and those identified by the Department based on the number of complaints received, views from the local community and observation of staff during routine inspections, etc. The Department had targeted a total of 108 priority rodent black spots across the territory for strategic anti-rodent operations, eliminating about 60% of these black spots (a total of 70) in 2023. In the Tuen Mun District, two rodent black spots located in San Hui were eliminated in 2023. In 2024, the Department would continue to target the priority rodent black spots, including two in Kai Fat Path and Kai Man Path, as well as two in Tsing Hoi Circuit, in order to achieve the goal as set out in the 2023 Policy Address of reducing the number of black spots by 60% by end-2024.]

58. Mr Benton HO pointed out that it was mentioned in the report that 1 445 tonnes of oversized waste were collected through the year-end clean-up campaign, reflecting a large amount of waste needed to be disposed of in the area. In response, he suggested that the Department consider organising more clean-up



campaigns in a year. In addition, he noted that the FEHD had conducted 20 extensive mosquito prevention and control operations in January, yet the mosquito problem was often at its mildest in January and reached its peak in the summer. He suggested that the Department consider delaying the operations to June or July to make better use of resources.

59. Mr WAN Tin-chong enquired whether the FEHD was responsible for rodent control work in parks. In addition, he asked if the Department would initiate joint actions with other departments, such as the LCSD, to eradicate the rodent infestation in parks. He expressed the concern that if each department only dealt with the rodent issue within their respective purview, the rodent population would simply migrate to nearby areas, making it difficult to truly resolve the problem.

60. Mr TSANG Hing-chung expressed his gratitude towards the Department for the positive results of the year-end clean-up campaign. He mentioned that the Lam Tei Light Rail Stop used to be a black spot for feeding wild birds, but due to current construction works, offenders had moved to the pavilion in the sitting-out area at Tuen Tsz Wai to feed wild birds. He had previously requested relevant departments to follow up on the matter, but unfortunately, the situation had not improved. He pointed out that feeding wild birds also led to rodent infestation. In addition, he wanted the Department to address the rodent infestation issue near Nai Wai Soccer Pitch.

61. Mr FUNG Koon-yue of the FEHD made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the enquiry about mosquito control operations, the Department carried out pest control work throughout the year. In this regard, an inter-departmental working group would hold a special meeting for anti-mosquito measures in mid-March, and meetings with stakeholders including relevant government departments, institutions, management companies, and construction contractors would be convened before the rainy season to remind relevant parties to strengthen mosquito prevention and control measures. In addition, a series of anti-mosquito campaigns would be held, with the first phase already underway. The Department would enhance mosquito control measures in public areas in the future.
- (ii) Regarding the enquiry about rodent control efforts, the Department conducted regular rodent control measures in public areas near venues under the administration of certain departments to enhance the

environmental hygiene in the vicinity. Furthermore, if other departments required technical support from the FEHD in implementing rodent control measures, the FEHD would maintain close contact with relevant departments and provide necessary advice to strengthen rodent control efforts.

- (iii) Regarding the issue of feeding wild birds at Lam Tei Light Rail Stop and the sitting-out area at Tuen Tsz Wai, the Department would arrange law-enforcement officers to carry out inspections at relevant black spots.

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD provided supplementary information after the meeting, indicating that a contractor had been arranged to carry out street cleaning services around the sitting-out area at Tuen Tsz Wai. The Department had also carried out multiple unscheduled inspections at the aforementioned spot. During one such inspection in April this year, the officers observed someone feeding wild birds and littering public place. Officers immediately initiated prosecution against the offender. Warning signs and promotional banners had been erected conspicuously at the site to urge the public not to feed wild birds and to be mindful of environmental hygiene to prevent wild birds from congregating. In addition, regarding the rodent infestation issue near Nai Wai Soccer Pitch in Tuen Mun, the case had been referred to the LCSD for follow-up as the venue was under its administration. The Department had also dispatched staff to conduct inspections in public places near relevant sites and placed poisonous baits at appropriate positions to strengthen rodent control efforts.]

**(B) Report by the Tuen Mun District, HKPF**  
**(TMDC Paper No. 12/2024)**

62. Mr NG Kwok-cheung, the District Commander (Tuen Mun), reported on the crime situation in the district. He pointed out that although the overall number of crime reports in the Tuen Mun District rose compared to 2022, the law and order maintained in good form, thanks to the joint efforts of the public, the TMDC, the Police, and other social stakeholders. Apart from deception cases, the overall crime situation was similar to the pre-pandemic period. Driven by an increase in deception cases, a total of 4 273 crime reports were received in 2023, an increase of about 19% from the 3 598 cases in 2022, with an overall detection rate of 37.8%. It was noteworthy that lower figures for some traditional crimes were recorded during the pandemic in the first half of 2022. As society resumed normalcy in 2023, most traditional crimes recorded an increase when compared with 2022, but quite a number of crimes in Tuen Mun registered a fairly significant decrease when compared with 2018, the year before the outbreak of the “black-clad violence” and

the pandemic, such as wounding and serious assault, and serious drug offences, which dropped by approximately 16% and 33% respectively. Excluding deception cases, there were a total of 2 515 cases in 2023, a slight increase of 19 cases compared to the 2 496 cases in 2018, reflecting a relatively stable law and order situation. He then stated that compared to 2022, a larger number of cases for three types of crimes were reported in 2023: First, deception cases increased from 1 470 to 1 758, an increase of about 20%, followed by shop theft cases, increasing from 528 to 588, an increase of about 11%, and lastly, criminal damage cases increased from 294 to 351, an increase of about 20%. As for crimes with a decreasing figure, serious drug offences dropped from 57 to 43, a decrease of about 24%, followed by homicide, which dropped from three to one, a decrease of about 66%. The three major types of crimes in 2023 were deception, shop theft and miscellaneous theft, accounting for about 41%, 14% and 11% of the total number of crime reports, respectively. In addition, he briefed Members on the Police's anti-deception strategy. He pointed out that last year, the city lost over \$9 billion for deception cases, with losses of \$300 million recorded in the Tuen Mun District. Summarising past experiences in combating deception, he believed that the "Scameter+" application could effectively prevent citizens from falling into traps. So far, the search engine of "Scameter+" had recorded 2.13 million searches and issued over 360 000 alerts on frauds and cyber security risks. In November 2023, the Police collaborated with 44 banks and stored value facilities operators, so as to link the "Scameter+" to the Faster Payment System and thus allow the system to issue alerts to users when they tried to make transfers to suspicious accounts. By the end of December 2023, more than 148 000 alerts were issued. Furthermore, the Police collaborated with 10 major banks in establishing the Anti-Deception Alliance (ADA), where bank representatives were deployed to work in the Police Headquarters to provide more direct and instant communication, cooperation and assistance in intercepting fraudulent payments and issuing alerts. Since the establishment of the ADA, the Police had successfully intercepted fraudulent payments of \$1.29 billion in 989 cases and prevented 654 individuals from transferring money to fraudsters. The Police upgraded "Scameter+" in February 2024. To this end, he called on Members to help disseminate the information to the public and assist citizens in downloading "Scameter+".

63. Ms KWOK Ho-ling, Officer-in-charge, District Intelligence Section, TMDIST, introduced the operation of "Scameter+" to Members via PowerPoint slides (see [Annex 1](#)).

64. Mr IP Chun-yuen asked the Police about crimes committed by juvenile delinquents aged between 10 and 15. He noticed the number of juveniles arrested

for committing crimes in 2023 doubled compared to 2022, and last year, it was the first time in Hong Kong a juvenile was arrested for committing serious drug offences. Therefore, he asked the Police about their response measures.

65. Mr Mac CHAN suggested that the Police should enhance promotion of “Scameter+” among schools and teenagers. In addition, he enquired about the arrest numbers and detection rate of telephone fraud. He also pointed out that the anti-voyeurism law was enacted in October 2021, and enquired about the situation of voyeurism offences in the district. He suggested including related data on voyeurism offences in the report, such as the number of juvenile delinquents arrested for committing voyeurism.

66. Mr NG Kwok-cheung, the District Commander (Tuen Mun) made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the increase in the number of arrests among juvenile delinquents, they were primarily arrested for minor bullying behaviour, online naked chat blackmail, extortion of protection fees not related to triads, or theft. In the Tuen Mun District, the situation involving drugs among teenagers was not severe. The Police's anti-triad units patrolled and enforced laws at night in bars, unlicensed bars in industrial areas, and places where teenagers were likely to congregate. If teenagers were found staying in these places, the Police would consider applying for Care and Protection Orders. For cases of teenagers not involved in illegal activities, the Police, through last year's programme in collaboration with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, would provide contact details of supporting organisations for teenagers and parents in need and refer them to social workers for follow-up and assistance. Over the past three months, the Police had successfully referred 45 cases for follow-up by relevant institutions.
- (ii) Regarding the enquiry about telephone fraud, detection rate for telephone fraud was approximately 10%, and those arrested were mostly holders of stooze accounts. The process of handling telephone fraud cases was complex, and it took a longer time to solve them, while the masterminds behind the cases were difficult to trace. Consequently, the Police currently focused on targeting the holders of stooze accounts, hoping to deter such activities by applying to the court for heavier penalties for those arrested for selling stooze accounts, thereby lowering the supply at the source and ultimately reducing telephone fraud cases.

- (iii) Regarding the enquiry about voyeurism, the current report did not include data on voyeurism offences. If necessary, the Police could provide relevant data in the next report.

67. Mr LAM Tik-fai expressed concern over the increase in burglary cases and the rise in theft cases, and enquired the Police about the reasons. In response, he suggested that the Police should enhance their publicity and educational efforts in suburban areas, housing estates, and schools.

68. Mr TSANG Hing-chung expressed gratitude for the Police's efforts in anti-deception publicity and education. However, he pointed out that the number of deception-related cases surged annually, accounting for 41.4% of the total crime reports in 2023, which was quite serious. In this regard, he hoped that the Police would compare the detection rates for telephone fraud cases in 2022 and 2023, and enquired whether the fraudulent payments could be recovered in successfully detected telephone fraud cases.

69. Mr NG Kwok-cheung, the District Commander (Tuen Mun) made the following responses:

- (i) Regarding the situation of increasing burglary cases, the smallest annual number of burglary cases in the Tuen Mun District was recorded in 2022. Looking back at the data in 2018, i.e. before the pandemic, there were 63 cases of burglary, while there were 64 cases last year, reflecting only a small increase in number. The Police deployed different operations against burglary gangs coming to Hong Kong to commit crimes and successfully detected about 30% of these cases. Also, the Police strategically dispatched officers to patrol areas where burglaries mainly occurred, such as the areas of village houses or low-density villas. Moreover, last year there were a total of 64 burglary cases, which meant there were about five cases of burglary on average each month, while from January to February 2024, only three cases were recorded.
- (ii) Regarding the situation of theft cases, he pointed out that citizens might commit crimes impulsively due to greed. As most of the offenders were elderly, the Police would actively strengthen crime prevention work.
- (iii) Regarding the situation of deception cases, the detection rate for telephone fraud in 2022 was 9%, comparable to the 10% in 2023. As for recovery

of fraudulent payments in telephone fraud cases, the Police would immediately check the deposits of the relevant accounts upon receiving a report from a victim. If the account contained a balance of \$100,000 or more, the Police would immediately intercept the payments. If victims did not report to the Police immediately after the fraud occurred, it might be more difficult to recover the fraudulent payments. Moreover, for cases that had been successfully detected with amounts being awarded by the court, the legal procedures involved were more complex. Generally, the court would determine the amount attributable to victims in related accounts and then arrange for return.

70. Ms LAI Ka-man praised the Police for their recent efforts to combat begging activities at the MTR Siu Hong Station. Also, she asked the Police about the number of domestic violence cases related to child abuse and the number of repeat offenders among those arrested for serious drug offences.

71. Mr KWONG Man-tik praised the development and effectiveness of “Scameter+”. He further suggested that the Police should consider adding new features to the application to record accounts that were suspected of being involved in fraud. He also recommended adopting practices from the Mainland, where short-term freezes on suspicious accounts were swiftly imposed through monitoring fund movements in suspicious accounts. He believed that even a brief freeze of one to two days could have a deterrent effect on criminal organisations.

72. Ms Vincci CHAN expressed gratitude to the Police for their efforts in reducing the crime rate in the Tuen Mun District. Regarding the drug problem, she noted that drug abuse issues could easily be passed down to the next generation through family influence. Although the drug problem in the Tuen Mun District had somewhat eased, there had been recent instances of students being involved in drug trafficking. In this regard, she enquired about the current anti-drug initiatives targeting schoolchildren and families. In addition, she suggested that the Police take effective measures to pay closer attention to families with drug abuse problems.

73. Mr NG Kwok-cheung, the District Commander (Tuen Mun), made a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Last year, a total of 76 domestic violence cases were recorded, of which 26 involved child abuse.

- (ii) Regarding the issue of begging activities at MTR Siu Hong Station, the Police would increase patrols and would make immediate arrests should such activities be discovered.
- (iii) Regarding the suggestion to temporarily freeze accounts suspected of being involved in fraud, he pointed out that currently, if the Police had reasonable suspicion about an account, they would freeze the account until the investigation was concluded. In this regard, the Police would study the feasibility of introducing the Mainland's measure of freezing an account for a short time.
- (iv) Currently, the Police promoted crime prevention messages to the youth and families through the Junior Police Call's activities and school liaison officers and encouraged the youth and children to convey these messages to their families. The Police would strengthen law enforcement, promptly arrest parents who committed drug offences, and apply to the court for Care and Protection Orders to minimise the impact of parents' behaviour on their children.

74. Mr CHUNG Kin-fung noted a significant decrease in the number of triad-related wounding and serious assault cases compared to 2018, and therefore praised the efforts of the Police. In addition, concerning the substantial increase in criminal damage cases related to debt collection, he suggested that the Police enhance education for stakeholders in property management sector to improve security measures and intercept debt collection activities. Regarding deception cases, he observed that the increase in the number of cases in the Tuen Mun District was lower than in other districts. He expressed gratitude to the TMDIST and various stakeholders for their efforts in crime prevention.

75. Ms SO Ka-man stated that she would assist in promoting "Scameter+" across the community. She further pointed out that residents had reported a significant number of traffic violations by electric bicycles and unicycles in the areas around Yan Po Road, Ming Kum Road, and Tsun Wen Road, posing a serious threat to the safety of local residents. She hoped that the Police could strengthen law enforcement in these areas.

76. Mr TSANG Hin-hong expressed gratitude for the Police's crime prevention efforts. He mentioned two recent online shopping fraud cases which involved victims using credit cards for contactless transactions via mobile NFC systems. In these cases, the victims were charged amounts far exceeding what was agreed

upon with the sellers, and after discovering the problems, they were unable to contact the sellers. The cases were generally handled as credit card transaction disputes. He suggested that the Police, in collaboration with other departments, such as credit card centres, should enhance the promotion and enforcement against online shopping fraud. He hoped the Police would continue to follow up on the issue of online shopping fraud and strengthen publicity in community in the future.

77. Mr NG Kwok-cheung, the District Commander (Tuen Mun), made a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Regarding the significant increase in the number of criminal damage cases related to debt collection, the Police had set up instant messaging application groups with management offices of public and private housing estates, and their security guards, in order to immediately notify all property management stakeholders upon receiving relevant reports and to remind them to be vigilant. In addition, the Police would regularly dispatch plain-clothes officers pretending to be debt collectors to different housing estates. If the security guards failed to immediately intercept them multiple times, the Police would consider issuing warnings and providing appropriate training. Also, victimised homeowners were urged to install security cameras. For debt collection cases with a large amount of money that did not involve criminal damage, if it was believed that the debt collectors might escalate their actions, the Police would arrange ambush operations to arrest the criminals immediately.
- (ii) Regarding cracking down on the illegal use of electric mobility devices, the Police would regularly carry out joint operations with the Traffic New Territories North Headquarters. In addition, offenders would be arrested for driving without a licence and driving without third party insurance.
- (iii) Regarding the situation of online shopping fraud, he stated that victims could report to the Police at any time. He suggested that consumers should consider carefully before making transactions and always be on guard against scams.

## **VII. In-house Matters**

### **(A) Members Joining or Resigning from Committees and Working Groups under TMDC**

78. The Secretary reported that Mr CHAN Yau-hoi withdrew from the TTC and the Working Group on Tuen Mun Major Activities (WGTMMMA) on 18



January 2024; Mr TSUI Fan withdrew from the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy (WGBLE) on 18 January 2024; Mr Benton HO withdrew from the TTC and the WGBLE on 10 and 31 January 2024, respectively; Mr LAM Tik-fai joined the WGBLE and withdrew from the WGTMMMA on 8 January 2024; Ms Pamela MAK joined the SWHC on 29 January 2024; Mr FUNG Pui-yin withdrew from the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee on 9 February 2024; Mr FUNG Yuk-fung withdrew from the DFWC on 7 January 2024; and Mr TSOI Shing-hin joined the DFWC and withdrew from the WGTMMMA on 15 February 2024.

**(B) Reports by Committees**  
**(TMDC Paper Nos. 14 to 18/2024)**

79. The Chairman requested Members to peruse the five captioned reports. As Members had no other comments, the Chairman announced that the reports were endorsed.

**(C) Reports by Working Groups**  
**(TMDC Paper Nos. 19 to 20/2024)**

80. The Chairman requested Members to peruse the two captioned reports. As Members had no other comments, the Chairman announced that the reports were endorsed.

**VIII. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**

81. Mr CHAN Yau-hoi asked the Education Bureau (EDB) about the closure of New Generation English Kindergarten and the number of affected children.

82. Ms HON Hin-yan of the EDB stated that after receiving the notification of closure from the related kindergarten, the Bureau maintained close contact with it and follow up on the case. Should parents had any questions, they were welcome to contact the EDB for relevant answers and suggestions.

83. Mr FUNG Pui-yin expressed concern about the recent infanticide case involving remains of two babies in Tuen Mun San Hui and the mental health of residents. He asked whether the SWD had provided support and follow-up in this regard for the residents in the district.

84. Ms Agnes HO of the SWD stated that in response to the incident, the Department arranged the Integrated Family Service Centre responsible for the area to strengthen support and publicity. If residents felt uneasy about the incident and needed assistance, they could contact relevant service units for counselling support.

If there was a special need, the service unit would refer relevant cases to the Department's Clinical Psychology Units for follow-up.

85. The Chairman announced the meeting closed at 5:19 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 13 May 2024.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: April 2024

File Ref: HADTMDC/13/25/DC/24