

**Minutes of the 14th Meeting of
Yau Tsim Mong District Council (2012-2015)**

Date : 12 December 2013 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Yau Tsim Mong District Council Conference Room
4/F., Mong Kok Government Offices
30 Luen Wan Street
Mong Kok, Kowloon

Present:

Chairman

Mr CHUNG Kong-mo, JP

Vice-chairman

Ms KO Po-ling, BBS, MH, JP

District Council Members

Mr CHAN Siu-tong, MH	Ms KWAN Sau-ling
Mr CHAN Wai-keung	Mr LAM Kin-man
Mr CHOI Siu-fung, Benjamin	Mr LAU Pak-kei
Mr CHONG Wing-charn, Francis	The Honourable TO Kun-sun, James
Mr CHOW Chun-fai, BBS, JP	Mr WONG Chung, John
Mr HAU Wing-cheong, BBS, MH	Mr WONG Kin-san
Mr HUI Tak-leung	Mr WONG Man-sing, Barry, MH
Mr HUNG Chiu-wah, Derek	Ms WONG Shu-ming
Mr IP Ngo-tung, Chris	Mr YEUNG Tsz-hei, Benny, MH

Representatives of the Government

Ms HO Siu-ping, Betty, JP	District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong)	Home Affairs Department
Mr CHIU Chung-yan, Charlson	Assistant District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong)	Home Affairs Department
Mr LI Ka-kei	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Mong Kok)	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr WONG Kam-wah	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yau Tsim)	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr Duncan Stuart MCCOSH	District Commander (Mong Kok)	Hong Kong Police Force
Mr SIU Kit-hung, Tony	Deputy District Commander (Yau Tsim)	Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHOY Chik-sang, Mario	Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon	Transport Department
Mr WONG Tat-ming, Richard	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West)	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr WONG Chi-sing, Janson	Chief Engineer/Kowloon 2 (Kowloon)	Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms TSO Pui-hing, Tammy	Housing Manager (Kowloon West and Hong Kong 3)	Housing Department

In Attendance:

Mr SHUN Chi-ming, JP	Director	Hong Kong Observatory
Mr TSUI Kit-chi	Assistant Director (Radiation Monitoring and Assessment) (Atg)	Hong Kong Observatory
Mr KWONG Wai-shing	Assistant Principal Immigration Officer (Torture Claim Assessment)	Immigration Department
Mr HO Shi-sum	Chief Immigration Officer (Torture Claim Assessment) 4	Immigration Department
Ms WONG Yin-yee	District Social Welfare Officer (Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong)	Social Welfare Department
Mr LAM Wai-wah, Chris	Engineer/Kowloon 7 Mainland South Division	Drainage Services Department
Mr SIU Yu-bun, Alan, JP	Government Property Administrator	Government Property Agency
Mr CHAN Wai-yan	Chief Property Manager (Technical Services)	Government Property Agency
Mr LAM Chik-man	Senior Property Manager (Acquisition, Allocation and Disposal) Office and Special Duties	Government Property Agency
Mr FUNG Chi-fung, Andrew	Senior Project Manager (123)	Architectural Services Department
Mr LEE Hung-kei, Vincent	Project Manager (152)	Architectural Services Department
Mr YIP Chi-kwai, Tom	Senior Town Planner/Yau Tsim Mong	Planning Department
Ms YUEN Miu-chun, Christine	Senior Transport Officer/Yau Tsim Mong	Transport Department
Mr CHAN Wai-tak	Senior Engineer/Kowloon District West	Transport Department
Mr WONG Kam-sing, JP	Secretary for the Environment	Environment Bureau
Mr CHAN Wai-kee, Howard	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)	Environmental Protection Department
Miss CHOI Man-yee, Katharine	Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment	Environment Bureau
Mr SUEN Kwok-keung	Senior Engineer/Cost Estimate	Water Supplies Department
Mr TAM Shu-fai, Eric	Engineer/Project Management 5	Water Supplies Department
Mr LOOK Tai-loi	Senior Resident Engineer	Atkins China Ltd
Mr CHAN Pai-ming, Jimmy	Project Manager/Major Works	Highways Department
Mr TAO Kei-hung	Deputy Project Manager/Major Works (1)	Highways Department
Mr LAM Man-san	Senior Engineer 3/Central Kowloon Route	Highways Department
Mr TSUI Ho, Patrick	Chief Building Surveyor/Mandatory Building Inspection 2	Buildings Department
Mr WAN Chi-wai, Terry	Senior Building Surveyor/Mandatory Building Inspection 2	Buildings Department
Mr CHU Yu-tin, Albert	Senior Structural Engineer/F2	Buildings Department
Mr YAM Yat-shing	Senior Environmental Protection Officer	Environmental Protection Department
<u>Secretary</u>		
Ms CHUNG Siu-lan, Joanne	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Yau Tsim Mong District Office	Home Affairs Department

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives from government departments and participants to the meeting. He said that Mr YU Tat-chung, District Commander (Yau Tsim) of the Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”) and Mr LUI Kwong-fai, Chief Manager/Management (Kowloon West and Hong Kong) of the Housing Department (“HD”), were absent due to other commitments. Mr Tony SIU, Deputy District Commander (Yau Tsim) and Ms Tammy TSO, Housing Manager (Kowloon West and Hong Kong 3), were attending the meeting in their places respectively. In addition, he reported that Ms Christine YUEN, Senior Transport Officer of the Transport Department (“TD”) would attend the meeting on behalf of Mr Mario CHOY, Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon after item 9. The Chairman asked participants to speak as concise as possible since there were many items on the agenda. He proposed that Councillors who had submitted papers be given two minutes to make supplementary remarks, and that each Councillor be allowed to speak twice on each item: two minutes for the first time and one minute for the second time. Participants had no objection to the proposal.

Item 1: Visit of Director of the Hong Kong Observatory to Yau Tsim Mong District Council (“YTMDC”)

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr SHUN Chi-ming, Director and Mr TSUI Kit-chi, Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (“HKO”) to the meeting.

3. Mr SHUN Chi-ming and Mr TSUI Kit-chi gave a PowerPoint presentation on the relationship between the duties of the HKO and the Yau Tsim Mong (“YTM”) District, weather stations in the district, the radiation monitoring station at King’s Park and the HKO’s work in disseminating weather information to the public. Mr SHUN Chi-ming also invited Councillors to visit the HKO.

(Mr LAM Kin-man joined the meeting at 2:42 p.m.)

(Mr Barry WONG joined the meeting at 2:44 p.m.)

(The Vice-chairman joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.)

4. Mr Benjamin CHOI said that while the HKO made weather forecasts according to scientific data such as wind speed and rainfall, it should also consider human factors in determining when to issue typhoon and rainstorm warning signals. He asked the HKO how to strike a balance between the two.

5. Mr Benny YEUNG hoped that the HKO would arrange visits to its facilities for Councillors and residents in the district so as to foster communication with the community. He then asked whether the HKO would establish a surveillance indicator for haze in the territory in the light of the severe haze condition in major Mainland cities, and whether it would monitor the quantity of airborne dust particles in urban areas.

6. Mr HAU Wing-cheong opined that the HKO should alert the public well in advance when there were plans to issue typhoon and rainstorm warnings.

7. Mr Derek HUNG asked whether the HKO would require fishing boats in the waters of Hong Kong to return to typhoon shelters if the wind speed had reached a certain level. In addition, he would like to know how the HKO and the Marine Department (“MD”) determined the level of visibility in waters, and how the relevant departments would coordinate their efforts during low visibility to ensure the safety of marine traffic.

8. Mr CHOW Chun-fai indicated that the HKO had frequently burned samples collected from animals and plants for laboratory test near the King’s Park High Level Service Reservoir. Although the HKO had displayed a notice during the process, residents nearby were still concerned about whether the gas emitted from burning would be harmful to human body.

9. The Chairman said that Councillors and residents nearby had visited the King’s Park Meteorological Station to learn about the testing process. To his knowledge, laboratory personnel would burn food samples, including meat, during the process. As the residents were concerned that the gaseous emissions generated from burning would be harmful to human body, the HKO should enhance the transparency of the testing process and explain clearly to the morning walkers nearby.

(The Hon James TO joined the meeting at 3:05 p.m.)

10. Mr LAM Kin-man indicated that as the Councillor of the constituency concerned, he had received many enquiries from residents who were very concerned about the gaseous emissions generated from the tests conducted in the King’s Park Meteorological Station. He hoped that the HKO would enhance publicity by taking the initiative to announce the information of the testing process in order to ease public concern.

11. Mr SHUN Chi-ming responded as follows:

- (i) The HKO would issue typhoon and rainstorm warning signals according to scientific data and for the sake of public safety. The HKO’s current practice was to inform the public two hours before the issuance of typhoon signal No. 8 or above.
- (ii) The HKO would be glad to arrange visits to the HKO Headquarters or King’s Park Meteorological Station for Councillors and interested parties.
- (iii) For the sake of public safety, the HKO would monitor the level of environmental radiation by regularly conducting sample tests at the King’s Park Meteorological Station. Some of the processes involved ashing of samples of fresh meat and vegetable. The ashes would be chemically processed to monitor the radiation level. Some odour might be emitted from the ashing process, but the gaseous emissions were not harmful to human body. The HKO had invited Government Chemists to monitor the entire process and had sent a written response to the YTMDC to explain the details of the test. Nevertheless, to mitigate the impact of ashing on nearby residents, the King’s Park Meteorological Station would try to reduce the emission of odour in the morning by conducting ashing process at an appropriate time and considering factors such as wind direction. The HKO would also displayed notices during the ashing process to inform the public of

the process and explain that the odour was not harmful to human body. Moreover, activated carbon filters were used during the process in recent years to further reduce odour emissions.

- (iv) The HKO was responsible for monitoring the visibility in waters. Related data would be released through the HKO's website and mobile application.
- (v) The HKO had been cooperating closely with the MD. The MD would broadcast information about visibility to remind ship owners to be careful of navigation if the visibility was below two nautical miles. The MD would also provide additional data on visibility to the HKO.
- (vi) The HKO had maintained close communication with fishermen. It would alert fishermen in advance of typhoons approaching the South China Sea so that they could make preparations. The HKO would continue strengthening communication with fishermen.

12. The Chairman indicated that there was indeed improvement in odour emission of the King's Park Meteorological Station when conducting tests in recent years. He was glad that the HKO had further improved the ashing process and hoped that the Director could arrange visits to the HKO for Councillors of YTMDC as soon as possible.

13. There being no further comments, the Chairman thanked the Director and other representatives of the HKO and closed the discussion on this item

Item 2 Matters Arising:

(i) Concern over Hong Kong's Handling of Torture Claims (YTMDC Paper No. 103/2013)

14. The Chairman welcomed Mr KWONG Wai-shing, Assistant Principal Immigration Officer (Torture Claim Assessment) and Mr HO Shi-sum, Chief Immigration Officer (Torture Claim Assessment) 4 of the Immigration Department ("ImmD") to the meeting. They would respond to Councillors' enquiries on behalf of the Security Bureau ("SB") and the ImmD. The Chairman also welcomed Ms WONG Yin-yee, District Social Welfare Officer (Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong) of the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") who would join the discussion of this item.

15. Mr KWONG Wai-shing indicated that:

- (i) The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ("CAT") had been applied to Hong Kong since 1992. Article 3 of the CAT stated that "no State Party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture". In December 2009, the ImmD had introduced an enhanced screening mechanism for torture claims to ensure that screening procedures would meet the high standards of fairness as required by the Court. In July 2012, the Legislative Council ("LegCo") enacted the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 which provided for a statutory framework to

underpin the enhanced mechanism for determining torture claims. The Amendment Ordinance had come into operation on 3 December 2012.

- (ii) The Court of Final Appeal had ruled in two judicial review cases in December 2012 and March 2013 that the ImmD should withhold removing or deporting any person to another country where the person had made a torture or inhuman claim under Article 3 of Hong Kong Bills of Rights or a persecution claim with reference to Article 33 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (“Refugee Convention”) until his claim had been finally determined (on top of a torture claim under Article 3 of CAT which was already available to the claimants).
- (iii) Claims for non-refoulement protection against removal from Hong Kong on grounds including risks of torture, inhuman treatment or persecution etc. were different from refugee asylum claims. The United Nations’ Refugee Convention was never applicable to Hong Kong. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region would not grant asylum to any persons or verify the refugee status of any persons.
- (iv) As at end-November 2013, the ImmD received a total of 474 torture claim cases for 2013 and had finished screening 1 683 cases, with 2 941 outstanding cases.

16. Mr Barry WONG wanted to know the time taken by the ImmD to assess torture claims, and whether the Government would provide support to claimants while they were awaiting screening results in Hong Kong.

17. In regard to the statistics provided by the SB and the ImmD about the number of cases withdrawn and not required follow-ups, Mr Derek HUNG asked if the relevant claimants were still staying in Hong Kong. He suggested that the departments concerned impose a time bar on lodging torture claims so as to prevent overstayers or illegal immigrants from lodging the claims as extension of stay in Hong Kong only after being arrested.

18. The Vice-chairman hoped that the departments concerned could simplify the procedures for handling torture claims. She asked what measures the relevant departments had in place to handle the increasing number of appeals against the decisions made for the torture claims. She also asked what assistance the government had offered to torture claimants.

19. Mr HAU Wing-cheong indicated that many illegal immigrants and overstayers lodged torture claims only after they had been arrested or were pending removal or deportation. He wanted to know how the ImmD assessed and substantiated those claims.

20. Ms KWAN Sau-ling agreed with Mr HAU Wing-cheong and hoped the departments concerned could plug the loopholes.

21. The Chairman indicated that a number of unlawful stayers submitted torture claims only after they had been arrested or when they faced imminent removal or deportation from Hong Kong. If their claims were rejected, they might lodge appeals to extend their stay. In

addition, he reflected the public's wish for the Government to provide accommodation and food to torture claimants, as it did to Vietnamese boat people years before.

22. Mr HO Shi-sum responded as follows:

- (i) Under the statutory screening process, torture claimants were given every reasonable opportunity to establish their claims so as to ensure the procedures meet the high standards of fairness as required by the Court. Torture claimants were provided with publicly-funded legal assistance in the entire screening process.
- (ii) Claimants must complete the torture claim form with detailed grounds and supporting facts, and return the form within 28 days after they had obtained the form. The ImmD would then arrange for claimants to attend an interview to provide further information and answer questions relating to their claims, and would finally make determinations on the claims.
- (iii) The time required for screening torture claims was affected by many factors, especially whether the claimant was cooperative with the ImmD in providing timely information and following the screening procedure. Upon receipt of duly completed torture claim forms, relevant documents and supporting evidence, the ImmD would take approximately two months on average to complete the claim screening. Screened-out torture claimants might lodge an appeal against the decision within 14 days. The Torture Claims Appeal Board ("the Appeal Board") would follow up the case concerned, and in general, could make a ruling in respect of the appeal within four weeks.
- (iv) Past experience showed that some torture claimants tried to delay the screening procedure at different stages, for instance, by being absent from briefing sessions for commencement of the screening process, refusing to contact their assigned duty lawyers for submission of torture claim forms, repeatedly requesting to extend the deadline for submission of claim forms on different grounds, being absent from scheduled interviews for health reasons or without reasonable excuse. In addition, some claimants requested the ImmD to suspend making a determination for the reason of needing more time to provide the relevant documents but failed to submit such information after the deadline was extended. The ImmD thus found it hard to complete the screening as soon as possible.
- (v) Since the statutory screening mechanism was in force in 2012, the above situation was improved.

23. Mr KWONG Wai-shing responded as follows:

- (i) In 2012, a total of 1 154 torture claim cases were withdrawn or did not require the ImmD to follow up. Approximately 70% of the claimants had been removed while the others were pending further legal proceedings or were sentenced for breaching the law of Hong Kong. The ImmD was therefore unable to return those claimants for the time being.

- (ii) To ensure that the screening procedure for torture claims would meet the high standards of fairness as required by the Court, the Immigration Ordinance did not prescribe a time bar on lodging torture claims. However, Section 37ZD of the Immigration Ordinance specified that if the claimant failed to make the claim as soon as practicable, the immigration officer or the Appeal Board might take into account the above-mentioned behavior of the claimant as damaging the claimant's credibility.
- (iii) The ImmD had been positive in removing claimants whose torture claims were determined as not substantiated from Hong Kong. To prevent torture claimants from engaging in illegal employment during their presence in Hong Kong, the ImmD had focused on combating illegal employment activities and it would conduct anti-illegal worker operations in the light of different situations. Moreover, it would conduct joint enforcement operations with other departments whenever necessary. In the first 11 months of 2013, the ImmD had conducted 12 000 anti-illegal worker operations and arrested a total of 5 574 illegal workers.
- (iv) Under section 37ZK of the Immigration Ordinance, a claimant might be detained pending final determination of his torture claim.
- (v) Under section 32 of the Immigration Ordinance, a person pending removal might be detained. However, detention must be justified with sufficient reasons and for a period which was reasonable. In determining whether a person should be detained, the ImmD would take into consideration factors such as whether that person would constitute a threat to public order or security, whether that person had previous conviction of serious criminal offences and whether there was any risk of that person absconding.

(Mr Francis CHONG joined the meeting at 3:35 p.m.)

24. Ms WONG Yin-yee responded as follows:

- (i) If torture claimants, asylum seekers and mandated refugees were deprived of basic needs during their presence in Hong Kong, the SWD, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and on a case-by-case basis, would offer in-kind assistance to them on humanitarian grounds.
- (ii) The in-kind assistance was not welfare assistance. Its aim was to provide support which was considered sufficient to prevent them from becoming destitute. At present, the SWD had commissioned the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch ("ISS-HK") to handle such cases. The ISS-HK would assess the persons who were in need of support and provide them with basic in-kind assistance having regard to their individual needs. The assistance covered temporary accommodation, food, clothing, basic necessities and transport allowances.
- (iii) Currently, service users could arrange accommodation by themselves. For example, several service users could rent a premise on a sharing basis. The ISS-HK would enter into a direct payment arrangement with the legitimate

landlord. They could also consider living in flats rented by the ISS-HK.

- (iv) The ISS-HK would assess persons who were in need of support and provide support to them having regard to their individual situations, including availability of his own resources and resources available to him from other sources.

25. The Vice-chairman pressed the departments concerned about the measures in place to tackle torture claimants who tried all possible means to apply for extension of stay in Hong Kong.

26. Mr HUI Tak-leung was dissatisfied with the ImmD's inaction to prevent torture claimants from trying every means to apply for extension of stay in Hong Kong. He requested the ImmD to amend the legislation and plug the loophole.

27. Mr Derek HUNG opined that there were loopholes in the existing Immigration Ordinance, but section 37ZD of the Immigration Ordinance failed to plug the loopholes. In view of this, he requested the Government to prescribe a time bar for claimants to submit torture claims.

28. Mr Barry WONG opined that while the existing screening mechanism for torture claims was being abused, the ImmD and the SWD were criticised for being unsympathetic to torture claimants who were not given due support.

29. Mr HAU Wing-cheong said that the ImmD should prescribe a time bar for claimants to submit torture claims so as to prevent the screening mechanism from being abused.

30. Ms KWAN Sau-ling said that if the ImmD continued to delay drawing up measures to prevent the screening mechanism for torture claims from being abused, many more illegal immigrants would be encouraged to flock to Hong Kong.

31. The Chairman hoped that the ImmD could speed up the screening process for torture claims and amend the legislation as soon as possible to plug the loophole. In addition, he hoped that the ImmD could consider strengthening support to torture claimants by providing accommodation and food while they were awaiting screening results.

32. Mr KWONG Wai-shing responded that the ImmD had been adopting a positive attitude to handle claims for non-refoulement protection made in Hong Kong, with a view to expediting the determination of torture claims so that the substantiated claimants could obtain non-refoulement protection as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the ImmD would remove unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as possible. Having noticed that certain situations were open to abuse and individual claimants might use various reasons to delay the screening process, the ImmD would use its expertise to handle such cases of undue delay. In addition, the number of outstanding torture claim cases of the ImmD was on the decrease in recent years. The number had dropped from 6 447 in 2011 to 4 892 in 2012, and further to 2 941 as at the end of November 2013.

33. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

Item 2 Matters Arising:
Request for Installation of Valves to Drains in Open Markets in Mong Kok
(YTMD Paper No. 105/2013)

----- 34. The Chairman said that the written response (Annex 1) of the Highways Department (“HyD”) was placed on the table for Councillors’ perusal. He then welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- (a) Mr Chris LAM, Engineer/Kowloon 7, Mainland South Division of the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”); and
- (b) Mr LI KA-kei, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Mong Kok) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”).

35. Mr Chris LAM indicated that the HyD was responsible for the maintenance of roadside gully gratings and the DSD was responsible for the maintenance of major underground drains. Upon receipt of reports on choked drains or blockage of drainage inlets by rubbish, the DSD would deploy officers for on-site inspection and refer the case to the HyD and the FEHD for follow-up as soon as possible.

36. Mr LI Ka-kei advised that the FEHD had no comment on Ms WONG Shu-ming’s request for the HyD to replace the gully gratings along Cheung Wong Road and Canton Road with new ones for rodent prevention and control. The department would readily cooperate with other departments to remove the rubbish over the new gully gratings to prevent drain blockage.

37. Ms WONG Shu-ming reported that the HyD had invited her and hawkers for a site inspection after the last meeting. The HyD had undertaken to replace the gully gratings on half of Canton Road and some sections of Cheung Wong Road with new ones on a trial basis to keep rodents out of gullies. However, the HyD officers pointed out that the drain holes on the new gratings were quite small. The gratings would easily be blocked and finally cause flooding in rainy weather. She hoped that the FEHD and the DSD would strengthen the cleansing of gratings after the replacement exercise at the above sections. If the new gratings were remarkably effective in rodent prevention and control, she would propose the HyD to consider a comprehensive replacement of new gratings in all road sections with poor sanitary condition.

38. The Chairman considered that drain holes on the new gratings were quite small. He pointed out that some sections at Nathan Road had already been installed with the new gratings, but around one-fifth of the drain holes were blocked by rubbish or fabric patches, which had posed a flooding risk. He requested the concerned departments to step up cleansing the new gratings around rainy seasons.

39. The Vice-chairman agreed to Ms WONG Shu-ming’s proposal and requested the concerned departments to step up cleansing drain holes of gratings after the replacement. If the new gratings were effective in alleviating the odour problem of the drains and controlling rodents, she hoped the HyD would consider using the new gratings in areas with many restaurants.

40. Mr LAU Pak-kei pointed out that the new gratings had been in use in some areas of

Tai Kok Tsui. Some tenants of ground floor shops and residents had reflected to him that the new gratings were effective in controlling rodents and filtering out debris. He proposed the HyD to consider a comprehensive replacement of the gratings. Moreover, he enquired about the progress of grating replacement in Tai Kok Tsui.

41. The Chairman said Councillors agreed that the new gratings were more effective than the old ones in alleviating odour nuisance of the drains and controlling rodents. However, concerned departments should step up cleansing the drain holes of the gratings upon replacement in order to prevent drain blockage.

42. Mr LI Ka-kei responded that the new gratings might not be suitable for use in markets with more hawkers. The FEHD, the HyD and the DSD would assess the effectiveness of the trial replacement around rainy seasons and would report to the YTMDC in due course.

43. Mr Chris LAM responded that the DSD would cooperate with the HyD on the replacement of gully gratings.

44. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes of 13th YTMDC Meeting

45. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received from the Department of Health (“DH”) and Mr Derek HUNG proposed amendments to the minutes of the last meeting. The document (see Annex 2) was distributed at the meeting for Councillors’ information.

46. The amended minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

Item 4 Financial Position of YTMDC Funds as at 2 December 2013 **(YTMDC Paper No. 116/2013)**

Item 5 Funding Application from Organising Committee on Cultural Arts **Events for Organising Cultural Arts Events** **(YTMDC Paper No. 117/2013)**

Item 6 Funding Application from Working Group on Ethnic Affairs for **Organising YTM District Ethnic Cultural Show** **(YTMDC Paper No. 118/2013)**

Item 7 Funding Application from 2012-2014 YTM South Area Committee for **Organising YTM District Ethnic Cultural Show** **(YTMDC Paper No. 119/2013)**

47. The Chairman proposed that papers in respect of items 4 to 7 about District Council (“DC”) funding be discussed together and there was no objection. He reminded Councillors to fill in the Declaration of Interests form on the table if necessary.

48. Councillors noted the financial position of the YTMDC funds as at 2 December 2013 and endorsed the funding applications for items 5 to 7 (YTMDC Paper Nos. 117/2013 to 119/2013).

**Item 8: Construction of West Kowloon Government Offices
(YTMDC Paper No. 120/2013)**

49. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- (a) Mr Alan SIU, Government Property Administrator; Mr CHAN Wai-yan, Chief Property Manager (Technical Services), and Mr LAM Chik-man, Senior Property Manager (Acquisition, Allocation and Disposal) Office and Special Duties of the Government Property Agency (“GPA”);
- (b) Mr Andrew FUNG, Senior Project Manager (123) and Mr Vincent LEE, Project Manager (152) of the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”);
- (c) Mr Tom YIP, Senior Town Planner/Yau Tsim Mong of the Planning Department (“Plan D”); and
- (d) Mr Mario CHOY, Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon; Ms Christine YUEN, Senior Transport Officer (Yau Tsim Mong) and Mr CHAN Wai-tak, Senior Engineer/Kowloon District West of the TD.

50. The Chairman said that the GPA had consulted the YTMDC on the construction of the West Kowloon Government Offices (“WKGO”) in April 2013. Councillors requested the GPA to solicit views from all stakeholders, including the affected school and the Owners’ Corporation (“OC”) of Charming Garden. He hoped that the representatives of the GPA would later report to Councillors the views of stakeholders on the WKGO project.

51. Mr Alan SIU gave a PowerPoint presentation on the WKGO project.

52. The Chairman would like to know if the existing site at Hoi Ting Road was the only option in the district available for the construction of the WKGO. He said that the GPA had adopted the design of high and low blocks for WKGO as suggested by the YTMDC and reduced the heights of the two blocks to 78 metres and 70 metres respectively. Nevertheless, he hoped to further lower the heights. There would be around 3 000 staff members working in the WKGO upon completion of the project. Some staff members would have staggered lunch breaks, while some others would have lunch in other districts due to fieldwork. Even with such arrangements, the food premises near Hoi Wang Road and Olympian City might still fail to serve the WKGO staff going out for lunch. Hence, he suggested allocating some space in the WKGO for a food court to alleviate the heavy load on the nearby food premises.

53. Mr Benny YEUNG said that the Parent-Teacher Association and school management committee of Yaumati Catholic Primary School (Hoi Wang Road) had asked him to relay to relevant departments their objection to the WKGO project. The School said that it was already a victim of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (“XRL”) over the past few years. The school was worried that the concurrent construction of the XRL and WKGO might exacerbate air and noise pollution, thereby posing health hazards to their

students.

54. Mr HAU Wing-cheong was glad to hear that the GPA had accepted the YTMDC's suggestion to reduce the heights of the two WKGO blocks. He also noted that the relevant departments would take a series of actions having regard to the views of the affected school. The actions included following up the problem regarding the uneven surface of the school playground, adjusting the works schedule, implementing greening measures at the Hoi Ting Road construction site and directing works vehicles to assess the construction site by access roads far away from Hoi Ting Road and the school. He opined that the departments concerned had shown their willingness to resolve the problems. He also thought that the WKGO project could bring business opportunities to the food premises nearby. Furthermore, since the commuting hours of the WKGO staff did not clash with the daily travelling patterns of local residents, there should be no significant impact on residents' use of public transport services.

55. Mr Chris IP stated that during weekday peak hours and holidays, the traffic was very busy in corridors such as the road sections of Route 3 near Charming Garden, Gascoigne Road near the Cross Harbour Tunnel in Hung Hom, and Argyle Street connecting Mong Kok Road. He was worried that upon completion of the WKGO, an additional working population of 3 000 people in Tai Kok Tsui would further aggravate the already very heavy traffic in the district. He further said that the problem of lost trips was quite frequent for public transport services in the vicinity of Charming Garden and Hoi Wang Road. However, the relevant departments did not formulate any transportation arrangements in the district in respect of the WKGO project.

56. Mr CHAN Wai-keung said that he had consulted the residents in Fu Pak constituency on the WKGO project over the past few months and there was no strong opposition. In fact, some elderly people welcomed the provision of SWD office in the WKGO. However, some residents in Park Avenue were worried about the impact of the height of the WKGO on the ventilation in the vicinity and the construction period of the project which would last over four years. The works might affect the surrounding environment and delay the provision of leisure and recreational facilities at the site adjacent to the proposed WKGO. He thus urged the department to shorten the construction period of the WKGO.

57. The Chairman was glad to know that after the YTMDC's effort in negotiating for recreational and leisure facilities over the years, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") would build a community complex on the open area adjacent to the WKGO with facilities such as indoor recreation centre, indoor swimming pool and small library. He noted that the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") would examine the request of the community for a community hall in the complex. He opined that the Government should not neglect the long standing request of local residents for community facilities regardless of whether the WKGO would be built.

58. The Hon James TO requested the relevant department to assess whether the exterior walls of the WKGO would cause light reflection to nearby buildings. He anticipated that the demand of the community for restaurants would increase sharply upon completion of the WKGO and most shops in the vicinity might turn into restaurants. This would affect the shopping options of local residents. Moreover, he worried that there would be insufficient parking spaces in the WKGO and some staff members might have to rent the monthly parking spaces of nearby housing estates and shopping malls, which would lead to a surge in the rent

of parking spaces in the district.

59. Ms WONG Shu-ming said that upon completion of the WKGO, government offices that handled livelihood issues such as the SWD office and the Student Health Service Centre of the DH would move in. Thus the WKGO was not simply a project in the Tai Kok Tsui, but also an issue related to the well-being of residents of the YTM District.

60. Mr HUI Tak-leung said that he supported the WKGO project because the new government offices would provide a wide variety of public services which would benefit not only nearby residents and elders, but also facilitate the overall development of the YTM District. To address the concerns of the local community and schools on the construction project, he suggested the Government shorten the construction period as far as possible and conduct planning for the WKGO and the nearby environment together to reduce the impact of the construction on nearby residents and schools. He also worried that the demand of the community for restaurants would sharply increase upon completion of the WKGO, which might lead to a drastic increase in rents of nearby restaurants.

61. Mr Barry WONG said according to the GPA, the construction of the WKGO would not cause long term environmental impacts and it would also implement various mitigation measures during construction to control short term environmental impacts. He hoped that the measures concerned could be put to implementation. He then referred to the paper that the HAD would consider the request of providing community halls based on the review of the size of the site adjacent to the WKGO and the usage rate of community halls in the district. He hoped the YTMDO could elaborate on the matter.

62. Mr Benny YEUNG was baffled why the GPA did not consider other sites and insisted to build the WKGO near a primary school. He also enquired about the reasons the Government chose to conduct the environmental assessment for the works concerned during non-school hours on a Saturday morning. He enquired about the membership of the community monitoring group to be set up by the GPA to monitor the whole WKGO construction project. He also asked the GPA how it would ensure that the monitoring group could effectively monitor the works implementation.

63. Mr CHOW Chun-fai said that the GPA had undertaken to monitor the WKGO construction until its completion but he doubted whether the ArchSD or its contractors would ensure the proper execution of the works and report the works progress to the YTMDC regularly. He also requested the TD to take the chance of the WKGO project to make proper planning for the transport facilities in Tai Kok Tsui so as to improve traffic in the district.

64. Mr WONG Kin-san wanted to know the impact if the WKGO project could not be implemented on schedule. He suggested the 20% of the floor area of the new WKGO to be used for greening and display of public art works be converted to offices so as to further reduce the heights of the high and low blocks to 62 metres and 58 metres respectively. He continued to refer to the GPA's paper that the LCSD would consult the YTMDC and Community Building Committee about the construction of the community complex in due course. He hoped the relevant department could provide a specific consultation date. Lastly, he expressed his support for the WKGO project.

65. Mr Alan SIU responded as follows:

- (i) The Hoi Ting Road site had long since been allocated for the purpose of government offices. Thus the WKGO project was consistent with the planned use of the site. The site requirement for government offices was a floor area of at least 50 000 square metres. The GPA and the Plan D had confirmed that the Hoi Ting Road site was the only site in Kowloon available for WKGO construction after assessing the “Government, Institution or Community” sites in Kowloon.
- (ii) The GPA had to abide by the requirements of guidelines to reserve some areas for public space and greening purpose in the construction of government offices and thus the areas set aside for greening and display of public art works could not be converted to offices for the sake of building height reduction.
- (iii) The GPA had taken account of the views of local residents on the heights of the WKGO and reduced the height of the two blocks from 100 metres to 80 metres. Subsequently, the GPA adopted the design of high and low blocks proposed by the YTMDC and further reduced the heights of the two blocks to 78 metres and 70 metres so that their heights would be similar to those buildings in their vicinity. In addition, sufficient spaces had been reserved between the two blocks so as not to affect the access to natural light and the air ventilation of nearby buildings. Moreover, to avoid creating a wall effect to the surrounding environment, the recreational and sports facilities adjacent to the WKGO would not be used for high-density developments.
- (iv) It was inappropriate to provide a canteen in the WKGO. The GPA would reserve spaces for leasing within the WKGO for the operation of coffee shops, take-away shops or convenience stores.
- (v) The new WKGO was scheduled for completion in 2018 or 2019 when the transport network in the vicinity should have significantly improved. The departments concerned would take the construction of the WKGO as an opportunity to review the transport facilities and public transport services in the district and adjacent areas. Moreover, they would spare no effort in planning traffic diversion.
- (vi) As the school was concerned about the proposed construction project of the WKGO, the GPA would implement various mitigation measures during the construction period to reduce the short-term environmental impacts.
- (vii) The GPA would form a Task Force Group with the representatives of the school, relevant organisations, Councillors of the constituency concerned, contractor and the departments concerned to monitor the construction of the proposed WKGO. The GPA would regularly report the work progress to the YTMDC if necessary.
- (viii) When planning the local traffic for the WKGO project, the departments concerned had noticed that there was still room for improvement in respect of the green minibus (“GMB”) services in the district. In view of this, they immediately requested the operators to enhance the services.

- (ix) The GPA would liaise closely and coordinate with the LCSD to avoid delays to the adjoining complex if the WKGO fell behind schedule.
- (x) The construction of the WKGO might create short-term impacts on the environment. However, these impacts would fade out upon completion of the WKGO.
- (xi) Spaces had been reserved in the WKGO for the SWD office and a Student Health Service Centre under the DH.
- (xii) If the proposed construction project of the WKGO could not be implemented as scheduled, a number of government offices at the Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building could not be moved out early, thereby delaying the demolition work of the building and affecting the delivery of the Central Kowloon Route (“CKR”) project. In addition, the tenancy agreements of private premises in the YTM District where offices of some government departments were accommodated would soon begin to expire. If there would be delay in the new WKGO, the GPA’s relocation arrangement for those departments would be affected. Furthermore, the GPA anticipated that the Government would create around 2 100 job opportunities for the WKGO project. The jobs would be put on hold if the project could not commence.

66. Mr Mario CHOY responded as follows:

- (i) The commuting hours of the WKGO staff did not clash with the daily travelling pattern of local residents. Therefore, there would be no conflict in respect of their demand for public transport services.
- (ii) Located near three public transport interchanges in Park Avenue, Olympic Station and Island Harbourview, the WKGO was easily accessible by buses and GMBs throughout Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. The walking distance from the WKGO to MTR Olympic Station and Yau Ma Tei Station was about 10 minutes and 15 minutes respectively. In view of this, the traffic condition in the vicinity of the WKGO was satisfactory.
- (iii) The MTR West Island Line and South Island Line would be commissioned in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Moreover, the MTR Kwun Tong Line Extension would begin formal operation in 2015. With these new lines, the coverage and capacity of the public transport services in Hong Kong would be greatly increased. Nevertheless, the TD would continue to review the traffic condition in the district, especially the feeder transport service between the new WKGO and MTR stations.

67. Mr CHAN Wai-tak responded as follows:

- (i) The TD had required that a road be constructed to connect Hoi Wang Road and Canton Road under the XRL project so as to facilitate residents travelling from Olympic Station directly to Tsim Sha Tsui.
- (ii) At present, traffic congestions often occurred in areas around Route 3. The

TD planned to construct an underground bypass at the entrance of Route 3 to divert traffic flows.

- (iii) Upon completion of the CKR, residents in the YMT District could travel directly from West Kowloon to East Kowloon through the CKR. The journey would only take about five minutes.
- (iv) Upon completion of the WKGO, the TD would review the road transportation network and public transport services in Tai Kok Tsui in a timely manner.

68. The Chairman was dissatisfied with the response given by the representative of the TD that the traffic condition along Hoi Wang Road was acceptable. He pointed out that the bus frequency of KMB route no. 2E was low and residents had to wait for about half an hour before getting on buses. In addition, KMB route no. 914 was the only en route bus service plying between Tai Kok Tsui and Hong Kong Island. In view of this, Councillors had strongly demanded the TD to improve the transport services in Tai Kok Tsui many times.

69. Mr Richard WONG responded that the LCSD was conducting the advanced works of the complex adjacent to the WKGO and would report the details of the complex to the YTMDC in early 2014. Moreover, the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) would return the works site to the Government in 2016 for the construction of the complex.

70. Ms Betty HO responded that the YTM District had a genuine need for an extra community hall. The YTMDO had proposed to develop a community hall at a private land at Soy Street in Mong Kok awarded for private development and requested the Lands Department (“Lands D”) to add in relevant terms when putting the land on sale by tender. Moreover, the HAD would discuss with the LCSD whether a community hall could be included in the complex adjacent to the WKGO.

71. Mr Benny YEUNG pressed the Government to explain why the environmental assessment was conducted during a non-school day and how the GPA would monitor the construction works of the WKGO in future.

72. Mr Alan SIU responded as follows:

- (i) The MTRCL would assess the impact of the XRL works on the environment and submit monthly reports to the HyD.
- (ii) The GPA had commissioned a contractor through the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) to set up a monitoring station inside Yaumati Catholic Primary School (Hoi Wang Road) for environmental assessment. The assessment days included school days from Monday to Friday. The GPA would readily provide the data to the school and the YTMDC.
- (iii) The GPA would deploy officers to monitor the construction works of the WKGO until completion.

73. Mr Chris IP was dissatisfied that the TD’s representative did not respond favourably to Councillors’ request for improving the public transport service and road network design in Tai Kok Tsui. He added that the TD did not respond seriously to Councillors’ aspiration on

transport service in the district either although the GPA had responded positively to Councillor's views on the WKGO project. Therefore, he did not support the project.

74. Mr CHAN Wai-keung considered that the traffic assessment of Tai Kok Tsui made by the TD's representative was not specific enough. He pointed out that the WKGO staff who resided on the Hong Kong Island would probably use the MTR YMT Station instead of Olympic Station in future. Moreover, he thought that the TD had to urge the operator of GMB route no. 79K to strengthen service.

75. The Vice-chairman was concerned that there would be a gap in the demand and supply of restaurants, transport service and parking space in the district due to the establishment of the proposed WKGO. She hoped that the GPA and concerned departments could address the issue seriously. She sympathised with the school which was worried about the noise and air pollution impact on the health of teachers and students in the course of construction. She added that as two out of the eight departments to be reprovisioned in the WKGO would provide public service, she would support the WKGO project in principle. However, she stressed that the Government should take measures to ease the worries of the school and should ensure that the Task Force Group operate effectively. Furthermore, she requested the department concerned to enclose the works site with higher hoardings, improve the transport arrangements in the vicinity of Hoi Wang Road, shorten the construction period, and develop recreational and cultural facilities adjacent to the WKGO as soon as possible.

76. Mr WONG Shu-ming was deeply dissatisfied with the remarks of the TD's representative.

77. Mr Alan SIU responded as follows:

- (i) The departments concerned would take the opportunity of the WKGO project to review the transport services and road network in the district. The GPA endeavoured to coordinate with concerned departments to support the operation of the WKGO. The Task Force Group would also study the transport issues related to the proposed WKGO.
- (ii) He hoped that the concerns of the affected school and concerned parties in the district over the works and transport issues could be properly handled by the Task Force Group.

78. Ms Christine YUEN responded that the TD understood the possible impact of the larger flows of people on the traffic nearby upon completion of the WKGO was a matter of concern to Councillors. The TD would review the overall public transport services in the district in respect of the proposed WKGO, XRL stations nearby and related public transport interchanges. The TD would also conduct timely reviews of the traffic condition and feeder transport service between the district and adjoining areas if necessary. Furthermore, the TD had recently arranged with the operator of GMB no. 43M to introduce a short-working service travelling to MTR YMT Station during the morning peak hours. The frequency would then be increased as a result of the reduced journey time.

79. The Chairman said that the YTMDC would cast a vote on the WKGO project at Hoi Ting Road as some Councillors were for and some were against the project.

80. Voting results:

The Vice-chairman, Mr Chow Chun-fai, Mr HAU Wing-cheong, Mr CHAN Wai-keung, Mr HUI Tak-leung, Ms WONG Shu-ming, Mr WONG Kin-san, Mr LAM Kin-man, Mr John WONG, Mr Francis CHONG, and Mr Barry WONG (11 Councillors) voted for the WKGO project at Hoi Ting Road. Mr Chris IP, Mr Benny YEUNG, Mr Derek HUNG, Ms KWAN Sau-ling, Mr LAU Pak-kei, and Mr CHAN Siu-tong (6 Councillors) abstained from voting. No Councillor voted against the project.

81. The Chairman announced that the YTMDC supported the construction of the WKGO at Hoi Ting Road.

82. The Chairman concluded that having regard to the existing traffic conditions in Tai Kok Tsui and the school's concerns over the project, he could not give his support to the WKGO project. However, he understood that it was necessary to construct the WKGO at the Hoi Ting Road site to accommodate the CKR works. In addition, the GPA had consulted the two terms of the OC of Charming Garden which did not clearly object to the WKGO project. Residents in the district also welcomed the provision of the SWD office in the WKGO, so he abstained from voting on the project. He continued that although the YTMDC had endorsed the WKGO project, the relevant departments still needed to carefully assess the transportation arrangements in Tai Kok Tsui, to further reduce the heights of the high and low blocks of the WKGO, and reserve space in the WKGO for the operation of coffee shops/refreshment kiosks. He added that in order to alleviate the nuisance caused to the community by the project, the GPA and other departments concerned should strengthen communication with the Yaumati Catholic Primary School (Hoi Wang Road) and proactively responded to its requests. He was glad to know that the District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong) took the initiative to join the monitoring group. He said that as the Councillor of the constituency concerned, he would also join the group to monitor the project. Furthermore, he urged relevant departments to implement the construction of a complex on the site adjacent to the WKGO with an indoor recreation centre, an indoor swimming pool, a small library and a community hall once the MTRCL had returned the site to the Government in 2016.

83. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

Item 9: Comprehensive Waste Management Blueprint 2013-2022

84. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment; Miss Katharine CHOI, Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment, and Mr Howard CHAN, Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2) of the EPD to the meeting.

(Mr Francis CHONG left the meeting at 5:31 p.m.)

85. Mr WONG Kam-sing gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Comprehensive Waste Management Blueprint 2013-2022 ("the Blueprint").

86. Ms KWAN Sau-ling suggested the local eateries follow the Canadian practice of charging customers for leftovers. She further said that on-street litter bins were often fully packed and left uncleaned, leading to environmental hygiene nuisance.

87. Ms WONG Shu-ming said that if the Government wished to promote emission

reduction and waste reduction, it needed to assist the recycling industry. She quoted eco-blocks as an example and pointed out that the Government had not taken appropriate action to follow up the work concerned.

88. Mr Chris IP said that the public would be confused if the Government put forward waste reduction at source, landfill extension and building of incinerators at the same time. The Government thus should clearly determine the priorities of those policy measures. He hoped that the Government could enhance public education on waste reduction at source. He proposed to transport waste to landfills by using refuse collection vehicles (“RCVs”) of an enclosed type design or by sea, thereby reducing the odour and hygienic problems caused by RCVs travelling in densely populated regions. He also hoped that the Government would first conduct a detailed study on the building of incinerators.

89. Mr Barry WONG expressed concern over the follow-up work regarding the separation of domestic wastes. Besides, he said that the Shek Kwu Chau Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre of the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (“SARDA”) was only 10 metres away from the proposed incinerator at Shek Kwu Chau. As the SARDA provided drug treatment and rehabilitation services to approximately 1 600 drug addicts per year, the Government should maintain close communication with the stakeholders prior to the building of incinerator at Shek Kwu Chau.

(The Hon James TO left the meeting at 5:54 p.m.)

90. Mr LAM Kin-man opined that Hong Kong was more conservative than other places in the waste recovery target. He proposed to establish a statutory Waste Resources Authority to combine the functions of waste collection, recycling and treatment which were currently undertaken by various departments. In addition, he proposed to promote separation of dry and wet domestic waste, and to develop a territory-wide recycling network for community resources which would complement the separation of dry and wet waste at refuse collection points. As a result, the disadvantaged would be able to collect recyclable materials for resale to recyclers.

91. Mr WONG Kin-san said that he submitted a discussion paper titled “Concern over the Impact of Government’s ‘Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022’ on People’s Livelihood” at the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee meeting on 11 July 2013. It seemed that the EPD representatives present at the meeting had inadequate knowledge of the Blueprint. He supported the target of reducing the per capita disposal rate of municipal solid waste by 40 % by 2022 as stated in the Blueprint. He added that as many single-block buildings in the YTM District did not have OCs, it might be difficult to implement waste charging in such buildings. Moreover, he hoped that the Government would provide assistance to low-income families when imposing waste charging. He also urged the Government to install full enclosure noise barriers along the MTR line at Yim Po Fong Street or Yuen Po Street to minimise noise nuisance.

92. The Vice-chairman indicated that the Government could hardly implement the Blueprint if the public did not know much about it. The stagnant development of the recycling industry would also affect the achievement of targets of waste recovery. She considered that the Government should strengthen cross-boundary cooperation between Hong Kong and Guangdong on environmental protection issues through Supplement X to CEPA. She also pointed out that promoting the Blueprint merely by television commercials and

announcements of public interest could not effectively enhance environmental education.

93. Mr CHAN Wai-keung proposed that the Government should promote saving culture and waste reduction to the public in order to achieve the target of waste reduction at source.

94. Mr HAU Wing-cheong considered that the public had low awareness of environmental protection and the Government should strengthen public education. He also indicated that it was necessary for the Government to extend landfills and build incinerators.

(Mr CHOW Chun-fai left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.)

95. Mr WONG Kam-sing responded as follows:

- (i) The Government would concurrently promote five policy measures, namely, waste reduction at source, Food Wise, clean recycling, waste-to-energy and clean landfilling.
- (ii) The Government was well aware that many single-block buildings in the YTM District had not formed OCs and the grass-roots were worried about the increased financial burden resulted from the quantity-based waste charging scheme. He would relay the views to concerned departments.
- (iii) The Environment Bureau (“ENB”) would discuss with the catering industry how to reduce food waste.
- (iv) The fundamental solution to waste recycling was to reduce the overall waste load. The Steering Committee to Promote the Sustainable Development of the Recycling Industry led by the Chief Secretary for Administration would step up concerted efforts in reducing waste and promoting the development of the recycling industry.
- (v) The Government would regulate the recycling of glass beverage bottles by legislation.
- (vi) According to a recent public opinion survey, the public generally supported the building of incinerators. The incinerator stack was approximately 150 metres in height and emissions from incineration met the European Union standard (“Euro standard”). However, delivering waste to landfills by RCVs might cause even more nuisances to the community. The ENB would strengthen communication with stakeholders in this regard.
- (vii) The Government had introduced legislation to mandate the installation of enclosed tailgate covers and waste water sump tanks on all RCVs to alleviate problems such as odour nuisance and dripping of leachate.
- (viii) The ENB and the FEHD would cooperate to improve the operation of roadside 3-coloured recycling bins. The FEHD would require recyclers in new contracts to use transparent polythene garbage bags to prevent recyclable materials from being misdelivered to landfills.

96. Ms WONG Shu-ming indicated that measures such as quantity-based waste charging and food waste recycling would change the public's daily living habits. She hoped the ENB could allow a longer period of time for the public to get used to the new measures before implementation.

97. Mr WONG Kam-sing responded that the ENB understood the public needed time to engage in programmes related to waste reduction at source. He added that the Government attached great importance to the air quality of Hong Kong. It therefore released "A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong" in March 2013 and expected to achieve the new Air Quality Objectives largely by 2020.

98. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

**Item 10 Water Supplies Department Is Lawless in Excavating Roads and Occupying Land. The Situation Is Spiralling Out of Control.
(YTMDC Paper No. 121/2013)**

----- 99. The Chairman said that the written responses of the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") and Lands D (Annexes 3 and 4) had been distributed to Councillors for perusal before the meeting. The written response of the HyD (Annex 5) was also placed on the table
----- for Councillors' perusal. He then welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- (a) Mr SUEN Kwok-keung, Senior Engineer/Cost Estimate and Mr Eric TAM, Engineer/Project Management 5 of the WSD; and
- (b) Mr LOOK Tai-loi, Senior Resident Engineer of Atkins China Ltd;
- (c) Mr LI Ka-kei, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Mong Kok) and Mr WONG Kam-wah, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yau Tsim) of the FEHD.

100. Mr HUI Tak-leung supplemented the contents of the paper. He asked whether the HyD had received applications from the WSD contractors for storing excavation tools on roads. He also asked whether the Lands D and the FEHD had initiated prosecutions against the WSD contractors for unauthorised occupation of government land and affecting street hygiene respectively.

101. Mr SUEN Kwok-keung responded that upon receipt of Mr HUI Tak-leung's information, the WSD had requested contractors in the YTM District to store fences, tools and miscellaneous articles in warehouses and to clean up the works site every day. Moreover, the WSD had instructed resident engineers to closely monitor site conditions.

102. Mr LAU Pak-kei indicated that many waterworks were in progress in Tai Kok Tsui. He founded that the WSD contractors had casually placed fences and miscellaneous articles on the works site, which had aggravated environmental hygiene. Moreover, he was dissatisfied that the contractors did not reinstate the greening zone under flyovers upon completion of works. He requested the WSD contractors to shorten the works period to mitigate the nuisance caused to the residents nearby. After completion of works, the contractor should remove all the fences and miscellaneous articles on the site and reinstate the

greening zone under flyovers as soon as possible.

103. Mr HUI Tak-leung asked how the WSD monitored its contractors' performance during implementation of waterworks. He indicated that fences and miscellaneous articles were left at the works sites at Shanghai Street, Soy Street and Shan Tung Street for as long as three months after the works were completed. He also found that there were pits excavated for waterworks in the district but were left unbackfilled and finally filled with spoil and refuse, which had affected the environmental hygiene. He thus requested the WSD to address the above problems and asked the departments concerned to institute prosecutions against the WSD contractors for the irregularities.

104. Mr SUEN Kwok-keung said that the WSD would strictly monitor waterworks to minimise the nuisance caused to residents.

105. Ms KWAN Sau-ling indicated that the WSD contractors varied in performance. Upon completion of works, some did not take appropriate follow-up actions. She suggested that the WSD require its contractors to reinstate the site and submit photos of the site as evidence.

106. The Chairman concluded that the YTMDC requested the WSD contractors not to occupy the road for a long time when carrying out waterworks. They should also properly clean up the sites and reinstate the greening zones and facilities as soon as possible.

107. Mr SUEN Kwok-keung responded that the WSD would require its contractors to submit photos in respect of site conditions for record immediately upon completion of works.

108. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

Item 11: Central Kowloon Route is Affecting Yau Ma Tei Residents. Demand for Full Enclosure on Gascoigne Road Flyover (Yau Ma Tei Section)
(YTMDC Paper No. 122/2013)

----- 109. The Chairman said that the written response jointly made by the Transport and Housing Bureau, the EPD and the HyD (Annex 6) had been placed on the table for Councillors' perusal. He then welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- (a) Mr Jimmy CHAN, Project Manager/Major Works; Mr Tao Kei-hung, Deputy Project Manager/Major Works (1) and Mr LAM Man-san, Senior Engineer 3/Central Kowloon Route of the HyD; and
- (b) Ms Betty HO, District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong) of the HAD.

110. Mr Benny YEUNG supplemented the contents of the paper. He said that the CKR portal would be located in YMT, but the HyD did not equip the Gascoigne Road Flyover with full enclosure noise barriers. Quite a lot of residents in YMT were concerned that the air and noise impacts of the CKR project would pose health hazards to them. He therefore urged the HyD to retrofit full enclosures for the entire Gascoigne Road Flyover.

111. Mr TAO Kei-hung gave a PowerPoint presentation to explain the major factors

considered in formulating noise mitigation measures on Gascoigne Road Flyover.

112. Mr Jimmy CHAN added that the CKR project complied with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. Besides, the Director of Environmental Protection had issued an environmental permit in respect of the project. Hence, the CKR works were in compliance with the relevant legislative requirements. In response to Councillors' request for full enclosures on Gascoigne Road Flyover, he explained that the flyover might not be able to bear the load of the barriers at all sections. Additional foundations would be required for the installation and this might affect the structure of the flyover. In addition, fire services requirements had to be taken into consideration. As regards the proposal of northward extension of the full enclosures off Blocks 3 and 4 of Prosperous Garden to reach beyond Yaumati Catholic Primary School, the HyD was studying the feasibility.

113. Mr Chris IP was dissatisfied with the HyD which rejected the installation of full enclosures on Gascoigne Road Flyover with the excuse that the noise barrier posts would affect traffic flow. He strongly demanded the HyD to install full enclosures on the flyover to mitigate impacts of air and noise pollutions on residents.

114. Mr Benny YEUNG was dissatisfied with the reason of the HyD for not adopting full enclosures. He pointed out that full enclosures were installed at certain sections of Gascoigne Road Flyover under the current proposal. Air pollutants from such sections would travel to the gaps between semi enclosure noise barriers, leading to direct impacts on residents in Blocks 1 to 5 of Prosperous Garden.

115. The Vice-chairman said that when the Government conducted phase 1 public engagement exercise on the CKR project, Councillors had clearly stated their request for full enclosures on Gascoigne Road Flyover. She opined that the Government should not place cost-effectiveness over the interests of residents and students. She was glad to know that the HyD would further study the suggestions of Councillors. However, she thought that the term "enclosed noise barriers" in the motion of the discussion paper was inaccurate and suggested Mr Benny YEUNG replace it with another term.

(Mr Derek HUNG left the meeting at 6:49 p.m.)

116. Mr CHAN Siu-tong said that, to his knowledge, the cost of providing full enclosures at the inner bend of Gascoigne Road Flyover was \$250 million only. He hoped that the HyD would optimise the overall design of the CKR by accepting the advice to install full enclosures on the entire section of the flyover.

117. Mr Benjamin CHOI said that the HyD refused to retrofit full enclosures along the entire Gascoigne Road Flyover because the noise barrier posts would obstruct driver's sightline and occupy the open space opposite to the Yau Ma Tei Police Station, and the full enclosures might hinder fire emergency services. He opined that the problems were not technically infeasible. He continued that as mentioned in the HyD's PowerPoint presentation, the adoption of full enclosures could actually improve air quality and reduce noise. He thus hoped that the HyD would adopt Councillors' suggestion to install full enclosures all along the entire Gascoigne Road Flyover.

118. The Chairman said that the additional resources required for retrofitting full enclosures at the inner bend of Gascoigne Road Flyover would only account for a small

portion of the expenses of the CKR project. The Government should accord top priority to residents' health by installing full enclosures along the entire Gascoigne Road Flyover.

119. Ms KWAN Sau-ling supported Mr Benny YEUNG's motion. She opined that the motion was people-oriented and could safeguard the interest of residents in Prosperous Garden, and teachers and students of Yaumati Catholic Primary School.

120. Mr LAM Kin-man opined that the HyD had not provided hard data on the technical problems and cost-effectiveness of changing semi enclosures to full enclosures. He indicated that Parc Palais residents had objected to the CKR alignment and then the Government accepted their views to amend the alignment. The HyD should also accept Councillors' views for the sake of the health of Prosperous Garden residents by providing full enclosures along the entire Gascoigne Road Flyover.

121. Ms WONG Shu-ming said that she had received complaints from residents in Mong Kok about the noise nuisance caused to residents near the flyover between West Kowloon Corridor and Tai Kok Tsui because the section was not installed with noise enclosures. She was dissatisfied that the flyover was built many years before but the Government had not taken any mitigation measures to effectively address the noise impacts. She continued that retrofitting full enclosures on Gascoigne Road Flyover was not technically infeasible as mentioned in the HyD's presentation. She requested the HyD to accept Councillors' suggestions of providing full enclosures on Gascoigne Road Flyover.

122. Mr HUI Tak-leung hoped that the HyD would take more heed of residents' views on the proposed CKR project. The department might otherwise need extra effort and time to alleviate the noise nuisance once the project was finished.

123. Mr Jimmy CHAN responded that the HyD would consider four factors in the provision of full enclosures along Gascoigne Road Flyover. Besides the impacts on traffic, structure and fire services, it would also consider the factor of cost-effectiveness. He pointed out that the CKR project would benefit the development of transport network in YMT and even the whole territory. The HyD could also take the opportunity to ease the traffic noise impacts near Gascoigne Road Flyover. He reiterated that while the works had met the statutory requirements, the HyD would still consider Councillors' suggestions to improve the design before finalising the proposal.

124. The Chairman said that the Government had consulted the YTMDC on the CKR project since 2008, and accepted Councillors' views many times to improve the project proposal. Nevertheless, the HyD had never responded favourably to the residents' requests. The department had not accepted to change the noise barriers on Gascoigne Road Flyover from semi enclosure to full enclosure, nor extend the full enclosures off Blocks 3 and 4 of Prosperous Garden northwards to reach beyond Yaumati Catholic Primary School.

125. Mr Benny YEUNG said the HyD had worried that residents on the lower, middle and upper levels in Prosperous Garden would have different views on the type of noise barriers to be used. However, the views he had gathered showed that residents in the Prosperous Garden generally supported the installation of full enclosure noise barriers along Gascoigne Road Flyover.

126. Mr Chris IP said that, with reference to the consultation paper submitted by the HyD

on the CKR project, he requested to amend the motion of the discussion paper to “The Yau Tsim Mong District Council demands that the following conditions must be satisfied for the construction of the Central Kowloon Route: 1. installation of full enclosure over the section of Gascoigne Road Flyover off Blocks 1 and 5 of Prosperous Garden from semi enclosure; and 2. northward extension of the full enclosure off Blocks 3 and 4 of Prosperous Garden to reach beyond Yaumati Catholic Primary School”. Ms KWAN Sau-ling seconded the amended motion.

127. The Vice-chairman asked whether Mr Chris IP’s amended motion was put forth to align the terms with those used in the consultation paper of the CKR Phase 2 Public Engagement Exercise. She thought that the amended motion conveyed the same meaning as the original one.

128. Mr Chris IP said that he proposed an amendment to the motion with a view to adopting the term of “full enclosure” on page 38 of the HyD’s Phase 2 Public Engagement Digest of the CKR. The meaning of the amended motion was the same as that of the original motion.

129. The Chairman said that the YTMDC would cast a vote on the amended motion. He added that Mr CHOW Chun-fai, the Hon James TO and Mr Derek HUNG had respectively authorised Mr LAU Pak-kei, Mr LAM Kin-man and Mr Benny YEUNG to vote on their behalf.

130. Voting result: The Chairman, the Vice-chairman, Mr HAU Wing-cheong, Mr Chris IP, Mr Benny YEUNG, Mr Derek HUNG (Mr Benny YEUNG voted on his behalf), Mr CHAN Wai-keung, Mr HUI Tak-leung, Ms KWAN Sau-ling, Ms WONG Shu-ming, Mr WONG Kin-san, Mr LAM Kin-man, the Hon James TO (Mr LAM Kin-man voted on his behalf), Mr Barry WONG, Mr CHAN Siu-tong, Mr Benjamin CHOI, Mr LAU Pak-kei, Mr CHOW Chun-fai (Mr LAU Pak-kei voted on his behalf) voted for the motion (18 votes in total). No Councillor voted against the motion or abstained from voting.

131. The Chairman announced that the amended motion was passed.

132. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

(Mr HAU Wing-cheong, Mr LAM Kin-man and Mr Barry WONG left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

Item 12: Progress of Mandatory Building and Window Inspection Schemes Is Questionable. Development Bureau Should Increase Manpower to Assist Frontline Staff
(YTMDC Paper No. 123/2013)

133. The Chairman said that the written response of the Buildings Department (“BD”) (Annex 7) had been distributed to Councillors for their perusal before the meeting and the written response of the Development Bureau (“DEVB”) (Annex 8) was placed on the table for Councillors’ perusal. He then welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

(a) Mr Patrick TSUI, Chief Building Surveyor/Mandatory Building Inspection 2;

- Mr Terry WAN, Senior Building Surveyor/Mandatory Building Inspection 2 and Mr Albert CHU, Senior Structural Engineer/F 2 of the BD; and
- (b) Ms Betty HO, District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong) of the HAD.

134. Ms WONG Shu-ming supplemented the contents of the paper.

135. Mr Patrick TSUI responded that the DEVB had given an account of the number of posts created by the BD for the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (“MBIS”) and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (“MWIS”) to the Panel on Development of the LegCo on 26 November 2013. In order to handle unauthorised building works and building maintenance works, the Bureau would create 190 posts of different grades in the BD. Moreover, the BD had adjusted downwards the number of target buildings under the two mandatory schemes in 2014 and would focus on handling target buildings which were issued pre-notification letters. One of the reasons for the delay of the two schemes was the large number of units in target buildings. The workload of various fronts increased sharply and was beyond the original estimation. Moreover, the BD received a large number of enquiries after issuing the pre-notification letters and had to arrange briefings for owners of affected target buildings and housing estates. This had also slowed down the progress of the schemes. The BD would adopt a number of measures, including setting up designated counters for receiving/issuing reports and certificates, assigning a designated team to handle the Window Inspection Scheme and studying the use of electronic forms and other means of electronic submission to expedite the progress of the schemes.

136. Mr HUI Tak-leung pointed out that there was not only a staff shortage in the BD, the publicity of the MBIS and the MWIS was also insufficient. He recalled that he had arranged a briefing for residents in the district with Mr Francis CHONG, Ms WONG Shu-ming, Mr WONG Kin-san, Mr John WONG, Mr LAU Pak-kei and Mr Benjamin CHOI to explain the two mandatory schemes. From the briefing, he learned that many property owners were unsure of the relevant procedures though they had received pre-notification letters from the BD. He also said that the staff delivering notices for the BD had very bad manners. There were also problems with the records of property owners of the BD and this had caused the department to issue notices to the former owner of a unit. Moreover, he opined that it was unfair for the BD to recognise some contractors as Registered Inspectors (“RIs”).

137. Mr CHAN Wai-keung said that there was potential conflict of interests under the MWIS because many registered contractors were operators of aluminium window companies. He wanted to know how the BD would ensure that registered contractors would conduct window inspection fairly and make objective judgement.

138. The Chairman said that the BD did not provide sufficient support to the public on the two mandatory schemes. He suggested the BD distribute pamphlets to the residents affected to explain to them the procedures they had to go through, the fees charged as well as the channels of making enquiries, reports and complaints.

139. Mr Benny YEUNG said that many old private buildings in the YTM District had not formed OCs. The management was poor and the mobility of owners was high. The BD should assess the situation clearly and provide more information and assistance to the public in the implementation of the schemes.

140. Ms KWAN Sau-ling doubted if the two mandatory schemes could be implemented as

scheduled. She was also dissatisfied that the officers employed by the BD posted notices of the schemes on the gates of residents' units without informing the management office of the building in advance.

141. Mr CHAN Siu-tong said that the MBIS and the MWIS were designed with good intentions but the BD did not plan properly in the implementation. Moreover, he agreed that the MWIS might give rise to conflicts of interests and pointed out that unnecessary replacement of aluminium windows would create environmental problems.

142. Mr WONG Kin-san was pleased to hear that the DEVB would create posts in the BD to alleviate the staff shortage problem of the department. He wanted to know whether the number of target buildings of the two mandatory schemes would be adjusted following the employment of additional staff.

143. Mr Patrick TSUI responded as follows:

- (i) The BD fully implemented the MBIS and the MWIS on 30 June 2012 and had started a series of publicity and promotion activities in early 2012, including production and distribution of leaflets and guidelines as well as broadcasting of announcements of public interest on buses and radio stations.
- (ii) The BD would organise district briefing sessions every quarter to explain the details of the two mandatory schemes. The BD had organised around 100 district briefing sessions since 2012.
- (iii) The Hong Kong Housing Society and Urban Renewal Authority would provide assistance to buildings without OCs. The HAD would also invite Resident Liaison Ambassadors to the district briefing sessions of the HD to enhance their understanding of the two mandatory schemes.
- (iv) The BD would organise talks on building maintenance for the elderly through district organisations.
- (v) If manpower resources permitted, the BD would organise briefing sessions on the two mandatory schemes for residents' organisations and housing estates.
- (vi) Both the RIs of the MBIS (Authorized Persons ("APs"), Registered Structural Engineers ("RSEs") and other professionals) and the Qualified Persons ("QPs") of the MWIS (APs, RSEs, RIs, Registered General Building Contractors and Registered Minor Works Contractors registered for the class, type and item of minor works in respect of windows) met the legal requirement. The BD had consulted the industry, Councillors, institutes and residents' organisations on the list concerned and agreed that a QP who was also the contractor could provide window repair service for residents after window inspection.
- (vii) The BD would review the reports/certificates issued by the QPs and had also issued the Code of Practice of the two mandatory schemes to the industry.
- (viii) The BD had provided the direct line numbers of its staff on the "pre-notification letters" and notices issued for the public to make reports.

- (ix) The BD had provided information of over ten professional institutions and unions with a list of QPs and cost reference to the public through hyperlinks in the FAQs section of the department's website. Such information had also been disseminated to the public in district briefing sessions.
- (x) In view of the staff shortage of the department, the BD would adjust downwards the number of target buildings in 2014 and would accord priority to selected target buildings which were issued "pre-notification letters" and statutory notices. The BD would determine the number of target buildings for the next year having regard to the progress of implementation of the two mandatory schemes for the prevailing year.
- (xi) The two schemes required owners to carry out regular inspections and timely repairs for their building based on the principle of "prevention is better than cure" so as to tackle the problem of building neglect in Hong Kong at its root. He hoped Councillors could relay the message to residents in the district.
- (xii) The BD would address the issue of the misconduct of QPs of the MWIS and follow up the complaints concerned proactively.

(Ms KWAN Sau-ling left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.)

144. Mr HUI Tak-leung said that the BD did not explain to owners what they should do after the "pre-notification letters" were issued. He said that the attitude of staff responsible for delivering "pre-notification letters" and statutory notices to target buildings was poor. He also proposed the BD not to implement the two mandatory schemes to buildings without OCs.

145. Mr CHAN Wai-keung pointed out that the notices issued to owners by the BD were neither signed nor chopped. They might not be legally binding and unruly elements might defraud the elderly through this loophole. Moreover, as QPs under the MWIS could also be contractors, they might induce owners to replace rather than to inspect their windows, leading to unnecessary wastage.

146. The Vice-chairman agreed to the original purposes of the two schemes. However, she opined that when finalising the details of the schemes, the BD failed to monitor the performance of its contractors effectively and thereby caused nuisance to the public. In this connection, she urged the BD to conduct a review on the relevant work procedures with its contractors.

147. Mr Patrick TSUI responded as follows:

- (i) The BD had explained different procedural requirements to owners through district briefings and supporting organisations. If owners had appointed RIs or QPs for building or window inspections, the RIs/QPs were required to conduct inspections in accordance with the relevant procedures and owners did not need to assume any responsibilities.
- (ii) The BD would maintain closer communication with the industry and requested them to increase the transparency of the fees charged. The department would also recommend the public to ask for quotation from more

than one contractor before appointing any RIs/QPs.

(Mr Benny YEUNG left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.)

148. The Vice-chairman asked the BD to explain the procedures and specific details regarding the two mandatory schemes particularly to the elderly and individual owners.

149. The Chairman requested the BD to review the schemes and instruct its contractors to improve the quality of service.

150. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

Item 13: Introduction of Tenant Tax Deduction to Ease Livelihood Pressure Faced by Middle Class and Youths
(YTMDC Paper No. 124/2013)

----- 151. The Chairman said that the written response jointly made by the Financial Secretary's Office and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Annex 9) had been distributed to Councillors for perusal before the meeting. He then welcomed Ms Betty HO, District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong) to the meeting.

152. Mr WONG Kin-san supplemented the contents of the paper and declared interest that he was living in a rental housing unit. He said that many middle-class people and the youth in the territory were facing housing problems. They could not afford to purchase private housings nor were they eligible to apply for the public housing. They needed to bear heavy financial pressure of rental expenses. He suggested that the Government ease the burden on those who could not afford to purchase their own housing units and had to pay high rent by introducing a "tenant tax deduction" with the annual deduction ceiling at \$100,000 in the 2014-15 Budget.

153. Ms Betty HO responded that in order to solicit views from various sectors on the 2014 Policy Address and the 2014-15 Budget, the Chief Executive, the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary had organised a number of regional forums to date, including the forum in Kowloon just held on 8 December where members of the community had participated actively. The YTMDO would relay to the departments concerned the views that the public and Councillors had expressed in the forum. Besides, she would also relay to the departments concerned the suggestions that Mr WONG Kin-san had put forth at the current meeting.

154. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

Item 14: A Breath of Fresh Air for Mong Kok Residents
(YTMDC Paper No. 125/2013)

----- 155. The Chairman said that the written responses of the EPD and the TD (Annexes 10 and 11) had been placed on the table for Councillors' perusal. He then welcomed Mr YAM Yat-shing, Senior Environmental Protection Officer of the EPD to the meeting. Mr YAM Yat-shing would respond to Councillors' questions on behalf of the ENB and the EPD.

(The Vice-chairman left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.)

156. Ms WONG Shu-ming supplemented the contents of the paper. She wanted to know the effectiveness of catalytic reduction devices on buses. She added that the previous-term Government had put forward a proposal of setting up pilot low-emission zones at busy corridors. However, many people were concerned that the Government would set up the zones only on major trunk roads such as Nathan Road, while the old vehicles with Euro standards would be forced to enter inner roads, including Reclamation Street, Shanghai Street, Portland Street and Canton Road etc. and would worsen the air quality of inner roads.

157. Mr YAM Yat-shing responded that the newly installed catalytic converters on taxis and public light buses were different from those on buses. Catalytic converters on buses were subject to certification in respect of technical standard and performance prior to installation and application. He continued that the Government planned to establish pilot low-emission zones at busy corridors in areas such as Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok, with the target of having only low emission buses in those zones by 2015. To accelerate the phase-out of old diesel commercial vehicles, the Government had submitted to the LegCo a proposed regulation on phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles by 1 January 2016.

158. Ms WONG Shu-ming hoped that senior government officials could consider her views. She also said that the Government planned to fully subsidise the franchised bus companies to purchase six hybrid buses and 36 electric buses for a trial run with a view to achieving the policy objective of having zero emission buses running throughout Hong Kong. The EPD expected that the trial scheme could commence in the second half of 2014 and she wanted to know which road sections would be involved in the scheme.

159. Mr CHAN Wai-keung opined that the Government failed to provide appropriate incentives for the phasing out of old diesel vehicles at present. He believed that it would be more effective to regulate by legislation or by making reference to the measures of overseas cities, e.g. levying charges on vehicles accessing designated areas. Moreover, he recalled that the Government of the last term proposed to set up “low emission zones” instead of “low emission zones for buses”. Thus the current policy was already different from the proposed measure of the Government of the last term.

160. Mr YAM Yat-shing responded as follows:

- (i) The Government had submitted the proposed regulation to the LegCo to phase out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles and it had also set out the retirement deadlines for phasing out of vehicles of different stages.
- (ii) The Government only allowed buses with Euro IV or better emission standard to access the low emission zones and it would phase out all pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles. The above measures could reduce vehicle emissions significantly.
- (iii) In order to achieve the objective of having zero emission buses running throughout Hong Kong, the Government would fully subsidise the franchised bus companies to purchase six hybrid buses and 36 electric buses (including battery-electric buses and supercapacitor buses) for a trial run. The EPD

would review the preliminary trial result in about one year's time after the implementation.

161. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

Item 15: Progress Reports

- (1) **District Management Committee**
(YTMDC Paper No. 126/2013)
 - (2) **Community Building Committee**
(YTMDC Paper No. 127/2013)
 - (3) **District Facilities Management Committee**
(YTMDC Paper No. 128/2013)
 - (4) **Housing and Building Management Committee**
(YTMDC Paper No. 129/2013)
-

162. Councillors noted the contents of the progress reports.

Item 16: Any Other Business

- (1) **Invitation for Nomination of Sports Ambassador**
-

163. The Chairman said that the LCSD had written to the YTMDC to invite the DC to nominate two Councillors as YTM “Sports Ambassadors” to assist in the promotion of sports activities in the community. The term of the Sports Ambassadors was two years, starting from January 2014 to December 2015. He further said that Mr CHAN Siu-tong and Mr WONG Kin-san were the YTM “Sports Ambassadors” in 2012-2013 and asked Councillors if they agreed to continue to nominate the two Councillors as the Sports Ambassadors for the new term. There was no objection.

164. It was endorsed that Mr CHAN Siu-tong and Mr WONG Kin-san were nominated as the YTM “Sports Ambassadors” for the new term.

- (2) **Invitation for Nomination of Representative to Serve as Member of Hongkong Post Customer Liaison Group 2014-2015**
-

165. The Chairman said that the Hongkong Post had written to the 18 DCs, inviting each DC to nominate one representative to join the Hongkong Post Customer Liaison Group (“CLG”) for 2014-2015 to exchange views on the service of the Hongkong Post. He further said that Mr HAU Wing-cheong represented the YTMDC to join the CLG in 2012-2013 and wanted to know if Councillors agreed to continue to nominate him to join the new term of the CLG. There was no objection.

166. The Chairman announced that Mr HAU Wing-cheong would be nominated to represent the YTMDC in the new term of the CLG.

- (III) **Review of Allowance and Expense Reimbursement Arrangements for District Council Members**
-

167. Mr WONG Kin-san wanted to know the implementation date of the increase in the accountable “Operating Expenses Reimbursement” (“OER”) and “Setting-up Expenses Reimbursement” (“SER”).

168. The Chairman said he noted that the Panel on Home Affairs and the Finance Committee of the LegCo had endorsed the increase in OER and SER. The above measure would be effective from 1 January 2014.

169. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 27 February 2014 (Thursday).

Yau Tsim Mong District Council Secretariat
January 2014

要求為旺角區內露天街市渠口加裝渠口活門
(油尖旺區議會第 105/2013 號文件)

路政署的書面回應

回應“要求為旺角區內露天街市渠口加裝渠口活門”

鑑於有關街市鼠患嚴重，我們建議嘗試使用特殊水渠蓋（見附圖 1）以取代正常的水渠蓋，它的排水孔只有 25mm x 25mm，有助防止老鼠進出排水溝。然而，由於此特殊水渠蓋排水孔面積較小，下雨時的去水流量將會減少，這些特殊水渠蓋需要更頻繁的清潔和檢查，以確保排水孔暢通。

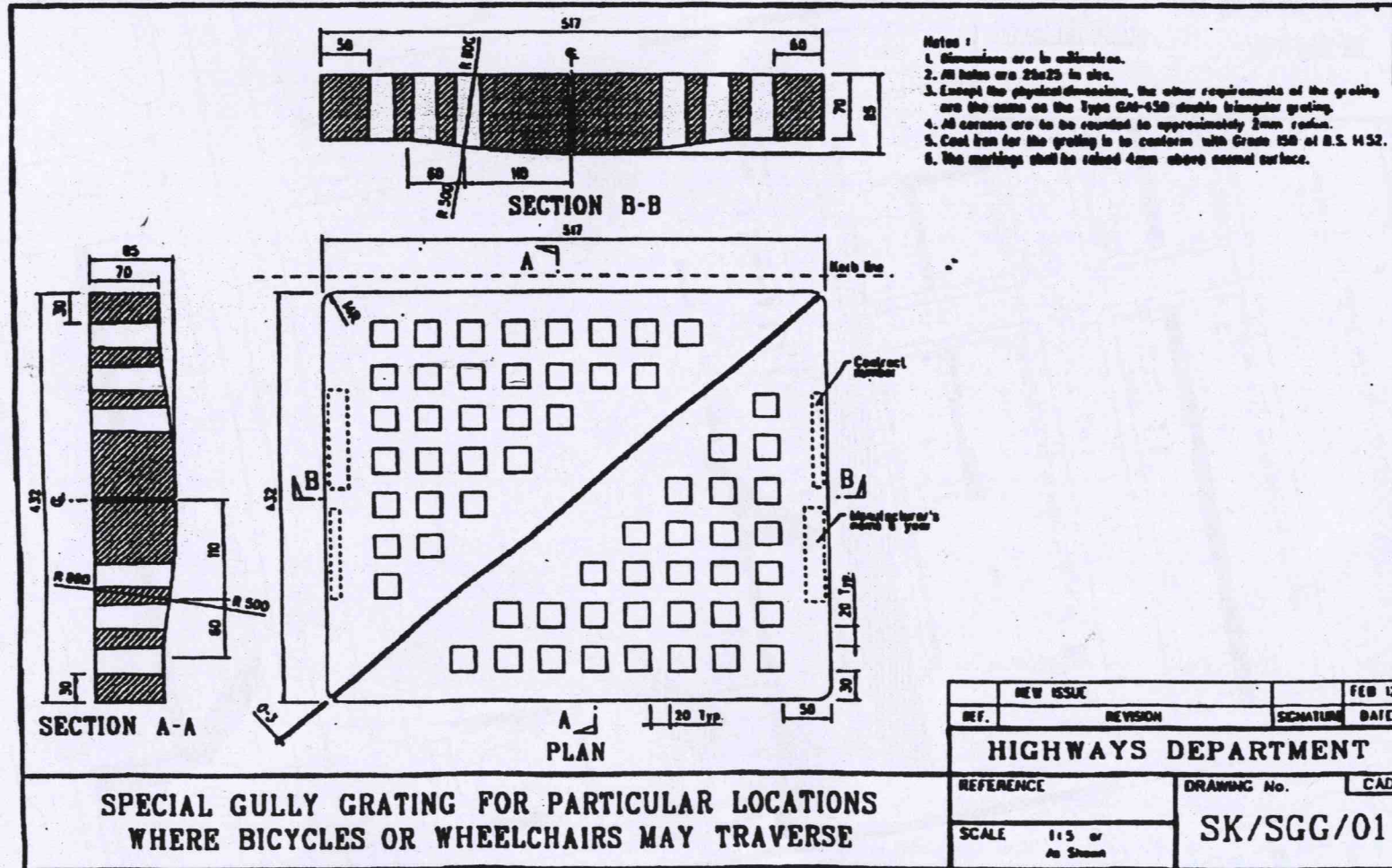
針對上述問題，我們計劃將位於長旺道、深圳街和廣東道（由快富街至亞皆老街的一段）（見附圖 2）的渠蓋更換為特殊水渠蓋，並觀察有關特殊水渠蓋對鼠患的效用及在大雨時能否適當疏導雨水。工程預計會於明年 2 月展開，為期 2 個月。

24-FEB-2012 10:19

HIGHWAYS DEPT.

98%

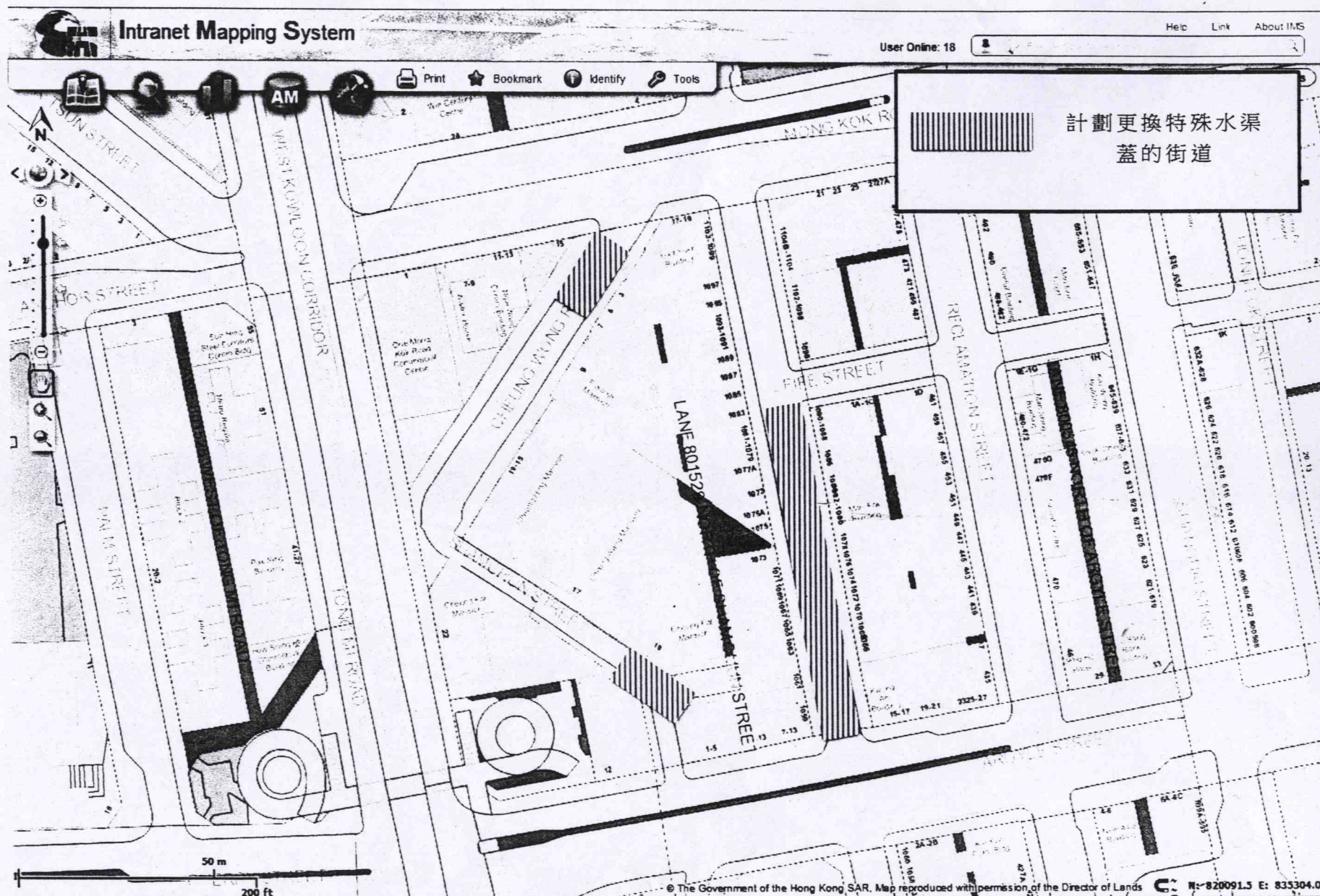
TOTAL P. 02
P. 02



24-FEB-2012 10:07

HIGHWAYS DEPT.

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**Proposed Amendments to the Draft Minutes of
the 13th Meeting held on 31 October 2013
Yau Tsim Mong District Council (2012-2015)**

The amendments proposed by the Department of Health (“DH”) were as follows:

Paragraph 23:

Original text: “The Chairman welcomed Ms Constance CHAN, Director of Health and Ms Emily LEUNG, Community Physician of the Department of Health (“DH”) to the meeting.”

Proposed amendment: “The Chairman welcomed Dr Constance CHAN, Director of Health and Dr Emily LEUNG, Community Physician of the Department of Health (“DH”) to the meeting.”

Paragraph 24:

Original text: “Ms Constance CHAN gave a PowerPoint presentation....., and the smoking cessation service undertaken by the DH as well as promotional programmes on healthy life styles.”

Proposed amendment: “The Director of Health gave a PowerPoint presentation....., and the tobacco control undertaken by the DH as well as promotional programmes on healthy life styles.”

Paragraph 34:

Original text: “ Ms Constance CHAN responded as follows:

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii) Given that second-hand smoke could not be completely removed even with effective ventilation systems, the DH did not support the proposal of designating smoking areas in indoor areas of restaurant premises from the perspective of healthcare services.
- (iv)
- (v) The methadone treatment endorsed by the World Health Organisation could provide a safe and effective alternative to opiate users. Currently, there were on the average around 400 people using the service at Yau Ma Tei Methadone Clinic. The DH had arranged security personnel to station in the clinic so as

to handle unexpected events.

- (vi) The DH understood Councillors' wish of relocating the methadone clinic to an area which was far away from residential buildings. However, the DH appealed to Councillors for their understanding of the difficulty in finding suitable sites for relocating Yau Ma Tei Methadone Clinic.
- (vii) The DH had been very concerned about the mental health of the public. The Review Committee on Mental Health under the Food and Health Bureau was responsible for conducting a comprehensive review on mental health services in Hong Kong.
- (viii) The Government had provided funding support to non-governmental organisations for various types of outreaching services. Sex workers were the target group. The DH would continue to enhance efforts on outreach work.
- (ix)
- (x)
- (xi)

”

Proposed
amendments:

“ Dr Constance CHAN responded as follows:

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii) Given that second-hand smoke could not be completely removed even with effective ventilation systems, the proposal of designating smoking areas in indoor areas of restaurant premises should not be supported from the perspective of public health.
- (iv)
- (v) The methadone treatment endorsed by the World Health Organisation provided a safe and effective alternative to opiate abusers. Currently, there were on the average around 400 people using the service at Yau Ma Tei Methadone Clinic. Security personnel had been arranged to station in the clinic so as to assist in maintaining the order.
- (vi) The DH understood Councillors' wish of relocating the methadone clinic to an area which was far away from residential buildings. However, the DH appealed to Councillors for their understanding of the difficulty in finding suitable sites for

relocation.

- (vii) The DH would enhance the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and consider that mental health was a significant part of them. The Government had set up a Review Committee on Mental Health, which was chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health, to fully review and map out the direction for development of mental health services in Hong Kong.
- (viii) The Government had collaborated with non-governmental organisations and provided funding support for various types of outreaching services. Sex workers were the target group. The DH would continue to enhance efforts on outreach work.
- (ix)
- (x)
- (xi)

”

Paragraph 37:

Original text: “ Ms Constance CHAN responded as follows:

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii) The needy who were 60 or above or medically certified to be disabled or in ill-health could receive aided dental treatment services in the 56 dental clinics recognised by the SWD.

”

Proposed amendments: “ Dr Constance CHAN responded as follows:

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii) The Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”) provided grant for dental treatment to the needy who were old (60 or above), disabled or medically certified to be in ill-health. Eligible persons could receive aided dental treatment services in the 56 dental clinics recognised by the SWD.

”

Paragraph 39:

Original text: “ Ms Constance CHAN said that.....”

Proposed amendments: “ Dr Constance CHAN said that.....

(Post-meeting note: The DH had searched the past minutes and concluded that the department had never promised to provide public dental services in the redeveloped CHC on the site of the former Mong Kok Market complex.) ”

The amendments proposed by Mr Derek HUNG were as follows:

Paragraph 11:

Original text: “Mr Derek HUNG said that in recent years some university students would rather find jobs with lower pay in order to be eligible for PRH, and such situation had aroused concerns. He enquired the Authority about the ways to ensure fair and proper allocation of PRH resources.”

Proposed amendment: “Mr Derek HUNG said that he had heard from quite a number of members of the public that in recent years some university students would rather find jobs with lower pay in order to be eligible for PRH for singletons, and such situation had aroused concerns. He suggested that the department should ascertain whether the situation was common among applicants waiting in the queue. Furthermore, he enquired the Authority about the latest number of abuse cases detected and ways to ensure fair and proper allocation of PRH resources.”

Paragraph 129:

Original text: “Mr Derek HUNG said that As a member of the WKCD, he also thought that.....”

Proposed amendment: “Mr Derek HUNG said that As a member of the WKCD consultation panel, he also thought that.....”

二零一三年十二月十二日會議

有關：許德亮議員的「水務署無法無天，掘路霸地無枉管」文件

多謝許德亮議員的提問，本署現謹覆如下：

Q1. 水務署現時在油尖旺區共有多少工程在進行中？

水務署現時在油尖旺區共有 6 個水務工程合約進行中。工程主要是有關全港性的更換及修復水管計劃及一般水務維修。工程合約編號及名稱是：

合約編號	合約名稱
16/WSD/06	更換及修復水管工程第 2 階段-西九龍及九龍城水管工程
3/WSD/08	更換及修復水管工程第 3 階段-西九龍水管工程(甲組)
6/WSD/08	更換及修復水管工程第 3 階段-西九龍水管工程(乙組)
13/WSD/10	更換及修復水管工程第 4 階段第 1 期-西九龍、葵青及荃灣水管工程
14/WSD/11	更換及修復水管工程第 4 階段第 2 期-西九龍水管工程
1/WSD/11(K)	水務工程定期合約, 地區 K-九龍

Q5. 水務署在 2013 年 1 月至今共收到多少有關工程投訴？

從 2013 年 1 月至 11 月 30 日，水務署合共收到 220 宗有關水務署在油尖旺區所進行的工程投訴。

水務署

2013 年 12 月 5 日

Yau Tsim Mong District Council

Meeting on 12 December 2013

Re: Paper entitled “水務署無法無天，掘路霸地無枉管” from Mr. HUI Tak Leung.

Thank you for the enquiry of Mr. HUI Tak Leung. Our reply is as follows:

Q1. 水務署現時在油尖旺區共有多少工程在進行中？

At present, there are 6 waterworks contracts being undertaken by Water Supplies Department in Yau Tsim Mong District. The waterworks concerned mainly include the territory-wide Replacement & Rehabilitation of Water Mains Programme and general maintenance waterworks. The contract number and title are:

Contract Number	Contract Title
16/WSD/06	Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 2 Mains in West Kowloon and Kowloon City
3/WSD/08	Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 3 Mains in West Kowloon (Package A)
6/WSD/08	Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 3 Mains in West Kowloon (Package B)
13/WSD/10	Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 4 Phase 1 Mains in West Kowloon, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan
14/WSD/11	Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 4 Phase 2 Mains in West Kowloon
1/WSD/11(K)	Term Contract for Waterworks, District K – Kowloon

Q5. 水務署在 2013 年 1 月至今共收到多少有關工程投訴？

From January 2013 to 30 November 2013, Water Supplies Department received 220 nos. of complaints relating to waterworks in Yau Tsim Mong District.

Water Supplies Department
5 December 2013

水務署無法無天，掘路霸地無皇管
(油尖旺區議會第 121/2013 號文件)

地政總署的書面回應

「本處於 2013 年 12 月 2 日派人員到有關地點(即上海街梁顯利社區中心後方近油麻地玉器市場、奶路臣街/新填地街交界、碧街/上海街交界)視察，發現一些用作水務工程施工的欄河擺放/架設在公眾道路上。

一般而言，政府工程部門在公眾道路包括行人路及行車道進行任何挖掘工程需向有關部門(即路政署)作出相關申請。而就施工時監管事宜，本處相信負責有關工程的水務署將會作合適回應。」

水務署無法無天，掘路霸地無皇管
(油尖旺區議會第 121/2013 號文件)

路政署的書面回應

回應“水務署無法無天，掘路霸地無枉管”

本署的主要職責為策劃、設計、建築以及保養道路網。土地佔用以及街道衛生分別屬於地政總署和食物環境衛生署的範疇。如有需要，本署會積極配合其他部門對題述事項的安排。

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港添馬添美道2號
政府總部東翼



Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat
Transport Branch
East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.: THB 4/6/127
來詢檔號 Your Ref.: YTMDC/13-10-14-12

電話 Tel. No.: 3509 8181
傳真 Fax No.: 2136 8017

九龍聯運街三十號
旺角政府合署四樓
油尖旺區議會
(經辦人: 鍾小蘭女士)

鍾女士:

中九龍幹線影響油麻地居民
要求加土居道天橋(油麻地段)建全密封隔音罩

你於本年12月2日致本局及路政署就題述事宜的來函收悉: 本局與路政署現綜合回覆, 路政署以下代表將就題述事宜出席2013年12月12日的區議會會議 -

陳派明先生	路政署主要工程管理處處長
杜琪鏗先生	路政署主要工程管理處副處長1
林文山先生	高級工程師 3/中九龍幹線

運輸及房屋局局長

(李嘉莉



代行)

2013年12月11日

副本送: 路政署署長

(經辦人: 杜琪鏗先生)

傳真: 2714 5198

中九龍幹線影響油麻地居民
要求加士居道天橋(油麻地段)建全密封隔音罩
(油尖旺區議會第 122/2013 號文件)

環保署的書面回應

本署獲悉路政署已就有關討論文件作出回覆，本署沒有補充，亦不會有代表出席會議。

楊泉清
高級環境保護主任(區域東)1
環境保護署

九龍旺角聯運街三十號
旺角政府合署四樓
油尖旺區議會秘書

鍾女士：

強制驗樓及強制驗窗計劃

貴處轉介莊永燦、黃舒明及黃建新議員提交的文件，標題為「強制驗樓及驗窗計劃進度成疑 促局方增加人手協助前線員工」的事宜，屋宇署感謝有關議員的關注。就文件內的提問，屋宇署的回覆如下：

問 1： 強制驗樓計劃及強制驗窗計劃的目的，是以「預防勝於治療」的理念，規定業主須為其物業進行定期檢驗和適時維修，從根源處理本港樓宇失修的問題。強制驗樓計劃及強制驗窗計劃分別適用於樓齡達 30 年或以上及樓齡達 10 年或以上的所有私人樓宇(不高於三層的住用樓宇除外)。根據強制驗樓計劃，樓宇業主每隔十年須在指定期限內就樓宇的公用部分、外牆、伸出物及招牌，委任一名註冊檢驗人員進行訂明檢驗，以及委任一名註冊承建商在一名註冊檢驗人員的監督下進行檢驗後認為需要的訂明修葺工程。而根據強制驗窗計劃，樓宇業主每隔五年須在指定期限內就樓宇的窗戶，委任一名合資格人士進行訂明檢驗，以及委任一名註冊承建商在一名合資格人士的監督下進行檢驗後認為需要的訂明修葺工程。屋宇署在送達法定通知前會先向目標樓宇的業主／業主立案法團（法團）發出預先知會函件，告知業主其樓宇已被選定為目標樓宇，讓業主有充分時間做好準備及預先籌劃。屋宇署、香港房屋協會及市區重建局會安排有關計劃的地區簡介會，以鼓勵及協助業主籌備檢驗及修葺工程。

就強制驗樓計劃，在發出預先知會函件不少於 6 個月後，屋宇署可向目標樓宇的業主／法團送達法定通知。在收到法定通知後，由該法定通知發出日期起計，有關業主／法團須在 3 個月內委任一名註冊檢驗人員，並在 6 個月內完成訂明檢驗。如根據檢驗所得認為有需要進行修葺工程，則該些工程須在法定通知發出日期 12 個月內完成。至於強制驗窗計劃，在發出預先知會函件不少於兩個月後，屋宇署可向目標樓宇的業主／法團送達法定通知。在收到法定通知後，由該法定通知發出日期起計，有關業主／法團須在 3 個月內委任一名合資格人士，並在 6 個月內完成訂明檢驗及所需的訂明修葺工程。就兩項計劃，如目標樓宇未成立法團，屋宇署會給予額外 3 個月時間，以便有

關業主籌備及安排進行所需的檢驗及修葺工程。在法定通知發出後，有關樓宇名單會上載屋宇署網站。

問 2：截至 2013 年 11 月，本署已向油尖旺區合共 306 幢目標樓宇送達法定通知，其中 107 幢大廈同時發出強制驗樓及驗窗通知，而其餘 199 幢只發出強制驗窗通知。就目標樓宇已發出法定通知的相關數字分佈，請參閱以下列表：

截至 2013 年 11 月底的數字	同時進行 強制驗樓及驗窗計劃 的目標樓宇	只進行 強制驗窗計劃的 目標樓宇
揀選為目標樓宇數目	513	945
已發出預先知會函件的 目標樓宇數目	400	570
已發出法定通知的目 標樓宇數目	107	199
	強制驗樓法定通知	強制驗窗法定通知
發出的法定通知數目	1483	15013

問 3：本署在達到預期進度上遇到很大困難，進度出現延誤有兩個主要原因。其一，為實施有關計劃所涉及工作量的估算有偏差，因目標樓宇單位數目增多，令多方面的工作量相應大增。其次，本署發出預先知會函件後，收到大量公眾查詢，以及為受影響目標樓宇和屋苑的業主特別安排現場簡介會的要求。在考慮到所涉及的資源和有需要減少在此過渡期對業主所造成的影響，以及現時的市場情況，我們認為有需要下調就強制驗樓計劃及強制驗窗計劃訂定的全年目標樓宇數目。本署現正根據運作經驗，修訂這兩個計劃的目標。就來季油尖旺區可能被揀選為強制驗樓及驗窗計劃的目標樓宇數目，本署會考慮多項因素，包括區內合資格樓宇數目的比例分配、樓宇及窗戶的維修狀況及維修記錄、樓宇毗連的交通及人流狀況、地區及樓宇組群等。

問 4：在 2011 年重組後，屋宇署的兩個樓宇部負責在只進行強制驗窗計劃的目標樓宇執行強制驗窗，而強制驗樓部則負責強制驗樓計劃的目標樓宇。現時該三個部別合共有超過 500 名專業及技術人員。實施強制驗樓計劃和強制驗窗計劃是這些員工整體職責的一部分，這些員工同時需要推行署方有關樓宇安全及維修執法計劃，我們不能單就處理油尖旺區實施強制驗樓及驗窗計劃的人手提供分項數字。

有關油尖旺區議會 12 月 12 日舉行之會議，屋宇署出席代表如下：

屋宇署總屋宇測量師／強制驗樓(2)組	徐皓先生
屋宇署高級屋宇測量師／強制驗樓(2)組	尹志威先生
屋宇署高級結構工程師／樓宇(2)部 F2 組	朱雨田先生

屋宇署署長

(總屋宇測量師/強制驗樓(2) 徐皓



代行)

副本送：發展局

2013年12月9日

政府總部
發展局
規劃地政科



香港添馬添美道二號
政府總部

本局檔號Our Ref. DEVB(PL-CR) 2-15/08
來函檔號Your Ref. YTMDC/13-10/14/12

Planning and Lands Branch
Development Bureau
Government Secretariat

Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

電話 Tel.: 3509 8851

傳真 Fax: 2899 2916

[By Fax : 2722 7696]

11 December 2013

Ms Joanne Chung
Secretary
Yau Tsim Mong District Council
4/F, Mong Kok Government Offices
30 Luen Wan Street
Kowloon

Dear Ms Chung,

**Invitation to Attend the Meeting
of Yau Tsim Mong District Council**

Thank you for your letter of 2 December, inviting the Development Bureau to attend the meeting of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council on 12 December to discuss the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS). From the paper submitted by Members, we understand that Members mainly would like to discuss the workflow of the MBIS and the MWIS, the number and distribution of target buildings selected for implementation of the two schemes in Yau Tsim Mong District, as well as the manpower allocation within the Buildings Department (BD) for implementing the two schemes. We have assigned BD staff to attend the meeting of the District Council to answer Members' questions.

Thank you for your interest in the MBIS and the MWIS.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Florence Lo)
for Secretary for Development

c.c. Director of Buildings (Attn : Mr Patrick Tsui) [Fax : 3162 0948]

財經事務及庫務局

香港添馬添美道二號
政府總部二十四樓



FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE
TREASURY BUREAU

24/F, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
Hong Kong

傳真號碼 Fax No. : 2147 5770

電話號碼 Tel. No. : 2810 2971

本函檔號 Our Ref. : TsyB GS ADM/6-20/7

5 December 2013

Ms Joanne Chung
Secretary
Yau Tsim Mong District Council
4/F, Mong Kok Government Offices,
30 Luen Wan Street
Kowloon

Dear Ms Chung,

Thank you for inviting the Financial Secretary Office and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau to attend the Yau Tsim Mong District Council meeting on December 12.

In order to collect views and suggestions on the 2014 Policy Address and the 2014-15 Budget, Chief Executive, Chief Secretary for Administration and Financial Secretary have held more than 30 consultation sessions. In addition, we will hold a total of three regional forums to which all District Council members will be invited so as to collect local views effectively.

We appreciate the invitation from Yau Tsim Mong District Council. I regret to inform you that we are unable to attend the meeting due to other work commitments. Should members of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council have any other views or suggestions on the 2014 Policy Address and the 2014-2015 Budget, they are welcomed to submit their proposals to us or to join the regional forum on December 8 (Sunday) from 2:30pm to 4:00pm at Mong Kok Kai Fong Association Ltd Chan Hing Social Service Centre. Their views are valuable to us.

Yours sincerely,

(Ruby SHIU)

for Permanent Secretary for Financial Services
And the Treasury (Treasury)

c.c. Assistant Secretary, Financial Secretary Office

**A Breath of Fresh Air for Mong Kok Residents
(YTMD Paper No. 125/2013)**

Environmental Protection Department's written response

Due to year to year variation of meteorological conditions, the air quality will be different from previous years even if pollutant emissions remain unchanged. For this reason, short-term changes in air quality are susceptible to such variations. To assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures scientifically, long-term trends of pollutants for many years should be observed instead of year by year snap shots of short-term pollutant data. In fact, due to the measures taken by EPD to reduce emissions, including requiring power plants to install desulfurization equipment, launched a series of measures to reduce emissions from vehicles (see next paragraph), encouraged the ocean-going vessels to switch to cleaner fuels during berthing etc., air quality has shown signs of improvement. Between 2006-2012 Hong Kong general air quality of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), respirable suspended particulates (RSP) and fine particulates (PM_{2.5}) concentrations decreased by 50%, 23% and 30% respectively. SO₂, RSP, PM_{2.5} and NO_x concentrations also significantly improved at the roadside which were decreased by 52%, 29%, 30% and 12% respectively. However, roadside NO₂ concentration has increased by 23%. This is mainly due to vehicle emissions of nitrogen oxides and rise in ozone levels in the Pearl River Delta region in recent years where the latter will readily oxidize the emission from vehicles to nitrogen dioxide and resulting in roadside NO₂ rise.

To reduce vehicle emissions, we had implemented a series of emission reduction measures between 2000 and 2005, including subsidized the replacement of diesel taxis and light buses with LPG ones, the introduction of advanced smoke test methods and increase in fixed smoky vehicles penalty, subsidized the retrofitting of pre-Euro diesel vehicles with particulate trap/catalytic converter, and tightened motor vehicle fuel specifications and emission standards for newly registered vehicles. The further emission reduction measures implemented from 2006 include:

1. Tightened the emission standard for newly registered vehicles to Euro IV in 2006 and further to Euro V in 2012.
2. Provided tax incentives in 2007 to introduce early Euro V diesel. In 2010, Euro V petrol and diesel became the statutory motor vehicle fuel standards.
3. Diesel commercial vehicles are major sources of roadside air pollution. To accelerate the phasing out of old diesel commercial vehicles and to improve roadside air quality, the Government has implemented incentive schemes since 2007 to encourage the use of more environmentally-friendly vehicles, including incentive schemes for the early replacement of pre-Euro, Euro I and Euro II diesel commercial vehicles and first registration tax concessions for environmentally-friendly vehicles. Under the incentive schemes for the early replacement of pre-Euro/Euro I and Euro II diesel commercial vehicles implemented in 2007 and 2010 respectively, a total of 17,000 pre-Euro and Euro I and 7,000 Euro II diesel commercial vehicles were replaced with new vehicles. Also, as at October 2013, we have approved about 58,400 applications of environmentally-friendly petrol cars and 20,400 environmentally-friendly commercial vehicles.
4. The Government set up a \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund in March 2011 to

subsidize public transport trades and goods vehicle owners to trial low-emission and low-carbon innovative transport technologies. This is to encourage the industries to introduce more innovative green transport technologies. So far, the Fund has approved 58 trials, involving a total amount of subsidy of about \$ 82 million for testing 14 electric taxis, two small electric buses, 11 electric buses and 32 electric vehicles, 28 hybrid goods vehicles, 12 small hybrid buses, as well as a solar air conditioning system.

5. Currently, there are about 18,100 LPG taxis and 3,600 LPG light buses. We have launched a one-off funding scheme in August 2013 to subsidize owners of LPG taxis and light buses to replace worn-out catalytic converters and oxygen sensors. The scheme will end on 31 March 2014. Replacement work will be carried out in three phases according to the year of manufacture of the vehicle. The Phase one of the scheme progresses well and has about 10,000 taxis and 2,000 light buses participated, accounting for about 80% of the vehicles. It will end on 31 December 2013. After the completion of the replacement programme, we will deploy remote sensing devices to identify those LPG and petrol vehicles which emit excessively. Vehicles found to be emitting excessive emissions will be required to pass an advanced emissions test with the aid of a chassis dynamometer within 12 working days. Otherwise, the vehicle license will be cancelled.

To accelerate the phasing out of the remaining old diesel commercial vehicles, the Government has submitted proposed regulations to phase out some 80,000 vehicles pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles. The proposed regulation will stipulate retirement deadlines for pre-Euro diesel commercial vehicles on 1 January 2016 and 1 January 2017; 1 January 2018; and 1 January 2020, for Euro I, II and III vehicles respectively. It also sets a service-life limit of 15 years for newly registered diesel commercial vehicles. The Government will offer gratia payments of 27% to 33% of the average taxable values of new vehicles to eligible vehicle owners. The proposed regulations are being considered by the Legislative Council and if approved, it will become effective on 1 February 2014. Phasing out pre-Euro IV polluting diesel commercial vehicles can reduce vehicular emissions of respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides by 80% and 30% respectively. As well as contributing towards the attainment of the new Air Quality Objectives that will take effect in 2014, the reduction can also reduce by half the cancer risk associated with exposure to diesel engine exhaust fumes.

In addition, emission reduction measures for franchised buses include:

1. Hong Kong has no pre-Euro buses, and all Euro I buses will be replaced with Euro V or above models by 2015 the latest. In addition, the Government will fully fund the franchised bus companies for the capital costs of retrofitting selective catalytic reduction devices for Euro II and III franchised buses to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions.
2. The ultimate policy objective of the Government is to have zero emission buses running across the territory. In this regard, the Government will fully subsidize the franchised bus companies to purchase 6 hybrid buses and 36 electric buses (including battery-electric buses and supercapacitor buses) for trials. The trials are expected to commence in the second half of 2014 and last for two years. We will review the preliminary results in about one year after the trials.
3. Franchised buses are one of the major sources of roadside air pollution in busy corridors and they predominantly ply through populous and busy areas. Hence, setting up low emission zones for buses in these busy areas can effectively improve the roadside air quality.

Therefore, the Government plans to set up pilot low emission zones in busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok. The aim is to allow only low-emission buses (i.e. buses of Euro IV or better emission level) to ply within the zones by 2015.

The above vehicle emission reduction measures that are being implemented or plan to be implemented will further reduce the roadside concentrations of respirable suspended particulates and fine particulates, in particular the nitrogen dioxide level at the roadside and as a result the roadside air quality of Hong Kong (including busy areas such as Mong Kok) will be substantially improved.

給旺角居民吸啖新鮮空氣
(油尖旺區議會第 125/2013 號文件)

運輸署的書面回應

Since the subject in question is led and co-ordinated by EPD, inputs from TD will be co-ordinated by EPD in response on this subject. TD have no supplement to this subject."

運輸署已將是項議題的回應交予環境保護署作統籌及聯合回應。運輸署對是項議題未有補充。