

## **For information**

# **LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs Clean Hong Kong**

## **PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on the launching of the Clean Hong Kong (CHK) programme.

## **OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

2. CHK aims to bring about comprehensive and visible improvements on the ground through both public education and publicity efforts, and action-oriented measures. It will be officially launched on 17 December 2000 and will last for three years.

## **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

3. A Steering Committee led by Dr Daniel Tse, comprising 16 other non-official members has been set up to spearhead the CHK programme. The Steering Committee provides a steer on the strategies and measures to be adopted to improve the environmental hygiene conditions of Hong Kong.

4. A CHK Office has also been set up in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to provide support and ensure overall coordination in the implementation of the various action plans and programmes.

## **STEPPING UP CLEANSING EFFORTS**

5. As a start, we have identified the following major areas for intensified clean up operations:

- (a) Cleansing and waste collection for urban streets, pavements and walkways, rear lanes, markets, public toilets and hygiene blackspots (mainly by FEHD);
- (b) Blackspots in country parks / marine parks and coastal areas e.g. barbecue sites, picnic areas (mainly by Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD));
- (c) Gazetted and ungazetted beaches (mainly by Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and FEHD);
- (d) major marine refuse blackspots e.g. typhoon shelters, water areas off beaches, seafront promenades, public piers and harbour (mainly by Marine Department (MD)); and
- (e) Public housing estates including public areas, shopping center, market stalls and communal toilets (mainly by Housing Department (HD)).

A detailed work plan is being compiled with input from relevant departments.

6. Many environmental hygiene problems are best tackled on a district basis and District Action Plans (DAP) are being drawn up by government representatives at the district level in consultation with the District Councils. This will enable us to focus more on problems of concern to the community and prioritize our resources more effectively.

## **LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

7. We aim to introduce a new piece of legislation to provide for a fixed penalty for several minor cleansing offences in the first quarter of 2001. As a start, three minor cleansing offences, i.e. littering, spitting and unauthorized displaying of bills and posters, will be subject to a fixed penalty. These offences, though minor in nature, are commonly committed by members of the public. The fixed fine is proposed to be set at \$600. To facilitate enforcement, enforcement staff will also be empowered to demand Hong Kong Identity Card from the alleged offenders.

8. We will consult the new Panel on the details of this legislative proposal as soon as possible.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

9. One of the key elements of CHK is joint effort with District Councils (DCs) to bring noticeable improvements on the ground. We will continue to allocate \$80,000 to each of the 18 DCs under the District Council Subsidy Scheme to cover the launching of physical clean-up activities, educational and promotional activities for improvement of environmental hygiene at the district level. Furthermore, a CHK Funding Scheme will also be launched shortly to provide funding of up to \$20,000 to successful applicants (which are mainly schools, voluntary agencies etc.) in organizing relevant activities to promote public awareness in support of CHK. In addition, as a start, HAD will recruit some 500 “Clean Hong Kong Ambassadors” and other frontline workers to form special task force teams in the districts for the implementation of a whole range of activities in support of CHK. These teams will be responsible for site inspections, identification and reporting of problem areas, participating in special clean-up operations, liaison, follow-up monitoring, etc. They will also assist in organizing community involvement and publicity programmes.

## **PUBLICITY**

10. We will adopt a balanced approach comprising both soft and deterrent elements in our publicity strategy. More emphasis will be put on raising public awareness of the need to keep Hong Kong Clean at the initial stage.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

11. Members are requested to note the content of this paper.

**Environment and Food Bureau  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
December 2000**

EA-LegCo-CHK