

**Letterhead of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of
the People's Republic of China LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

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22 June 2001

Dr Hon CHENG Hon-kwan, GBS, JP
Chairman
Hong Kong Housing Authority
Housing Authority Headquarters
33 Fat Kwong Street
Kowloon

Dear Dr CHENG,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and
LegCo Panel on Housing**

Improving the ventilation of public markets

I write to convey the concerns of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the Panel on Housing about the poor ventilation and unsatisfactory design of certain public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Housing Authority (HA).

The two Panels held a joint meeting on 18 June 2001 to discuss the Administration's measures to prevent the recurrence of avian flu, and plans to improve the ventilation and management of public markets. Members have expressed grave concern that the poor ventilation in many existing public markets, coupled with the congested state of poultry stalls therein, have contributed to the unsatisfactory hygiene conditions in these markets and increased the risk of spreading the avian flu.

For the existing markets managed by HA, members have noted that retrofitting of central air-conditioning is currently considered as part of the shopping centre rolling improvement programme. As only a few markets are included in the rolling improvement programme each year, the Panels are

concerned that the improvement of ventilation systems in all HA markets will take an unduly long time to complete.

Members have strongly urged that the Administration and the HA should take immediate action to upgrade the ventilation systems and improve the stall arrangements in **all** existing public markets managed by FEHD and HA.

I should be grateful if you would take note of the Panels' concerns and give favourable consideration to the allocation of resources to expedite the improvement of ventilation systems and design of HA public markets. I look forward to your favourable reply.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP)
Chairman of the joint meeting of the
Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene and
Panel on Housing