

**Extract from minutes of meeting between LegCo Members
and Sha Tin District Council members on 29 November 2001**

Members present : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Convenor)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon HUI Cheung-ching, JP
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung, BBS
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP

By invitation : **Sha Tin District Council**

Mr WAI Kwok-hung (Chairman)
Mr Thomas PANG Cheung-wai (Vice Chairman)
Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Mr CHAN Kwok-tim
Mr CHENG Cho-kwong
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man
Mr CHOW Ka-kong, MH
Mr CHU Moon-shing
Mr Tony KAN Chung-nin, BBS
Mr LAM Hong-wah
Mr LAW Kwong-keung
Mr LEUNG Chi-kin, MH
Mr LEUNG Chi-wai
Mr Peter LEUNG Kwok-hin
Mr LEUNG Wing-hung
Ms Porinda LIU Huan-yee
Mr MOK Wai-hung
Mr NAM Yuk-tong
Mr TANG Wing-cheong
Mr TSOI Ah-chung
Mr WONG Kwok-hung
Mr YEUNG Cheung-li
Ms YEUNG Sin-hung

Clerk in attendance : Mr Andy LAU
Chief Assistant Secretary (1)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Alice AU
Senior Assistant Secretary (1)5

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Action

B. Obstruction and nuisance caused by on-street promotional stands

9. STDC Members were concerned about the proliferation of on-street promotional stands set up by mobile phone services providers, internet companies, insurance companies and even real estate agents, etc. in crowded locations such as exits of KCR stations and some PRH estates, which had caused serious obstruction as well as inconvenience and nuisance to the residents and passers-by. They opined that the relevant government departments should monitor the situation and take control measures where appropriate.

10. STDC Members also highlighted the need for a clear definition of such activities under the existing law, so that the responsible staff of relevant government departments, such as the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) or the Police, could be empowered to take enforcement actions.

11. Citing the Sha Tin KCR Station as an example to illustrate the seriousness of the problem, a STDC Member said that as such activities took place right in front of the elevators situated at the station exit, serious obstruction and sometimes safety risks were caused to the passengers. She suggested that restricted zones be designated within train station premises.

12. A STDC Member however pointed out in regulating such activities, there was a need to differentiate whether they were commercial or non-commercial activities. Otherwise, election campaigning activities of District Council Members such as handing out campaigning materials to passers-by might also be caught.

13. Acknowledging STDC Members' concerns, Mr LAU Kong-wah considered that it was incumbent upon FEHD to control the situation. As far as he knew, FEHD was aware of the situation and would raise the issue with a relevant working group established under the Sha Tin District Management Committee to deal with the problems. Apart from the localized problem raised by STDC Members, LegCo Members would also focus on whether such acts were adequately regulated under the existing law.

14. Mr Andrew CHENG pointed out that under the prevailing economic conditions, hawking and such on-street touting activities would inevitably occur. Hence, a right balance should be maintained when targetting such activities. If nuisance was indeed created for the residents or passers-by, enforcement actions should be taken by the Administration accordingly. At his suggestion, other LegCo Members agreed that the matter should be referred to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for follow-up.

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