

**Extract from the minutes of special meeting of
the Panel on Home Affairs held on 25 September 2002**

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I. Briefing by Secretary for Home Affairs

Promotion of Local Community Economy

6. Mr Albert CHAN remarked that he failed to see how the Government could promote Local Community Economy effectively. He said that he had discussed the promotion of nighttime business activities in Cheung Chau with staff of HAB a long time ago but no concrete recommendations had been made so far. He urged the Government to promote Local Community Economy in districts with special characteristics. He also enquired about the schedule for the implementation of this policy.

7. In reply, SHA clarified that the main role of the Government was to create an attractive investment environment but investments had to come from the community. He said that there were successful examples in Local Community Economy and cited alfresco dining in Sai Kung and Sheung Wan Gala Point as two of them.

8. Mr Tommy CHEUNG criticised the existing licensing procedure for alfresco dining as too complicated since too many government departments were involved in the process. As a result, only three licences had been issued for operators in Sai Kung since last year. He pointed out that in order to encourage investment and promote Local Community Economy, HAB should coordinate with the departments concerned to streamline the licensing procedure so that this kind of licences would be issued efficiently. To address Mr CHEUNG's concern, SHA advised that HAB was coordinating with the departments concerned to expedite the issue of the licences.

9. Mr NG Leung-sing said that he was supportive of promoting Local Community Economy. He enquired about the scale and the type of such business activities and whether they would tie in with the development of Hong Kong into a metropolis. He was also concerned that some of these businesses, after a certain period of development, might become stagnant and obstructive to the further development of Local Community Economy. SHA explained that Local Community Economy referred to diversified business activities which could highlight district characteristics and develop continuously. For business which was not capable of sustained development, only short-term

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contracts would be granted to the operators. It was hoped that business under Local Community Economy would be able to prosper with time, become financially viable, and create more employment opportunities for the people in Hong Kong.

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