

For discussion
on 26 November 2007

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Public Consultation on Banning Idling Vehicles
with Running Engines**

To further improve Hong Kong's air quality, the Chief Executive has announced in the 2007-08 Policy Agenda that the Government will consider the introduction of a statutory ban on idling engines in the light of the outcomes of public consultation.

2. We kicked off a five-month consultation exercise on 2 November 2007 to seek the public's view on the proposed ban. Details of the proposal are set out in the Legislative Council Brief issued to the Legislative Council Members on the same day. In gist, we propose that as a general rule, a statutory ban should be imposed on idling vehicles territory-wide. If a motorist does not switch off the engine of his vehicle when it is idled, he commits a contravention and will be issued with a fixed penalty ticket with a fine of \$320. In the light of overseas practice, the operational needs of certain vehicles and having regard to the comments received in the last consultation exercise in 2001-02, we propose to grant exemption to –

- (a) vehicles stopped at roadside for active boarding or alighting;
- (b) first two taxis or public light buses (PLBs) at a taxi or PLB stand;
- (c) taxis, PLBs or buses boarding or alighting at a designated stop, including taxis and PLBs in moving queues at a designated stop;
- (d) special traffic conditions (e.g. traffic congestions and accidents);

- (e) security transit vehicles (armoured vehicles), vehicles of disciplinary forces and other emergency vehicles (e.g. ambulances);
 - (f) vehicles required to run engines for ancillary purposes (e.g. refrigerator trucks and mobile concrete pumps); and
 - (g) vehicles engaged in a parade or an event authorized by the Transport Department.
3. Members are invited to offer their views and comments on the proposal.

Environmental Protection Department
November 2007