

香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長私人辦公室
政策及項目統籌處



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1 August 2016

Mr Colin Chui
Clerk to Subcommittee on Poverty
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chui,

**Alleviating poverty through
developing local community economy and bazaars**

I refer to the letter of 18 April 2016 from the Hon Fernando Cheung. With respect to the Subcommittee on Poverty's request that the Government should take into account views and recommendations made by Members and local organisations on the above subject, we have consulted the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD). Our consolidated reply is set out in the following paragraphs.

Bazaars

So long as food safety and environmental hygiene would not be compromised, we keep an open mind towards district-led proposals on local bazaars. We also see merits for such proposals to be pursued through a bottom-up approach. If suitable sites are identified by any organisations for use as bazaars and support from the local community as well as relevant District Councils (DCs) has been obtained, the Government will render assistance as far as possible.

With the support of the Sham Shui Po DC, an organisation was granted a temporary public places entertainment license and organised a bazaar in June. Separately, the Islands DC has formed a working group on promotion of bazaar development. It has held two meetings since April 2016. We will maintain contact with the DCs concerned to follow up on the proposals.

There are calls for the Government to prescribe a uniform mechanism for handling bazaar proposals across the territory. It remains our view at the moment that we should allow room for the gestation process to vary in tune with the unique circumstances in each district. Mandating certain rigid procedures or prescribing a communication platform by the Government may not be conducive to making the most

out of the district-led and bottom-up approach. Generally speaking, after receiving the bazaar proposals, FHB/Food and Environment Hygiene Department shall, based on the details of the proposals received, coordinate with relevant bureaux/departments in the deliberation and formulation of response. For bazaar proposals with preliminary community support, District Offices (DOs) would, as always, assist DCs in collecting views in the districts, and render support to relevant bureaux/departments in carrying out further coordination and consultation work.

Co-operative Societies Ordinance

Parties interested in promoting community economy or developing bazaars may operate in different forms of legal entity, e.g. forming a business organisation or non-profitable organisation, or pooling resources together and setting up a co-operative society under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33). If this legislation is considered in need of improvement, you are welcomed to put forth specific proposals.

District-based Poverty Alleviation Work

Since the poverty situation varies in different districts, bureaux/departments have to take into account the unique characteristics and needs of districts so as to implement the poverty alleviation measures in a sustainable and effective manner. To promote sustainable poverty prevention and alleviation efforts at the district level, HAD has implemented the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme since 2006. By setting up social enterprises, the programme aims at creating job opportunities for the socially disadvantaged groups and strengthening their skills and confidence, thereby enhancing their self-reliance and integration into the community.

In respect of district-based poverty alleviation, DOs under HAD have also played a coordinating role. They have assisted in encouraging inter-departmental and cross-sector collaboration, and have made use of various district mechanisms, such as DCs, working groups under respective DCs and District Management Committees, as a platform for discussion and coordination of poverty alleviation work in response to different district needs.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Doris Ho)

Head, Policy and Project Co-ordination Unit
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office