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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 8 December 2015

Keep Clean @ Hong Kong : Our Home

On 1 August 2015, the Government started launching a two-month territory-wide "Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong : Our Home" campaign, with an aim to keep Hong Kong clean through the concerted efforts of the Government, the community and the public.

2. According to the press release issued by the Government on 1 August 2015, one of the objectives of the campaign was to enhance public awareness of their responsibility to upkeep personal, home and community hygiene, so as to make "keeping environment clean" as an internalized routine. A total of eight bureaux, 19 Government departments and public organizations would participate in the campaign during which more than 90 events would be organized in the 18 districts. While the participating bureaux and departments would formulate work plans to step up cleansing work in areas under their purview, they would also work closely with the District Councils ("DCs"), owners' corporations ("OCs"), mutual aid committees and community organizations to step up promotion and public education in a bid to encourage different sectors to participate actively in the campaign.

3. According to the Administration, relevant departments would study in depth ways to deal with some long-standing and thorny environmental hygiene problems, with a view to further improving the environmental hygiene of Hong Kong. In particular, efforts would be made to improve the environmental hygiene conditions of the common areas of "three nil" buildings¹, private streets and private rear lanes, proactively clear up shoreline and marine refuse and step up the monitoring and combating of illegal dumping of construction waste. The Government would also review some of its existing practices, such as the tendering arrangements, management and monitoring of outsourcing contracts for street cleansing and refuse collection services, as well as the hygiene

¹ "Three nil" buildings refer to those buildings without OCs, residents' organizations or property management companies.

blackspots falling into grey area as a result of unclear division of responsibilities between the private sector and the Government (or among different departments), with a view to making improvements in a targeted manner.

4. The keep clean campaign has ended on 30 September 2015. In its press release published on the same day, the Administration announced that it would ride on the experience of the campaign and study how to build on the positive results generated through the collaboration with the community, in furtherance of the objective to sustain the cleanliness efforts. The Administration would continue to communicate with DCs, the community and stakeholders in various sectors. The Secretary for Food and Health also planned to meet with the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of DCs/the Environmental Hygiene Committees under DCs every six months to keep track of the latest environmental hygiene situations and key areas requiring attention in order to review and, if necessary, adjust the relevant strategies in a timely manner.

5. The Administration will make a report at the Panel meeting on 8 December 2015 on the keep clean campaign conducted between August and September 2015 and highlight its reflections on the way forward including setting out tentative possibilities that may be worth looking into.

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