

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2) 2277/02-03

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### **Special House Committee Meeting on 6 June 2003** **Background brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat**

#### **Work of Team Clean**

#### **Background**

##### Establishment of Team Clean

In the wake of the SARS outbreak, the Chief Executive announced the establishment of two task forces, Team Clean and the Economic Relaunch Strategy Group, to be led by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary respectively.

##### Mission of Team Clean

2. Team Clean's mission is to establish and promote a sustainable, cross-sectoral approach to improve environmental hygiene in Hong Kong. Chaired by CS, Team Clean comprises six full-time members, as well as 13 part-time members and seven co-opted members who are drawn from various bureaux and departments. Team Clean held its first meeting on 6 May 2003. The membership list is in **Appendix I**.

##### Terms of reference

3. The terms of reference of Team Clean are as follows -
- (a) to develop a coherent system and strategy for integrating and augmenting environmental hygiene improvement initiatives across all concerned bureaux and departments in Government. The system and strategy should be capable of sustaining a high level of cleanliness throughout the territory;
  - (b) to determine the relative priorities of areas targeted for improvement action, marshalling as much as possible wider community support, particularly that of the District Councils and NGOs to help tackle these areas;

- (c) to draw up within a period of three weeks a work plan of short-term measures to be taken and to steer and direct the implementation of these measures; and
- (d) to establish within a period of three months a sustainable system and a timeframe for implementing the medium- and long-term initiatives.

#### Work plan

4. The work plan of Team Clean is as follows -

May (1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week)	Drawing up of short-term measures
May (4 <sup>th</sup> week)	Announcement of short-term measures
June-July	Implementation of short-term measures
June-July (3 <sup>rd</sup> week)	Drawing up of long-term measures
July (4 <sup>th</sup> week)	Complete implementation of short-term measures
August (1 <sup>st</sup> week)	Announcement of long-term measures

#### Strategy of Team Clean

5. The following strategy is adopted by Team Clean-

- (a) Sustainability : Team Clean fully recognizes that improvement initiatives recommended must be sustainable. One-off campaigns can achieve some success but the achievements are limited and the effects not lasting. To clean up Hong Kong for good, the improvements must be both thorough and sustainable.
- (b) Early results : Team Clean considers that the attainment of early results is necessary for meeting community expectation, inspiring public confidence in Government's determination and ability to improve public hygiene and sustaining the new-found momentum in the community for determined Government action to clean up the city.

- (c) New approach : Team Clean is aware of the long-standing environmental problems in rear lanes, private streets and old tenement buildings. The solutions to these problems require a novel approach. It believes strongly that to resolve these perennial problems, the Administration must be prepared to break new policy grounds and abandon traditional demarcation of responsibilities in Government.
- (d) Establishing a model : through the implementation of pilot schemes in the short term plan, Team Clean will repeat the successful modus operandi in tackling similar problems in the longer term.
- (e) Community involvement : the hygiene and cleanliness of a city can only be maintained with the support of its people. Any undertaking relying on Government efforts alone is doomed to failure. To ensure that our success is lasting, the Administration will encourage community participation in taking forward the various improvement measures.

## **Discussion by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

### Special meeting on 19 May 2003

6. Soon after the setting up of Team Clean, the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held a special meeting on 19 May 2003 to discuss with the Head and Deputy Head of Team Clean their work plans and strategies. At the meeting, members raised questions on the membership and "new approach" of Team Clean, as well as the concrete measures and timeframe for implementation. They also expressed concern about the long-standing environmental problems in public housing estates, rear lanes, private streets, old tenement buildings, private places, beaches and barbecue sites. They urged that more stringent measures and strict enforcement should be taken against littering and spitting offences.

7. Members considered that Team Clean should review existing systems and legislation, such as the design of buildings, the drainage systems, and waste handling and disposal methods. They stressed the importance of mobilising community resources, involving District Councils and district organisations, and strengthening civic education in sustaining the efforts to make Hong Kong a clean, hygienic city of international standard. Team Clean noted members' views and agreed to revert to the Panel when concrete short-term measures were available in about two week's time.

### Special meeting on 2 June 2003

8. At the Council meeting on 28 May 2003, CS made a statement on the "Interim Report on Measures to Improve Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong" which was released on the same day by Team Clean.

9. The Panel held a further special meeting on 2 June 2003 to discuss with Team Clean and relevant departments the measures proposed in the Interim Report.

10. Members discussed the proposal of increasing the fixed penalty for littering and spitting offences, and ways to facilitate and strengthen enforcement of the fixed penalty system. Some members considered that enhanced public education and other measures such as community service orders might be more effective in the long run.

11. Members expressed concern about the hygiene conditions, water leakage problems and throwing of objects from a height in public housing estates. They were particularly concerned about the cleanliness and maintenance of those estates for which the management had been contracted out to private property management companies.

12. The Panel urged the Administration to ensure that sustained efforts would be made to clean up the old districts and environmental blackspots such as rear lanes. As government resources were limited and keeping Hong Kong clean was the responsibility of all people in Hong Kong, some members considered that community participation was the key to the success of the clean-up campaigns, and the assistance of district organisations and volunteers should be enlisted. Members also supported more publicity to be made on the concept of respecting nature, reducing waste and encouraging people to bring their refuse home for disposal.

13. On the stricter enforcement of food and hygiene laws at restaurants, markets and food shops, a member considered that there should be clearer guidelines and more incentive to encourage food businesses to comply with the hygiene requirements. As regards the proposal to ban the live poultry, members urged that there should be wide public consultation on the matter before a decision was taken.

### Further meeting

14. The Panel will further discuss with Team Clean when the report on the longer term measures is available in August 2003.

15. A list of the concerns/suggestions raised at the special meetings on 19 May 2003 and 2 June 2003 is in **Appendix II**.

### **Relevant papers**

16. A list of relevant papers and documents is given in the **Appendix III** for members' easy reference. The papers and documents are available on the Research and Library Services Information system and the Council's website at [http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/fseh/papers/fseh\\_e.htm](http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/fseh/papers/fseh_e.htm).

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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**Membership of Team Clean**

**Chairman :** Chief Secretary for Administration

**Full-time members :** Head (Team Clean)  
Deputy Head (Team Clean)  
Secretary (Team Clean)  
Assistant Secretary 1 (Team Clean)  
Assistant Secretary 2 (Team Clean)  
Chief Information Officer (Team Clean)

**Part-time members :** Secretary for Justice  
Permanent Secretary for Education & Manpower  
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs  
Permanent Secretary for Housing  
Director of Food & Environmental Hygiene  
Director of Health  
Director of Home Affairs  
Director of Information Services  
Director of Buildings  
Director of Drainage Services  
Director of Highways  
Director of Lands  
Director of Planning

**Co-opted members :** Commissioner of Police  
Commissioner for Transport  
Director of Environmental Protection  
Director of Fire Services  
Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services  
Director of Water Supplies  
Land Registrar

### **List of concerns/suggestions raised at the special meetings of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 19 May 2003 and 2 June 2003**

#### Approach and timetable

- (a) While Team Clean only has a tenure of three months, it should also look at longer-term measures to bring about sustained, coordinated efforts to make Hong Kong a clean, hygienic city of international standard. Team Clean should draw up concrete measures and the timeframe for implementation;
- (b) Team Clean should mobilise community resources and draw on the expertise of professionals (such as environmental experts, building surveyors, engineers) in formulating and implementing new measures. More public education and publicity should be carried out on the concept of respecting nature, reducing waste and bringing refuse home for disposal;
- (c) Team Clean should analyse the causes of past failures of the Clean Hong Kong programmes, conduct a comprehensive review of the existing problems, and make reference to overseas experience in drawing up the new strategies;
- (d) Team Clean should also look at ways on how departments could perform their duties more effectively (e.g. to strictly enforce the legislation against illegal waste disposal and public cleanliness offences), instead of solely relying on a "new approach" to tackle existing problems;

#### Strategies

- (e) Team Clean should address the long-standing problems such as the refuse problems in public housing estates; the poor cleanliness in rear lanes, old tenement buildings, private streets, and public toilets inside commercial complexes; the odour and hygiene problems with refuse collection points; the unauthorised disposal of waste by contractors; and the lack of refuse collection facilities for shops in old districts, etc;
- (f) Team Clean should also review existing systems and legislation, such as the design of buildings, the drainage system and space between building blocks; the method for collection and disposal of municipal waste; and littering/spitting problems caused by increased traffic across the border;

- (g) Team Clean should strengthen civic education to instil a sense of belonging and civic-mindedness among Hong Kong people, and to enhance community participation in future campaigns and long-term work. Team Clean should publicise how members of the public can give views to Team Clean;
- (h) enforcement departments should step up their enforcement actions against public cleanliness offences at environmental blackspots (such as public housing estates, parks, beaches, barbecue sites) and areas within their jurisdictions. More stringent measures should be taken against spitting and against repeated offenders;

#### Fixed penalty system

- (i) frontline staff should be better equipped to deal with or avoid confrontation/violence in enforcing the fixed penalty system against public cleanliness offences;
- (j) additional measures, such as community service orders and enhanced public education, would be more effective than merely increasing the level of penalty for public cleanliness offences;
- (k) dog faeces can also spread infectious disease and the fixed penalty for this offence should be the same as that proposed for littering and spitting offences;
- (l) the Police and other enforcement departments should step up enforcement of the fixed penalty system;

#### Public housing estates

- (m) as private management companies are not empowered under existing legislation to take enforcement actions against public cleanliness offences, what assistance will be rendered by government departments in tackling the cleanliness and maintenance problems in the estates for which the management has been contracted out;
- (n) Housing Department should redeploy more resources and take strict enforcement actions against environmental hygiene problems, including throwing objects from a height, in public housing estates;

#### Rear lanes and environmental blackspots

- (o) regular clean-up exercises should be carried out for rear lanes, country parks and hygiene blackspots to maintain the cleanliness of these areas;



Hygiene conditions of food businesses

- (p) clear guidelines and more incentives should be provided to assist/encourage food businesses to comply with the hygiene requirements;
- (q) the relevant departments should expedite the processing of applications for toilet refurbishments in food premises for complying with the hygiene requirements;
- (r) large, movable refuse bins with cover should be provided for food shops to improve the hygiene conditions of rear lanes behind such premises;

Ban on live poultry

- (s) consideration should be given to reducing the risk of avian flu by improving the biosecurity of poultry farms and hygiene conditions of markets before considering a ban on live poultry; and
- (t) Government should conduct wide public consultation and have regard to the interests of the farming industry and the impact on the live poultry trade and food businesses before a decision is taken.

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### Appendix III

#### Relevant Papers/Documents

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Papers/Motion Passed/Council Question</u>
Legislative Council	21 May 2003	Written question raised by Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai - LegCo Question No. 13
	28 May 2003	Interim Report on Measures to Improve Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong  The Chief Secretary for Administration's statement on the Interim Report on Measures to Improve Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong at the Council Meeting on 28 May 2003
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	28 January 2003	Administration's paper on "Progress report on the Clean Hong Kong Programme"- Paper No. CB(2) 1004/02-03(05)
	16 April 2003	Administration's paper on "Territory-wide cleansing day to combat Atypical Pneumonia"- Paper No. CB(2) 1796/02-03(01)  Administration's paper on "Territory-wide cleansing and disinfection work as a measure to combat Atypical Pneumonia in public housing estates"- Paper No. CB(2) 1796/02-03(01)
	19 May 2003	Administration's paper on "Team Clean"- Paper No. CB(2) 2102/02-03(01)  Administration's reply to questions raised by the Panel Chairman - Paper No. CB(2) 2113/02-03(01)

	27 May 2003	Administration's paper on "Review of the enforcement of the fixed penalty system for minor public cleanliness offences" - Paper No. CB(2) 2170/02-03(04)
	2 June 2003	Administration's paper on "Raising the fixed penalty for spitting and littering offences" Paper No. CB(2) 2274/02-03(01)  Administration's paper on "Team Clean" Paper No. CB(2) 2296/02-03(01)  Administration's reply to questions raised by the Panel Chairman Paper No. CB(2) 2301/02-03(01)