立法會 Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/FE <u>LC Paper No. CB(2)2400/08-09</u>

(These minutes have been seen

by the Administration)

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 9 June 2009, at 2:00 pm in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members: Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Chairman)

present Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau Hon WONG Yuk-man

Member : Hon Tanya CHAN

attending

absent

attending

Member : Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP

Public Officers: Items IV to VI

Prof Gabriel M LEUNG, JP

Under Secretary for Food and Health

Items IV and V

Miss Ivy CHAN Ah-wing

Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health

(Food)2 (Acting)

Item IV

Dr Thomas SIT Hon-chung Assistant Director (Inspection & Quarantine) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Dr Eric TAI Hing-fung Senior Veterinary Officer (Animal Management) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Item V

Ms Alice LAU Yim, JP Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene)

Mr LO Fu-wai, JP Assistant Director (Operations)1 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Item VI

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)1

Dr LEE Siu-yuen Assistant Director (Food Surveillance & Control) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr Philip HO Yuk-yin Consultant (Community Medicine) (Risk Assessment and Communication) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Attendance by invitation

Item IV

Animal Earth

Mr WONG Kai-yan Chief Officer

Ms CHEUNG Yuen-man Officer

STOP! Save Hong Kong's Cats and Dogs

Ms Brooke Babington Chairperson

Mr Marcus Turner

Executive Committee Member

Happy Animals

Ms CHAN Wai-man

Clerk in attendance

Miss Mary SO

Chief Council Secretary (2)5

Staff in attendance

Miss Joanne FONG

Senior Council Secretary (2)6

Ms Sandy HAU

Legislative Assistant (2)5

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1754/08-09)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2009 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1553/08-09(01) and CB(2)1555/08-09(01))

- 2. <u>Members</u> did not raise any queries on the following papers issued since the last meeting -
 - (a) Letter dated 11 May 2009 from the Hong Kong Suppliers Association Ltd. on compliance with the Nutrition Labelling Scheme (LC Paper No. CB(2)1553/08-09(01)); and
 - (b) Submission from Wan Chai Street Market Concern Group on hawking policy (LC Paper No. CB(2)1555/08-09(01)).

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1755/08-09(01) and (02))

3. <u>Members</u> agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting scheduled for 14 July 2009 -

- (a) Survey findings on the utilisation of all wet markets under the management of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and patron and tenant opinions of these markets; and
- (b) Proposed rental adjustment mechanism in respect of public market stalls and the proposed arrangements to recover the air-conditioning cost and rates from tenants.
- 4. <u>The Chairman</u> requested the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) to brief members on the proposed allocation of \$300 million announced by the Financial Secretary on 26 May 2009 to step up environmental hygiene measures as well as the relevant public education and publicity work in the fight against human swine influenza, before seeking funding approval from the Finance Committee.

(*Post-meeting note*: The issue of "Funding for enhanced measures to step up environmental hygiene to combat human swine influenza" was discussed at the special meeting of the Panel on 22 June 2009.)

5. Mr KAM Nai-wai requested the Administration to provide a progress report on the review of hawker licensing policy, including its response to the proposal on issuing hawker licences to those people who had been engaging in bootblack business for a long time to allow them to continue their business legally. Under Secretary for Food and Health (USFH) agreed.

(*Post-meeting note*: The issue of "Licensing of bootblack hawkers" was discussed at the meeting of the Panel on 14 July 2009.)

IV. Regulation of pet shops and pet breeders

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1755/08-09(03) to (06) and CB(2)1799/08-09(01) to (09))

- 6. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>USFH</u> and <u>Assistant Director of Agriculture</u>, <u>Fisheries and Conservation (Inspection & Quarantine)</u> (AD/AFC(I&Q)) briefed members on the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2) 1755/08-09(03)) detailing the progress in the proposed introduction of additional licensing conditions for animal traders involved in dog trading with a view to tightening the control of the sources of dogs offered for sale for public health and animal welfare reasons.
- 7. <u>The Chairman</u> next invited the following deputations to give their views on the regulation of pet shops and pet breeders, details of which were set out in their respective submissions -
 - (a) Animal Earth (LC Paper No. CB(2)1799/08-09(01));

- (b) STOP! Save Hong Kong's dogs and cats (LC Paper No. CB(2) 1755/08-09(05)); and
- (c) Happy Animals (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1755/08-09(06) and 1799/08-09(02)).

Discussion

8. <u>Mr WONG Kwok-hing</u> asked -

- (a) why the proposed introduction of additional licensing conditions for pet shops only involved dog trading and not the trading of other pet animals such as cats;
- (b) whether, and if so, what action would be taken by the Administration to combat dog trading activities conducted through advertising on the internet; and
- (c) whether the Administration had followed up the rising problem of Hong Kong people buying dogs from unlicensed dog breeders and traders in the Mainland for sale in Hong Kong.
- 9. USFH explained that the additional animal trader licence (ATL) conditions for pet shops, as set out in paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper, were formulated to respond positively to members' views expressed at the meeting of the Panel on 13 May 2008 that existing ATL conditions for pet shops selling dogs required improvement. Currently, the licensing conditions for animal traders involved in dog trading did not regulate the source of dogs offered for sale. Dogs from questionable sources could bring about disease risks, animal health and welfare issues. There was also a need to better safeguard the public from the risks of zoonotic diseases, notably rabies, associated with dogs. USFH, however, pointed out that the fact that the additional ATL conditions for pet shops only involved dog trading should not be taken to mean that there were no ATL conditions regulating the trading of other animals. AD/AFC(I&Q) supplemented that since 2007, pet shops selling pet birds were required to source pet birds from specified sources to prevent avian influenza outbreaks in Hong Kong. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) might consider the need for extending similar licensing conditions to require animal traders to source animals other than birds and dogs from specified sources at a later stage.
- 10. Regarding Mr WONG's second question, <u>USFH</u> said that under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B), regardless of whether a sale of animal was conducted through the internet, a person should not carry on business as an animal trader otherwise than under a licence and in accordance with the licensing conditions, or else he/she would be liable to prosecution. Such licensing conditions mainly included requiring dogs for sale to be vaccinated and licensed with AFCD (or be implanted with

microchip as required by AFCD), and animal traders must provide suitable space for the animals. Even though pet owners were not required to apply for a licence and hence not subjected to the requirements in the licensing conditions, AFCD would conduct in-depth investigation if any suspicious cases were found. Prosecution would be instituted when there was sufficient evidence. In the past three years, AFCD had initiated about 50 prosecutions regarding illegal sale of animals, 22 cases of which were successful, including three cases involving sale through the internet.

- 11. As to Mr WONG's third question, <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> said that AFCD maintained a close working relationship with the Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police Force in combating animal smuggling activities. Joint operations were regularly conducted at the land boundary control points to detect smuggling of live animals by passengers. Prosecution had been initiated against the law breakers, some of whom had been imprisoned. AFCD also met with Shenzhen authorities concerned every six months or so to exchange intelligence and views on tackling the smuggling of live animals.
- 12. Noting that the Administration intended to make the additional ATL conditions for pet shops effective in the fourth quarter of 2009, Mr WONG Kwok-hing urged the Administration to also apply these conditions to other animals, most notably cats.
- 13. Ms Cyd HO opined that in order to better protect the welfare of animals, it was also necessary to regulate breeding of animals by private pet owners. Ms HO asked about the number of dogs and cats euthanised by AFCD each month as a result of these animals being abandoned by their owners. AD/AFC(I&Q) advised that about 300 dogs and 100 cats surrendered by their owners were euthanised by AFCD each month, or about 10 000 dogs and 4 000 cats annually, if including the stray ones.

14. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked -

- (a) whether consideration would be given to requiring private pet owners that their breeding bitches could only be allowed to give birth once a year, as practised in New Jersey of the United States, to safeguard animal welfare; and
- (b) how AFCD could ensure that private pet owners who sold their dogs to pet shops only kept a single breed of dogs and not more than two bitches not neutered to minimise abuse.
- 15. Responding to Mr KAM's first question, <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> said that different places had different practices in safeguarding animal welfare. <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> further said that limiting the number of births of breeding bitches did not necessarily mean that the bitches were well treated by their owners. As it was an offence under Cap. 139B for an animal trader to sell sick and unhealthy animals to the public in Hong Kong, pet shop owners would have

to ensure that the dogs they acquired from private dog owners were healthy which in turn would require that these dogs were well cared for by their owners. As regards Mr KAM's second queston, <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> said that AFCD would step up inspection of licensed pet shops to check their compliance of the additional ATL conditions. Checks would also be made if necessary on the declarations made by the private pet owners who sold their dogs to pet shops.

(The Chairman left the meeting at this junction, and the Deputy Chairman took over the chair.)

- 16. <u>Miss Tanya CHAN</u> asked whether consideration could be given to making it a licensing condition for pet shops that their staff must be required to undergo training to learn about the dietary, health, exercise and lifestyle of the animals they were selling.
- 17. <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> responded that under the existing conditions of an ATL for pet shops, all dogs offered for sale must be implanted with a microchip and covered by a vaccination certificate in respect of common infectious diseases affecting dogs. Staff of AFCD would inspect pet shops regularly to check their compliance with the regulations and the licensing conditions. As an additional safeguard, people who wished to purchase a pet animal might first consult a veterinarian on the health of the animal before making the purchase. <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> further said that consideration could be given to making it a licensing condition for pet shop staff to possess specified training if such training programmes became readily available in Hong Kong in future.

18. <u>Mr TAM Yiu-chung</u> asked -

- (a) whether the number of dogs euthanised by AFCD was on the rise;
- (b) what actions had been taken by AFCD to promote responsible pet ownership; and
- (c) whether pet grooming shops were regulated under a licensing scheme.

19. <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> responded as follows -

- (a) the number of dogs euthanised by AFCD had dropped from some 40 000 in the 1970s to some 18 000 in the 1990s. Since the introduction of the requirement for all dogs over the age of five months to be microchipped and licensed under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421), the average number of dogs euthanised by AFCD had dropped to some 10 000 a year;
- (b) in order to arouse public awareness on animal welfare and to promote responsible pet ownership, AFCD had launched a series of publicity programmes, which included production of various

Announcements of Public Interest (APIs) on animal welfare, animal cruelty and rabies prevention; distribution of APIs to all local schools; broadcasting of APIs on public transportation and in other public places; advertising on various types of public transportation vehicles and stations; as well as the distribution of posters and pamplets to the public; and

(c) presently pet grooming shops did not need to be licensed. However, prosecution would be initiated against these shops under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) if they were found to treat animals cruelly and cause unnecessary pain or suffering to them.

Admin

- 20. At the request of Mr KAM Nai-wai, <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> agreed to provide details of the additional ATL conditions for pet shops and the number of dogs and cats euthanised by the Hong Kong Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (HKSPCA) in the past three years after the meeting. <u>Mr KAM</u> asked the Administration to provide members with the additional ATL conditions for pet shops before implementation in the fourth quarter of this year. <u>USFH</u> agreed to do so.
- 21. Ms Cyd HO was of the view that more work still needed to be done to protect animals, having regard to the fact that some 14 000 dogs and cats were euthanised by AFCD alone a year. To ascertain whether the numbers of stray dogs and cats had dropped since the introduction of mircochipping of dogs and cats in Hong Kong, Ms HO requested the Administration to provide information on the yearly numbers of dogs and cats which were microchipped vis-à-vis the numbers of dogs and cats euthanised by AFCD and HKSPCA. USFH agreed to provide the information after the meeting. USFH further said that although the Administration considered legislation and licensing were effective in safeguarding animal rights, they could not prevent animal abuse 100%. The best solution to safeguard animal welfare was to make the public respect animal rights. Work on arousing public awareness on animal welfare and promoting responsible pet ownership would be stepped up by the Administration.

Admin

- 22. In response to Ms Cyd HO's enquiry on the handling of microchipped stray dogs by AFCD, <u>AD/AFC(I&Q)</u> said that in the past three years, AFCD was able to contact the owners of about 1 400 such dogs. If the owners refused or failed to reclaim the dogs, AFCD would revoke their status as dog owners and the dogs would be taken over by AFCD for disposal.
- 23. In closing, the Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should provide a timetable for requiring pet shops to source animals, other than dogs, from specified sources. USFH agreed to consider the suggestion.

Admin

V. Proposed relaxation of food room requirements for licensed restaurants and factory canteens

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1755/08-09(07))

24. <u>USFH</u> briefed members on the proposal to relax the statutory food room requirements for licensed restaurants (including general restaurants (GR) and light refreshment restaurants (LRR)) and factory canteens (FC), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper.

25. Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked -

- (a) whether the proposal to relax the statutory food room requirements for licensed restaurants and FCs would only apply to new licence holders; and
- (b) whether the Administration had fully taken into consideration the problem of some small-sized food establishments using open spaces for preparation of food and cleansing of utensils, in deciding to relax the statutory food room requirements for licensed restaurants and FCs.
- 26. USFH advised that the relaxation proposals would apply to all licensed restaurants and FCs when these proposals came into effect, regardless of whether the food premises was an existing or a new one. As regards Mr TAM's second question, Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene) (DD/FEH(EH)) said that the food room requirement of smaller food premises as a percentage to their gross floor area (GFA) was higher than of food premises with larger GFA in recognition of the economy of scale enjoyed by larger food premises. Although the number of smaller food premises violating section 13(1) of the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) (FBR) for using open spaces, such as yards, streets, side or rear lanes and roof tops, for preparation or storage of food, cleansing or storage of equipment or utensils, or preparation or service of food, were higher compared with larger food premises, breaches of this nature by GRs with GFA of 100m² or less (for the period between July 2007 and December 2008) accounted for only some 3.7% of the total number of GRs of this area band. To ensure the relaxation would not adversely affect food safety and hygiene, all food premises would continue to be subject to rigorous monitoring and controls including inspection, prosecution and licence suspension/cancellation on accumulation of demerit points.
- 27. Whilst welcoming the relaxation proposal, <u>Mr WONG Kwok-hing</u> asked the Administration -
 - (a) whether it had widely consulted the food business trade and obtained their support on the proposal; and

(b) whether the revised food room requirements would be applied by FEHD, prior to the Administration's plan to initiate a legislative exercise to amend the FBR for effecting the relaxation proposal in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

28. DD/FEH(EH) responded as follows -

- (a) the Administration first consulted the food business trade in January 2009 on the general framework of the relaxation proposal. After obtaining the trade's support in principle, the Administration proceeded to draw up the detailed proposals, followed by a further round of consultation in May 2009 on the detailed proposals as set out in paragraph 11 of the Administration's paper. The trade was supportive and urged the Administration to take forward the proposals as soon as practicable; and
- (b) the existing statutory food room requirements would be in force until commencement of the amendment regulation to effect the relaxation proposals.
- 29. Mr KAM Nai-wai questioned the considerations given by the Administration in paragraph 10 of its paper in its review to relax the existing statutory food room requirements of licensed restaurants and FCs. Although many food businesses operated in chains and shared the same food supplier who undertook some common food preparation procedures centrally before delivering food to individual outlets, this did not necessarily justify reducing the food room area required for all food premises. For instance, the types of dishes offered by non-chained food premises had greatly increased than in the past. Mr KAM was of the view that apart from the food business trade, members of the public should also be consulted on the proposal as inadequate food room area could give rise to contaminated food. USFH assured members that the Administration would not compromise food safety and hygiene in relaxing food room requirements.
- 30. Mr KAM Nai-wai noted that at present, there was a minimum kitchen area requirement and a minimum aggregate area of food room area requirement for GRs. However, under the relaxation proposal, only the existing minimum aggregate area of food room area requirement for GRs would be retained. Mr KAM asked about the rationale for removing the minimum kitchen area requirement for GRs.
- 31. <u>DD/FEH(EH)</u> responded that the area of the kitchen would count towards the total food room area. Even after implementation of the relaxation proposals, the food room requirements would still be prescribed by law. Removing the minimum kitchen area requirement for GRs was meant to provide greater flexibility to operators. However, GRs would still be required to provide a kitchen in the food room that met the relevant structural and fire safety standards.

- 32. Referring to Annex B to the Administration's paper, Mr KAM Nai-wai asked why the absolute minimum food room area for a LRR with a GFA of 186 m² or above under the existing and proposed food room requirements was 28 m² and 18 m² respectively, whilst the minimum percentage of the food room size to its GFA remained the same at 9% under the existing and proposed food room requirements. DD/FEH(EH) explained that the existing absolute minimum food room area for LRRs at 28 m² was erroneous and should therefore be corrected.
- 33. Mr Tommy CHEUNG expressed support for the relaxation proposal and commended the thorough work carried out by the Administration in consulting the food business trade. Mr CHEUNG informed members that as Chairman of the Hong Kong Catering Industry Association, he would meet with the trade on 11 June 2009 to hear their views on the proposal. Mr CHEUNG said that he would inform the Administration should the trade have strong or differing views on the proposal. Mr CHEUNG further said that there was no cause for concern that the trade would compromise food safety and hygiene following the implementation of the relaxation proposal, as causing harm to the health of the public was not in the interest of the trade.
- 34. <u>Mr KAM Nai-wai</u> said that the Administration should revert to the Panel should there be any significant changes to the relaxation proposal. <u>USFH</u> responded that the Administration would consult the Panel again should there be significant changes to the proposal.
- 35. In closing, the Deputy Chairman said that members were supportive of the proposal to relax the statutory food room requirements for licensed restaurants and FCs.

VI. Food testing work of the Centre for Food Safety (LC Paper No. CB(2)1755/08-09(08))

36. <u>USFH</u> briefed members on the recent developments in the food testing work of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS), with special focus on the Food Surveillance Programme and the Risk Assessment Studies, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper.

37. Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked -

- (a) what measures were taken by CFS to ensure the claims made by suppliers of organic food that the food they supplied were organically grown; and
- (b) whether the Government Laboratory (GL) had plan to outsource some of its regular food surveillance testing work to the private sector.

- 38. <u>USFH</u> responded that under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), it was an offence to intentionally falsify labelling and advertisement of food or drugs intended for human consumption.
- 39. As regards Mr TAM's second question, <u>Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health</u> said that GL had already started, as a pilot scheme, to outsource some 22 000 food tests (including sulphur dioxide, preservatives and organo-chlorine pesticide residues) to accredited private laboratories in 2008-2009. GL planned to increase the number to at least 77 000 in 2009-2010 (about 50% of its regular food testing work, covering sulphur dioxide, preservatives, organo-chlorine pesticide residues and heavy metals, etc).
- 40. Whilst commending the work of CFS in ensuring food safety in Hong Kong, Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed disappointment about the failure of CFS in ordering suppliers of Red Bull products in Hong Kong to take their products off the shelves when similar products were recently removed from the shelves by the authorities concerned in Taiwan and Germany due to the detection of cocaine in the products.
- 41. <u>USFH</u> responded that CFS had no legal basis to order food, including drinks, containing cocaine to be taken off the shelves, nor was it under the policy purview of CFS to detect dangerous drugs, such as cocaine, in food. Cocaine was regulated under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134), the possession and dealing of which was a criminal offence, except in very restricted circumstances permitted by the law. The Security Bureau (SB) and its Narcotics Division were responsible for enforcing Cap. 134.
- 42. <u>Mr WONG Kwok-hing</u> disagreed with the Administration, as CFS was empowered under Cap. 132 to ensure that all food, including drinks, for sale in Hong Kong were fit for human consumption.
- 43. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked CFS whether it had taken samples of the Red Bull products and that of other similar energy drink products for testing to see if they were fit for human consumption, prior to the discovery of cocaine in the Red Bull products overseas.
- 44. <u>Assistant Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Food Surveillance & Control)</u> (AD/FEH (FS&C)) responded that GL conducted tests on at least several hundred samples of drinks each year for the presence and permissible level of chemicals in food, such as preservatives, colouring and sweeteners. <u>AD/FEH (FS&C)</u> further said that the CFS also conducted tests on the composition of food as indicated on its label.
- 45. Mr Tommy CHEUNG asked the Administration whether it would amend Cap. 132 to prohibit the use of cocaine in food, including drinks, now that cocaine was found in the Red Bull products both in Hong Kong and overseas.

- 46. <u>USFH</u> reiterated that Cap. 134 already prohibited the possession and dealing of dangerous drugs, including cocaine, except in very restricted circumstances permitted by the law, the enforcement of which rested solely with SB and its Narcotics Division. <u>USFH</u> further said that although the control and regulation of dangerous drugs was not under the policy purview of FHB and CFS, CFS had meetings with SB on several occasions to provide professional advice on the handling of the recent incident of discovery of traces of cocaine in the Red Bull products for sale in Hong Kong which was confirmed by GL on 1 June 2009.
- 47. Mr Andrew CHENG urged FHB to re-consider amending Cap. 132 to prohibit the use of dangerous drugs, such as cocaine, in food to further safeguard public health, as had been done in the past to prohibit, say, the use of malachite green and melamine in food.
- 48. Mr WONG Yuk-man asked what assistance FHB and CFS had rendered SB in the handling of recent incident of discovery of traces of cocaine in the Red Bull products for sale in Hong Kong.
- 49. <u>USFH</u> responded that CFS had advised SB that given the extremely low level of cocaine found in the Red Bull products for sale in Hong Kong, normal consumption of the products was unlikely to pose psychotropic or adverse health effects. <u>AD/FEH (FS&C)</u> supplemented that CFS had also alerted the trade, through its Rapid Alert System, about the Red Bull incident.
- 50. In response to Mr WONG Yuk-man's further enquiry on whether SB had ordered retailers to take the Red Bull products off the shelves, <u>AD/FEH (FS&C)</u> said that major retailers had done so on SB's advice. Those retailers who had not done so had been advised to follow suit. Retailers were also receptive to SB's advice on returning the products to their suppliers.
- 51. <u>Dr Joseph LEE</u> said that although CFS did not have the legal basis to order retailers to take the Red Bull products off the shelves, it had the moral responsibility to alert the public not to consume the products. To give out the message that consumption of the products was unlikely to pose psychotropic or adverse health effects was not helpful.
- 52. <u>USFH</u> responded that to say consuming an extremely low level of cocaine contained in the Red Bull products was unlikely to pose psychotropic or adverse health effects was to ensure those people who had consumed the products not to be alarmed, and did not mean that the Administration condoned such consumption. The Government had all along adopted a zero tolerance policy towards dangerous drugs.
- 53. The Deputy Chairman shared members' views that Cap. 132 should be amended to prohibit the use of dangerous drugs in food to further safeguard public health, as CFS was the gatekeeper in ensuring food for sale in Hong Kong was fit for human consumption.

54. Mr Andrew CHENG suggested holding a special meeting to further discuss the use of dangerous drugs in food. The Deputy Chairman undertook to discuss this with the Chairman after the meeting.

VII. Any other business

- 55. <u>USFH</u> informed members that the Administration had decided to further extend those public market tenancies which would expire on 30 June 2009 for one year up to 30 June 2010.
- 56. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

Council Business Division 2
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
25 August 2009