



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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30 June 2009

Clerk to Panel
LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
(Attn: Miss Mary SO)
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Fax No. : 2509 0775)

Dear Miss SO,

**Supplementary information on funding for enhanced measures to step up
environmental hygiene to combat human swine influenza**

When the paper entitled “Funding for enhanced measures to step up environmental hygiene to combat human swine influenza” (LC Paper No. CB(2)1940/08-09(01)) was discussed at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 22 June 2009, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the initiatives for environmental hygiene improvement in the fight against the human swine influenza (HSI) and the estimated number of jobs that could be created as a result of these

initiatives, as well as a timetable for cleaning up the environmental hygiene blackspots. The relevant information is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

Initiatives for environmental hygiene improvement

Maintaining good personal and environmental hygiene is the first line of prevention against the spread of diseases. The proposed allocation of \$300 million announced by the Financial Secretary (FS) on 26 May 2009 aims to provide additional resources for the Drainage Services Department (DSD), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Home Affairs Department (HAD), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), Social Welfare Department (SWD), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Marine Department (MD) to launch a number of initiatives lasting for about 12 months, to step up environmental hygiene measures as well as the relevant public education and publicity work in the fight against HSI. The proposed initiatives, their scope and deliverables, estimated cost breakdown, as well as estimated number of jobs that could be created are set out in **Enclosures 1 – 7**.

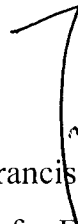
Environmental hygiene blackspots

As regards the cleaning up of environmental hygiene blackspots in different districts, FEHD will engage contractors using the additional resources being sought to step up cleansing and disinfection work at these target locations with a view to eliminating those blackspots through sustained cleansing operations. Of the 105 environmental hygiene blackspots identified in consultation with District Councils (DCs), 21 have been cleared and removed from the list thus far. The remaining 84 have been restored to an acceptable hygiene condition. Through this new initiative and with the support of the community, it is expected that they would be properly restored in the year to come. To achieve lasting improvements, FEHD will continue to liaise with other relevant departments (such as the Highways Department and the Buildings Department) to arrange re-paving of broken pavements/road surfaces,

repairing of defective pipes, etc. FEHD will also continue to liaise closely with DCs to review and update the list of blackspots and sustain efforts to clean up the blackspots concerned.

Grateful if you would provide the above information to Members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' shape with a small 'H' and 'O' written below it.

(Francis HO)

for Secretary for Food and Health

**Estimated Expenditure on
Additional Cleansing of Underground Drains and Sewers
(Drainage Services Department)**

\$ million

Appointing contractors to carry out additional cleansing of
about 100 kilometres of underground drains and sewers

The current cleansing rate of about three to four times a year will be increased up to about six times a year at the following locations –

• Blockage-prone areas, including some rear lanes in congested old urban areas (such as Mong Kok and Wan Chai); and	9.2
• The downstream pipelines of hospitals, major government clinics and public markets.	6.3
Total	15.5

Note –

- (i) All expenditure will be incurred in 2009-10 and 2010-11 over a 12-month period.
- (ii) It is estimated that a total of 36 new jobs will be involved.

**Estimated Expenditure on
Special Improvement in Environmental Hygiene
to Combat Human Swine Influenza
(Food and Environmental Hygiene Department)**

\$ million

Enhancing cleansing and disinfection services in public markets

18.0

- Providing additional cleansing contractor manpower to all districts for carrying out enhanced cleansing and disinfection services by means of high pressure hot water cleaners to common areas (including passageways, toilets, lift lobby, loading area, refuse collection points and vacant stalls, etc.) in all 104 public markets in Hong Kong, and stepping up services in other areas (e.g. hourly disinfection to handrails of escalators and panel boards of lifts, disinfection of toilets after each cleansing operation and disinfection of common areas in markets after the last cleansing operation of the day, etc.)

Enhancing street washing services

12.4

- Providing additional cleansing contractor manpower to all districts to enhance the clean-up of problematic backlanes in the vicinity of food premises, hawker concentrated areas and public markets, using high pressure hot water cleaners.

Enhancing cleansing services for aqua privies and public toilets

8.8

- Providing additional cleansing contractor manpower to enhance the hygiene condition of about 550 aqua privies and public toilets without attendant service; increasing the daily cleansing frequency from the one/two times currently to three times daily, and increasing the frequency of weekly deep cleansing from once currently to twice.

	\$ million
<u>One-off clean-up services to common parts of private tenement buildings without Owners' Corporations/Mutual Aid Committees</u>	31.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up one to two roving teams in every district to provide one-off clean-up to the common parts (roof, staircase, lightwell and canopy) of all old tenement buildings without Owners' Corporations/Mutual Aid Committees, as well as their adjacent lanes. 	
<u>Enhancing the clean-up of environmental hygiene blackspots and sustaining the enhanced level of public cleansing services</u>	23.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing one to two roving teams in every district to enhance the clean-up of hygiene blackspots and eliminate the spots through sustained cleansing operations. 	
<u>Publicity and educational programmes on personal, domestic and environmental hygiene</u>	4.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting hygiene messages to target groups, including domestic helpers, new immigrants, and ethnic minorities, through organising publicity programmes and distributing publicity materials prepared in their languages; and • Organising promotional activities on anti-flu and hygiene messages in public markets, including exhibitions, game booths and workshops. 	
Total	99.0

Note –

- (i) All expenditure will be incurred in 2009-10 and 2010-11 over a 12-month period.
- (ii) It is estimated that a total of 558 new jobs will be involved.

**Estimated Expenditure on
Environmental Hygiene Improvement and
Community Involvement Projects
(Home Affairs Department)**

\$ million

Ad hoc cleansing work in the community

20.6

- Conducting ad hoc cleansing work in the community to improve environmental hygiene and enhance the community's participation in keeping Hong Kong clean. For example, cleansing work will be conducted for common areas of private buildings without management bodies and for households of the under-privileged (such as singleton elderly).

Promotional activities

20.6

- Promoting community involvement by encouraging the community to uphold personal, home and environmental hygiene through promotional activities. For example, seminars, roving exhibitions and other events on personal/environmental hygiene will be organised and hygiene packets, posters and other promotional materials will be distributed. Volunteer activities will be organised with District Councils and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). There will also be territory-wide publicity, such as publicity through the media, to raise public awareness.

Total

41.2

Note –

- (i) All expenditure will be incurred in 2009-10 and 2010-11 over a 12-month period.
- (ii) The types and details of the projects will be worked out taking into account district circumstances and the views of the respective District Councils.

- (iii) About 70 full-time temporary jobs will be required for one year within the department to support the additional work arising from the environmental hygiene improvement and community involvement projects, such as administrative work in engaging cleansing service providers and in organising and implementing community involvement events. NGOs and contractors will also be engaged as necessary in implementing these projects, with an estimated 160 full-time temporary jobs for one year.

**Estimated Expenditure on
Strengthening Cleansing and Disinfection Services and
Promoting Human Swine Influenza Precautionary Measures
in Leisure and Cultural Venues
(Leisure and Cultural Services Department)**

\$ million

Strengthening cleansing and disinfection services 27.6

- Setting up special cleansing operation teams in 18 districts for enhancing the cleansing frequency to sports, recreational and other associated facilities (including cleansing of children's playground and equipment, elderly fitness equipment, pebble walking trails, garden benches, arbours, chess tables, refuse collection bins, ramps for the person with disabilities; and clearing of drains) in parks and playground venues where the current cleansing services are provided by mobile cleansing teams; and providing additional cleansing contractor services to libraries for carrying out enhanced cleansing and disinfection services (e.g. arranging hourly cleansing and disinfection of keyboard, mouse pad, mouse, Chinese writing device of all On-line Public Access Catalogue terminals, Internet terminals and all computer equipment in Computer Information Centre/Area, etc.).

Promoting human swine influenza precautionary measures and personal health and hygiene in the leisure and cultural venues 11.5

- Recruiting Health Ambassadors (HAs) to serve in 106 leisure and cultural venues (including 23 indoor sports centres, 29 major parks / playgrounds / holiday camps / outdoor recreation and sport centres, 34 public libraries, 12 indoor stadia and performing arts venues, and 8 public museums) to help step up environmental hygiene and related precautionary measures and public education.

Total **39.1**

Note –

- (i) All expenditure will be incurred in 2009-10 and 2010-11 over a 12-month period.
- (ii) It is estimated that a total of about 300 new jobs will be involved.

**Estimated Expenditure on
Strengthening Cleansing Service
of Welfare Service Units
(Social Welfare Department)**

\$ million

Strengthening cleansing service of welfare service units

95

- Providing additional resources for some 1 800 welfare service units to hire cleansing service or employ part-time or temporary helping hands to strengthen general cleansing service and enhance environmental hygiene as appropriate. The aim is to increase the capability of welfare service units in the prevention of infections among service users and staff.

Total

95

Note –

- (i) All expenditure will be incurred in 2009-10 and 2010-11 over a 12-month period.
- (ii) As NGOs will be allowed flexibility to either hire cleansing service or employ additional part-time or temporary cleansing workers, figures for number of new jobs to be created could not be estimated precisely.

**Estimated Expenditure on
Additional Cleansing of Country Park Facilities and
Enhancing Hygiene of Government Wholesale Food Markets
(Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)**

\$ million

Additional cleansing of country park facilities

3.1

- Upgrading the flushing toilet facilities to provide more automatic cleansing facilities (water taps, soap dispensers, hand dryers and disinfectant dispensers);
- Enhancing general cleansing in country park areas by deploying additional cleansing contractor manpower to conduct special clean-up operations in areas of hygiene concern and increase the frequency of cleansing of recreation sites in country parks; and
- Providing ten additional mobile toilets at popular recreation sites in country parks.

Enhancing hygiene of government wholesale food markets

2.9

- Enhancing cleansing and disinfection of toilets of the three government wholesale food markets during peak operation hours in the early mornings;
- Enhancing refuses collection by arranging one additional refuse collection for each of the three government wholesale food markets on a daily basis;
- Increasing the frequency of general cleansing of market drains, roads and lifts. For example, the drains will be cleaned twice a week instead of once a week; and
- Provision of protective clothing and ancillary materials.

Total

6.0

Note –

- (i) All expenditure will be incurred in 2009-10 and 2010-11 over a 12-month period.

- (ii) It is estimated that a total of 29 new temporary jobs through existing or new contracts will be involved.

**Estimated Expenditure on
Additional Cleansing Services to Cross-boundary Ferry Terminals,
Marine Refuse Collection Points and Other Concerned Water Areas
(Marine Department)**

\$ million

<u>Additional cleansing service to cross-boundary ferry terminals</u>	1.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting two thorough cleansing and washing exercises each at the Macau Ferry Terminal (MFT) and China Ferry Terminal (CFT); • Stationing additional cleaners in passenger toilets of MFT and CFT; and • Replacing the recycled rubbish bins at MFT and CFT. 	
<u>Additional marine refuse collection and cleansing work</u>	3.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up an additional special team and acquiring pressurised water spray guns to increase the frequency of scavenging refuse at littoral foreshore areas and effectiveness in cleaning the marine refuse collection points. 	
Total	4.2

Note –

- (i) All expenditure will be incurred in 2009-10 and 2010-11 over a 12-month period.
- (ii) It is estimated that a total of 42 new jobs will be involved.