

灣仔區區議員黎大偉辦事處

Office of David Lai, Wan Chai District Councillor

灣仔軒尼詩道 226 號寶華商業中心 25 樓 B 室

Room B 25/F Po Wah Commercial Center 226 Hennessy Road Wan Chai Hong Kong

傳真 FAX : 3011 9576



CB(1)2707/10-11(39)

While there is the argument to support either the third runway or to increase usage of the existing 2 runways, there has been a lack of concern on the noise pollution of the increased traffic affecting NOT ONLY the resident nearby the airport but many on the Hong Kong Island as well. There is a lack of study by the government about the feasibility of the added runway or the increase use as measured by the number of people affected as well as the number of average incidents that the airplane noise wakes up resident in the middle of the night.

According to the Environmental Protection Department, in low density residential area, the Area Sensitivity Rating (ASR) should be less than 55 dB (indirectly affected noise source) or less than 60 dB (in directly affected noise source) between 11pm and 7am. Using this standard to measure disturbance, the residents at Jardine's Lookout were disturbed in no less than 24 occasions with measured dB above 56dB in July of 2010 only. The average noise level for the same month and same time period was at 62.8 dB, much higher than the acceptable level set by the government itself. The number of violations is completely unacceptable. Moreover, even though the average noise level can be reduced to below 60 dB, the acceptable level should not be limited to the average measurement but the absolute value of noise level for flights during the evening hour as a single flight indirectly creating a 65 dB in midnight can already make one sleepless.

One would think that Jardine's Lookout is on the Hong Kong side and far from Lantau Island where the airport is at, but this is the exact logic that failed the department in really measuring the effect of the noise pollution against the hard-working citizen who spent long hours working during the day and fail to have a good night sleep in their own home with the window open.

The issue at hand relates to the routing of the airplane flying to and from the Hong Kong International Airport. When the airport moved from Kai Tak to Lantau, the previous practice that the plane must reach a certain height limit as soon as possible in order to reduce the effect against the resident on the Kowloon side is no longer practice and the routing has been eased for reason that the immediate surroundings of the airport has no residential building like in Kowloon. This result in the fact that resident in Kung Tong, Tung Chung, certain part of Discovery Bay and; yes, even on Jardine's Lookout on the Hong Kong Island are affected by the change of practice.

The government should consider not just a "yes or no" conclusion whether to built the runway or to increase the usage of the existing runways, it should study the way the planes are now leaving and arriving the Hong Kong International Airport, the plane's route and how they are affecting the residents, how many more residents are affected and whether the practice of how quickly the plane should climb be modified to avoid disturbing the residents of Hong Kong. The government itself

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should avoid siding with one argument or to play one argument against another, or to push for any one idea over the other before a thorough investigation on the noise pollution affecting residents of which areas of Hong Kong is completed.

It is only fair to say that for now, residents are affected, yes even those on Mt. Butler Road are awoken by low flying planes in the middle of the night. Few seems to ask why the planes need to fly so low or why the plane have to use certain routes affecting citizens to have a sound sleep in the middle of the night. By moving from Kai Tak a lot of residents on Kowloon, especially those in Kowloon Tong and Kowloon City have their ears clear; now 15 years later with both the flight practice and geography changed, we now need to make another good by first evaluate the way the noise should be measured, and in order to reduce disturbance to residents, by changing the flight path, including how quickly the plane should climb. Before pushing for an added runway or added traffic, the responsibility of the government should first think of a solution and for the noise disturbance against its citizens and care for the residents being affected. I think more people deserve a good night sleep by modifying the flight path and having the planes flying high, really high!

David Lai

Wan Chai District Councillor