

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars

**Responses to the follow-up actions
arising from the eighth meeting on 22 May 2017**

Regarding the follow-up actions of the eighth meeting, the Government provides information and responses as follows:

Conducting study on the economic contribution of bazaars

Bazaars set up by different organisations vary considerably in terms of objectives, sizes, duration, types of goods on sale and venues, and they are generally of temporary nature. The Government does not have any plan to conduct study on the economic contribution of bazaars, including the effect of bazaars on neighbouring business trade. If such study is to be conducted by any organisations in the community, we will take note of such study.

Setting up bazaars in public housing estates

The main objective of the Housing Authority (HA) is to provide public rental housing to low income families which cannot afford private rental accommodation. At the same time, HA will provide other facilities in the housing estates (such as retail shops) in accordance with the requirements of individual public housing developments. In planning new public housing development projects, HA will determine suitable provision of ancillary facilities including retail shops and market facilities on the basis of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, and take into account various factors, including scale of the development, provision of facilities nearby, etc. and consult relevant departments, organisations, District Councils (DCs) and the local communities.

Regarding proposals for the setting up of bazaars in public housing estates, as the Housing Department (HD) has mentioned in various documents provided to the Sub-committee and the Legislative Council

Panel on Housing as well as at the relevant meetings, upon receiving a specific proposal to set up a bazaar in a PRH estate by any organisation, HD will, based on details of such proposal as well as the needs and circumstances of the estate, study its feasibility and impact on the estate on a case-by-case basis, including whether it will affect environmental hygiene, obstruct public passages or cause any nuisances to the residents as well as draw in illegal hawking activities, etc. HD will assist the proponent to consult the residents and other stakeholders through the Estate Management Advisory Committee of the estate concerned.

If the estate concerned is governed by a land lease, a Deed of Mutual Covenant and other owners are involved, consent of other owners and approval from the Lands Department (LandsD) have to be obtained for the proposal of setting up bazaars. HD will assist the proponent to consult the other owners and LandsD. Besides, the proponent has to secure support from the local community and the relevant DC in accordance with the Government's policy on bazaars. Generally speaking, the proposal could be implemented if the technical feasibility of the venue had been established, and support had been obtained from the stakeholders of the estate, the local community and the DC.

The establishment of or participation in bazaars by ethnic minorities

Basically, bazaar proponents, including ethnic minorities, could freely choose the goods and the operators, including ethnic minorities, to be included according to their objectives (e.g. poverty alleviation, community inclusiveness etc.). We do not maintain information on bazaar participation by ethnic minorities in the past.

The information note on “Policies on bazaars in selected places” prepared by the Research Office of the Secretariat

We are grateful to the Research Office of Legislative Council Secretariat for the information note, to which we will make reference.

As a matter of fact, there are quite a number of business operations in Hong Kong which are being run in a mode similar to bazaars, e.g. cooked food bazaars, hawker bazaars, fixed-pitch hawker areas, hawker permitted areas, and markets or bazaars operated by private parties or non-governmental organisations. Some examples are provided in the paper submitted to the Subcommittee on 21 January 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)450/16-17(01)).

We would like to point out that each place has its own characteristics and development pattern. Bazaar development, therefore, is unique from place to place. The bazaar development models of other places cannot be simply “copied and pasted” for application to the Hong Kong context.