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**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 13 November 2018**

**Post-typhoon follow-up efforts under the purview of the Food and  
Environmental Hygiene Department**

On 16 September 2018, Super Typhoon MANGHKUT ("MANGHKUT") battered Hong Kong and the nearby region. Tropical cyclone warning signal No. 10 was issued and remained in force for 10 hours, five hours longer than Super Typhoon HATO ("HATO") in August 2017.

2. According to the Administration, MANGKHUT is by far the strongest tropical cyclone worldwide in 2018. The damages of MANGKHUT to Hong Kong were extensive and unprecedented. Flooding, landslides and collapse of trees caused extensive road blockage, leading to serious impediment to traffic and public transport services. Strong wind and storm surges brought different degrees of damages to a wide range of buildings and facilities. There were approximately 46 500 reports of fallen trees, almost nine times the figure of HATO; and 500 reports of broken windows, about three times over HATO. About 1 800 people sought refuge at Government shelters and 458 were injured.

3. In the paper provided by the Administration for the special meeting of the House Committee held on 4 October 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2055/17-18(01)), in the wake of MANGHKUT, relevant bureaux and departments had been working in concert and in full strength in respect of post-typhoon recovery and restoration. On the part of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD"), a workforce of about 8 000 (including civil servants and workers engaged by contractors) was mobilized afterwards each day for clearing typhoon debris (including fallen twigs and leaves) and performing other cleansing services. Between 17 September and 1 October 2018, in collaboration with other departments and volunteers,

FEHD had cleared a total of over 9 500 tonnes of typhoon debris and another 241 lorry-times of wood waste.

4. According to the Administration, clearance operations have been ongoing day and night since 17 September 2018. Top priority would be accorded to the removal of fallen trees and other debris posing imminent hazards to public safety and impeding traffic flow in major thoroughfares, carriageways of central business districts, school areas, access roads to refuse collection points and residential areas. Every effort is made to complete the cleansing work as soon as possible.

5. At the Panel meeting on 11 October 2018, some members expressed concern that FEHD failed to deploy sufficient manpower and resources to follow up on the clearance of typhoon debris and wood waste on roads and roadside after the passage of MANGHKUT. There were also complaints that some facilities in public cemeteries under the management of FEHD were damaged by the typhoon. Members considered it necessary for FEHD to review its recovery efforts in dealing with tropical cyclones, with a view to minimizing the impacts brought about by inclement weather.

6. The Panel will discuss the post-typhoon follow-up efforts under the purview of FEHD at the meeting on 13 November 2018.