

Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots launched in districts (with photos/video)

The inter-departmental District Matters Co-ordination Task Force today (August 14) launched a three-month Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots. The Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr Tse Chin-wan, joined by the Secretary for Housing, Ms Winnie Ho; and the Permanent Secretary for Housing/Director of Housing, Miss Agnes Wong, visited Oi Man Estate to learn about the improved environmental hygiene conditions after inter-departmental operations. Accompanied by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene, Ms Irene Young, Mr Tse also examined the clearance operation against refuse and waste piled up at rear lanes.

Mr Tse said, "Environmental hygiene is closely linked with people's daily lives. Under the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, various departments joined hands to strengthen cleansing work and tackle hygiene black spots across the territory in a concerted manner. To achieve sustained environmental improvements needs collaboration between the community and the Government. I hope that members of the public can support and tie in with our work."

Ms Ho and Mr Tse, accompanied by Miss Wong, visited Oi Man Estate in Ho Man Tin this morning to learn about the inter-departmental efforts and achievements. They inspected common area of the estate and were briefed by Housing Department (HD) staff on continuous joint operations with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Link Asset Management Limited, which have improved the environmental hygiene condition within the estate and in its vicinity. On anti-rodent work, they also inspected a pilot project whereby the HD provides premises for the Kowloon City District Office to test out a new model of rodent trap. The FEHD also gave technical advice on pest control work in the estate.

Ms Ho said, "The HD fully supports the work direction set by the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force through strengthening regular cleansing work in public housing estates, focused efforts in tackling hygiene black spots, enhancing publicity, and stepping up law enforcement. Specific measures include increasing cleansing and disinfection work, stepping up inspection and conducting spot checks of contractor performance, hiring specialist companies to perform pest and rodent control work, and where appropriate installing CCTV surveillance systems in garbage collection depots to combat illegal dumping of refuse in public housing estates."

Accompanied by Ms Young, Mr Tse then went to inspect the clean-up actions and measures taken by the FEHD for tackling the placement of objects and disposal of waste in the rear lane of Shui Che Kwun Street in Yuen Long District. The FEHD has stepped up the cleansing work in the rear lanes,

including dealing with the objects and waste by the rear lane clearance teams, increasing the use of street washing vehicles and high pressure hot water cleaners to clean the rear lanes, stepping up pest control work, and so on. As for the cases involving individuals placing objects in the rear lanes, which will not only affect environmental hygiene but also become rodent hiding places, the FEHD will adopt an approach of "education followed by enforcement", urging them to remove the items. If the warning is unheeded, the department will follow up the case in accordance with the law.

Ms Young said that the FEHD has also been applying new technologies to clean streets by mechanised and automated methods, such as the introduction of pressure washer surface cleaner, leaf blowers and mini-mechanical sweepers, to enhance the outcome of street cleaning.

From August to October, various departments will boost cleansing efforts at about 600 hygiene and street management black spots in the city. In addition to strengthening daily cleansing works, they will also enhance educational promotion and community participation to improve Hong Kong's environmental hygiene and cityscape as well as to ensure the sustainability of the enhancements.





Government announces latest situation of fresh food supply from Mainland

A Government spokesman announced today (August 14) that the supply of fresh food from the Mainland yesterday (August 13) was sufficient and stable.

According to the latest information, the quantity of vegetables supplied from the Mainland to Hong Kong yesterday (as of midnight) by land and water transportation was about 2 500 tonnes, comparable to the average daily supply from the Mainland on a normal day. The volume of vegetables sold through the wholesale markets of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Vegetable Marketing Organization was over 852 tonnes. The average wholesale prices of choi sum and pak choi stood at \$6.70 and \$6.30 per catty respectively yesterday. The supply of eggs to the wholesale market remained steady, with the average daily supply standing at about 3.6 million for the past week, comparable to the average daily supply on a normal day last year.

The total supply of chilled meat from the Mainland yesterday was about 41 tonnes. The supply of live pigs was plentiful.

The supply of chilled poultry from the Mainland was about 150 000 head yesterday, and over 9 000 live chickens were slaughtered locally. The supply was abundant.

Regarding the rice supply, in compliance with the requirement by the Government, stockholders of rice have to maintain the reserve stock of rice at a level sufficient for consumption by the local population for 15 days. The trade generally stocks double the required amount, which is sufficient for one month's consumption by Hong Kong citizens. In recent years, the import and consumption of rice in Hong Kong has stood at a steady level of around 320 000 to 330 000 tonnes per year. The import quantity (including reserve stock) as of end-June 2022 was 30 400 tonnes. Suppliers also maintain a reserve for food that can be stored, such as frozen meat, for around three

months' stock generally.

The Government will continue to maintain close liaison with the Mainland authorities and major food suppliers to ensure a stable food supply.

The AFCD updates and publishes the fresh food supply information daily. Members of the public may visit the AFCD website for updates on daily supplies and wholesale prices of fresh food (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/agriculture/agr_fresh/agr_fresh.html).

SCMA expresses condolences over passing of Mr Ambrose SK Lee

The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick Tsang Kwok-Wai was shocked and saddened today (August 14) to learn of the passing of former Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee.

Mr Tsang said, "I have worked with Mr Lee during the time when he was the Director of Immigration and the Secretary for Security and have benefited greatly from his leadership and teaching. Mr Lee has been dedicated to serving our country and Hong Kong community over the years and made outstanding contributions in different sectors. He has always had the well-being of the motherland and Hong Kong at heart even after his retirement. Mr Lee is indeed a good role model for all of us."

Mr Tsang wished Mr Lee rest in peace. He also extended his deepest condolences to Mr Lee's family.

ICAC statement

The following press release is issued on behalf of the Independent Commission Against Corruption:

ICAC Commissioner Mr Woo Ying-ming today (August 14) issued the following statement:

"We learnt with great sadness that former ICAC Commissioner, Mr Ambrose S K Lee has passed away. On behalf of all ICAC colleagues, I would like to express our deepest condolences to his family.

"Under the leadership of Mr Lee between 2002 and 2003, the ICAC

continued to safeguard Hong Kong's probity and partnered with the Interpol to organise the Second ICAC Symposium. During his tenure, he also led the ICAC in forging cooperation with Mainland's anti-corruption authorities.

"ICAC colleagues will fondly remember Mr Lee as a humble gentleman and a determined leader with vision."

Secretary for Security expresses deep sorrow at passing of Mr Ambrose S K Lee

The Secretary for Security, Mr Tang Ping-keung, today (August 14) expressed deep sorrow over the passing of former Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee, and extended his deepest condolences to Mr Lee's family.

Mr Tang said, "Mr Lee was the Secretary for Security from 2003 to 2012 and assumed the important posts of Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption and Director of Immigration before that. He provided dedicated services to the Government and Hong Kong residents for more than 30 years, making tremendous contributions. He took charge of the work in relation to security for a long period of time and made exemplary efforts in the maintenance of law and order and in exercising effective and efficient immigration and customs control, earning the respect of people both inside and outside the Government. After Mr Lee had left the Government, he still cared about political matters and gave valuable views from time to time, bringing positive energy to society. The Security Bureau is deeply saddened over his passing and he will be remembered fondly."