

S. K. M. P.

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## \$20m spent on NT clean-up equipment

About \$20 million has been spent on buying special cleansing vehicles and other equipment to clean up the New Territories since the launching of the Clean Hongkong campaign in October 1981.

And the Director of the New Territories Services Department is hoping to extend the scheme for contracting out village cleansing to between 20 and 40 villages in the next financial year.

An Unofficial Legislative Councillor, Mr Charles Yeung, who is also chairman of the New Territories Advisory Committee of the Clean Hongkong campaign, said about \$20 million had been used to buy special cleansing vehicles and other equipment for the area.

These included rubbish collection vehicles, motor assisted rubbish carriers, mechanical sweepers and street-washing vehicles.

Mr Yeung was speaking during his visit to Kwai Chung new town yesterday morning to inspect the clean-up operation there.

He said he was impressed with the standard of cleanliness and the *mei fa* (beautification) work at various points in Kwai Chung.

The Clean Hongkong Campaign was having a profound effect on multi-storey buildings, public housing estates, villages and street corners, Mr Yeung said.

"The exercise is a joint effort by the Government as well as members of the public and both are doing very well," he said.



Mr Yeung

Although the Clean Hongkong campaign officially ended late last year, various Government departments are continuing to maintain the standards the campaign has set and improve on them if necessary.

Matters which need attention include the disposal of marine rubbish and animal waste, Mr Yeung said.

Mr Yeung, accompanied by the Director of the New Territories Services Department, Mr John Heywood, and the Urban Services officer of Kwai Chung, Mr Chan Tai-yiu, first went to the residential area at Kwai Fong and then to the *mei fa* site at the junction of Kwai Chung Road and Lai King Hill Road to view the landscaped work.

The party also toured the Chung Mei resite village to inspect the performance of the contract-out-of-village cleansing service for 2,300 people — part of the community involvement plan of the Clean Hongkong exercise.

Mr Yeung said the pilot-scheme of the contract-out-of-village cleansing service had proved a success and more villagers now understood their obligation concerning the disposal of rubbish.

It is planned to extend the scheme to more villages in the next financial year.

Mr Heywood said there were several reasons for the success of the contract system.

"The most important is that because villagers are responsible for cleaning, they don't litter the place and so reduce the amount of work involved.

"It's so easy for the rural committee here to employ their own residents. They can come out here any time of the day and so it's very convenient," he said.

Mr Heywood said there would be difficulties if the NTSD had to find labourers for cleaning work in distant areas.

Mr Heywood said the NTSD wanted to extend the scheme to cover the whole New Territories, beginning in the next financial year.

"First of all we've got to convince the Government as a whole that the scheme works. We then have to get the funds to finance next year's programme."