

All quiet on island waterfront

Hawkers seek talks RSD firm on action

ALl was quiet on Cheung Chau island waterfront yesterday after street hawking was banned.

The Regional Council banned illegal hawking on the island after a new indoor market was opened.

But owners of street stalls who insist on a grace period, failed to convince Regional Services Department officials of their problems arising from the prohibition.

Representative of the street hawkers, Yuen Ming-wong, said negotiations failed.

"The officials adopted a very uncompromising stand. They said they would enforce the law. After discussing among ourselves, we decided to stop operating for these two days to avoid causing any unhappy incidents or confrontation," he said.

"We want to stay in business. Our



CLAMPDOWN: Regional Services Department officials on patrol in Cheung Chau.

demand is a three-month grace period so that we can take time to clear our stocks and change jobs."

The place was unusually quiet yesterday.

General duties teams from the Regional Services Department were patrolling the area.

After the existing stalls and *dai pai dongs* are removed, a promenade would be developed on the waterfront.

The RSD has informed hawkers that

they could bid for 20 stalls which are up for auction in the indoor market.

But the hawkers representative, Yuen, said the stalls up for auction were too small to accommodate all their materials.

He said the hawkers would meet RSD officials tomorrow in another effort to seek a compromise on the issue.

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