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10,000 demand CMB report

LEGISLATIVE Councillor, Mrs Rita Fan, will be armed with more than 10,000 signatures from supporters when she walks into the council chambers today to press the government for a full disclosure of a report revealing deficiencies in the China Motor Bus Company's vehicle maintenance procedures.

Fan will ask whether the investigation report on CMB's fleet maintenance will be disclosed.

She will also ask whether the report, compiled by the Transport Advisory Committee, will be published in both Chinese and English and when a final decision will be made on the recommendations.

The signatures were collected during a four-day campaign organised by six community groups.

Those who put down their names are supporting demands for a full disclosure of the report and the improvement of the bus company's vehicle maintenance standards.

The campaign began on Sunday and it will end today.

A spokesman for one of the groups, the Chaiwan People's Welfare Concern Group, Chan Chi-keung, last night told *The Standard* that the response to the signature campaign had been better than expected.

"The number of signatures has already exceeded our target of 10,000 and more are expected to come before the deadline," he said.

Chan said he expected the final figure to reach 12,000.

The signatures and a letter stating their demands will be handed to Fan this afternoon outside the Legislative Council chambers.

"We hope the signatures and the letter can help the councillor when she raises the subject," Chan said. He said a large proportion of the signatures had come from the Chaiwan district.

However, Chan said, people generally were not paying enough attention to the issue which is a matter of their life and death.

"Many people are indifferent," he said. "They are ignoring the fact that anyone might become a victim of bus accidents."

The groups will look at the government's reaction to Fan's question today before taking any further action.

Chan said the direction of their work would be to arouse people's awareness to the seriousness of the problem of sub-standard bus maintenance.