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STATEMENT ON REVISION OF HAWKER FEES BY THE MINISTER FOR
LAW AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MR. E.
W. BARKER, IN PARLIAMENT ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

In the Addendum to the President's Speech at the Opening of
the Fourth Parliament, Honourable Members were informed that the licence
fees for markets, food centres and street hawkers would be revised.

Licence fees of stalls for hawkers were last revised in 1970
but are less than the economic rental. Since then the cost of maintain-
ing and building new markets and food centres has increased. It is
felt that hawkers should pay their share of these higher costs.
Government has therefore decided to revise the licence fees.

The proposed revision is set out in three Schedules which have
been circulated to Members. The revision will rationalise some of
the fees for markets and food centres eliminating the discrepancy in the
fees paid by stallholders to the Ministry of the Environment and to the HDB.

The increases will be introduced in three phases in January 1978,
1979 and 1980. The licensees will thus be able to absorb the increases
without suffering undue hardship. Care has been taken to relate the
proposed fees to the sale and profit margins of different goods. For
example, retail vegetable licensees whose commodities are perishable and
less profitable will pay less than the cooked food, fruit and piece and
sundry goods hawkers. The licence fees for poultry hawkers will be
higher because their business occupies more space, poses greater
pollution and maintenance problems and their profit margin is higher.

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Cooked food, fruit and piece and sundry goods hawkers in the Ministry of the Environment's markets and food centres pay licence fees for two sessions. However, these hawkers in HDB markets and food centres, at present, pay rental equivalent to the licence fee for one session only. It is proposed to do away with this discrepancy. Henceforth, these cooked food, fruit and piece and sundry goods hawkers in HDB markets and food centres will pay the same fees as those in the Ministry of the Environment's markets and food centres.

However, for street hawkers, fees will continue to be charged on a per session basis, because for a number of sites, the hours of hawking have to be stipulated as the sites are required for other uses such as carparks.

In the first phase of the revision, about 13,000 or 55% of the total number of hawkers will pay an additional \$5 per month, 5,300 or 23% hawkers will pay an additional \$10 per month, and the remainder an additional \$15 to \$60 per month. Vegetable, egg, bean cake and noodle, assorted ground spices and sea food hawkers will pay a small increase of \$5 per month.

These modest increases are spread over three years and should not justify any increase in the prices of hawkers' goods.
