

## **Getting ready for school**

With the new school year around, the Council would like to urge parents to plan their back-to-school shopping properly. Below are some tips to help parents and guardians for back-to-school preparation.

**Buy now** – Be wise and take advantage of pre-VAT increase. Buy your children's school needs and save money before VAT comes into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

**Prepare well** – Parents should save in advance and not leave things to the last minute.

**Make a list** – Parents should make a shopping list of the things needed like school uniforms, textbooks, exercise books, stationeries, school bags, shoes etc. Keep track of the things bought to avoid double purchasing. Cross off the items from the list once bought.

**Budget Allocation** – Parents should set aside a maximum needed to be spent. However, parents should strictly stick to their list. Buying of basic immediate items such as uniforms, textbooks should be a priority.

**Shop around** – Compare prices of at least 2-3 shops before shopping. Practice bulk buying to avoid unnecessary spending. Carry a calculator to update your financial status.

**Recycle/Reuse** – Parents should check with family members if they have uniforms, bags, sandals, textbooks that still can be used for the new school year for the younger children.

**Buy second hand** – If possible check your child's school or other school's for used textbooks as they move to higher levels or when leaving school.

**Discuss with your kids** – Talk to your children about your financial status and make them understand that they can't always get what they want. What is needed is important than what is wanted for a new school year.