

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)126

Question Serial No.

1965

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to mosquito control work, the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated dropped substantially from 47 039 in 2011 (Actual) to only 41 650 in 2012 (Actual), and the number for 2013 (Estimate) will be 41 700. Please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in the anti-mosquito work in 2013-14;
- (b) the reasons for the decrease in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated by the Department in recent years; and
- (c) the details of the Department's new mosquito control plans.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The estimated expenditure involved in mosquito control work in 2013-14 is \$226.1 million. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its contractors have a total workforce of about 2 260 in providing pest control services.
- (b) The number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2012 reflects the general decline in the number of mosquito breeding places in the territory. This is attributed to the continuous efforts of the Department in enhancing community education and publicity to raise public awareness of mosquito prevention and control.
- (c) The Department will continue to adopt an integrated approach in the prevention and control of mosquitoes. Under this approach, the Department implements a dengue vector surveillance programme to monitor the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas, evaluate the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work carried out by various parties, and provide surveillance information to the public and for making timely adjustments to its mosquito control strategies and measures. Moreover, the Department organises annual anti-mosquito campaigns on a territory-wide basis to heighten public awareness of the potential risk of mosquito-borne diseases, encourage community participation and promote concerted efforts of government departments concerned in anti-mosquito work.

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