

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

**FHB(FE)202**

Question Serial No.

3432

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the service of scattering of cremains at sea, please advise whether additional resources will be allocated to increase the capacity of service in 2013-14; if yes, please give the specific arrangements and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s). Please also advise whether additional resources will be allocated to step up publicity for the service in 2013-14; if yes, please give the work plan and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

To promote scattering of cremains at sea, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) introduced a ferry service for the public in January 2010. Since January 2012, the Department has further enhanced the service by employing a bigger vessel which can accommodate over 200 passengers per sail and arranging two sails each month. As the new service is well received by the public, the Department has, since 14 January 2013, further increased the number of sails to four each month. The estimated expense for the ferry service per annum will be increased by 105% from \$796,000 in 2012-13 to \$1,632,000 in 2013-14.

The Department will continue to promote green burials, which cover scattering of cremains at sea, in 2013-14. The publicity plan includes participation in the Hong Kong Senior Fair 2013, broadcasting a new television announcement in the public interest, updating publicity pamphlets, organising talks for elderly centres/homes and schools, and collaboration with non-government organisations. The estimated expenditure of these promotional activities is around \$0.5 million.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013