

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)261

(Question Serial No. 6555)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the details of plans and projects that the Department will continue to take forward for the provision of more crematorium and columbarium facilities, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 370)

Reply:

On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is upgrading the cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. This includes the reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide ten new cremators and ancillary facilities in two phases, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million. The first phase of the reprovisioning providing four new cremators was completed in early 2013 while the second phase providing six new cremators is expected to complete in late 2015.

On public columbarium facilities, the Government has completed the construction of Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium (Phase V) in 2012-13, providing 43 710 niches. The Government has also been promoting further development of columbaria in all districts, and identified 24 potential sites in the territory for columbarium development to increase the supply of public niches. Of these 24 sites, construction of 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at a cost of about \$0.51 million was completed in early 2012, while construction of 1 000 niches in Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of about \$2.7 million was completed in December 2013.

The Department has already consulted and obtained the in-principle support of the relevant District Councils on the construction of 20 000 niches at Tsing Tsuen Road, 200 000 niches at Sandy Ridge Cemetery, 25 000 niches at Chai Wan and 44 000 niches at Wo Hop Shek (Phase I). The next step is to proceed with the conceptual/detailed design, as applicable, of the relevant projects, e.g. for site formation and associated infrastructural works for the Sandy Ridge Cemetery project and for the columbaria at Chai Wan and Wo Hop Shek

(Phase I) project. In addition, the Department has obtained green light from the Tuen Mun District Council for us to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (FC) for the construction of 160 000 niches at Tsang Tsui, at estimated cost of \$2.88 billion. Subject to the approval of FC, construction works in Tsang Tsui are scheduled for completion in 2018. As regards the other sites identified for columbarium development, the Department has largely completed the necessary Engineering Feasibility Studies and Traffic Impact Assessments and will consult the relevant District Councils before the proposed columbarium development is taken forward. The estimated cost for developing relevant new columbarium facilities can only be ascertained upon finalisation of design details.

There is no separate breakdown on the manpower resources involved in taking forward the above plans and projects.

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