

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)173**

**(Question Serial No. 1215 )**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2017-18, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to enhance the viability of public markets by improving management, upgrading facilities, providing a more flexible mix of trade, and carrying out promotional activities. Please provide the details and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in this respect.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

The Consultant commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau selected 6 representative markets for detailed study and put forward specific improvement recommendations. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is following up the specific improvement proposals in phases in consultation with the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) of these markets. In 2017-18, the Department plans to commence improvement works for Lockhart Road Market at an estimated project cost of \$21.2 million. The scope of improvement works for Sheung Fung Street Market is being finalised in consultation with relevant departments.

In addition, to ensure smooth operation of escalators and lifts in the public markets, we have plans to replace by phases the aged escalators and lifts. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, we have earmarked \$292 million to replace 84 escalators and 33 lifts in 23 markets.

In 2017-18, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East), Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West), Tsuen Wan Market, San Hui Market, Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market, Kwun Chung Market, Lockhart Road Market, Sai Ying Pun Market and Sai Wan Ho Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$56.2 million. The scope of works includes installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation, electricity and fire services, refurbishment of external walls and toilets, etc.

In early years, public markets were built by the 2 former Municipal Councils to resite on-street hawkers so as to improve environmental hygiene. The trade mix of resitees was a

major factor affecting the commodities to be sold in public markets from the outset. Generally speaking, in considering the appropriate trade mix, we aim to cover key categories of daily provisions that the community would normally procure from public markets such as vegetables, fruits, fish, meat and poultry, etc. To provide a more flexible mix of trade, the Department introduced a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets. In 2016-17, we successfully let out stalls for conducting service trades such as Chinese medicine practitioners / bone-setters' clinics, computer-related services, beauty / manicure / massage parlours, laundry delivery services, etc. in a number of public markets.

As an on-going initiative, the Department will continue to conduct promotional activities to enhance the patronage of existing public markets. These include festive celebrations, thematic activities, display of multi-language recipes, publication of booklets to provide updated market information as well as other promotional activities that could help attract members of the public to visit the public markets. In addition, the Department will continue, as appropriate, to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets. The estimated expenditure for market promotional activities in 2017-18 is \$7 million.

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