

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)286

(Question Serial No. 5513)

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:

Please provide information on the details, arrangements and progress regarding the work of “continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets”.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 6110)

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 of these markets. In 2017-18, the Department plans to commence improvement works for Lockhart Road Market. The scope of improvement works for Sheung Fung Street Market is also being finalized in consultation with relevant departments.

The Consultant also suggested implementing some non-physical improvement measures relating to the management, hygiene, as well as marketing and promotion of public markets. On the management of public markets, the Department agrees with the Consultant and has given priority to tackling inactive stalls and keeping markets clean and tidy in general. On marketing and promotion, the Department has been organising various promotional activities in public markets, including festive promotions, games booths, cooking demonstrations and distribution of souvenirs. The Department will sustain its promotional efforts with a view to increasing customer flows in public markets and improving business viability. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for market promotional activities is \$7 million. 13 additional civil service foreman posts have been created in 2016 to strengthen the manpower in market management. The Department will from time to time review the existing manpower situation so as to enhance the operational efficiency.

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 scope of works includes installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation, electricity and fire services, refurbishment of external walls and toilets, etc. as appropriate.

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.

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