

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)194

(Question Serial No. 1976)

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19, it is mentioned that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will launch a Market Modernisation Programme to improve facilities of existing public markets. Please advise on the specific details, work schedules and estimated expenditure involved in this respect.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 14)

Reply:

In his Budget Speech delivered in February 2018, the Financial Secretary announced that \$2 billion would be earmarked for implementing a Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) over the next 10 years. This will entail a comprehensive review of public markets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), and improvement works including early installation of air-conditioning (A/C) systems, major overhaul or redevelopment, with a view to improving the operating environment of the markets and putting the land resources to most gainful use. The project scope may include A/C, re-design and re-zoning of stalls, re-configuration of layout, drainage improvement, upgrading works for fire services installations, electricity supply, toilet facilities, ventilation, lighting, signage, replacement of floor tiles, provision of barrier free access, façade and external wall decoration, lifts and escalators, etc. as appropriate. A dedicated team has been set up in the Department to take forward the MMP and other reviews.

There is no pre-set limit on the number of markets that may benefit from the dedicated funding, which would depend on the actual circumstances of individual markets interested, scope and complexity of works proposed, and the mix of projects agreed over time. Public markets would be considered with regard to the physical condition of the markets concerned, their geographical location and distribution, business viability, tenants' readiness, etc.

The capital works expenditure and recurrent costs of any project could only be determined when the scope of works is finalised, and upon completion of technical feasibility studies and cost-effectiveness assessment.

- End -