

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)098

(Question Serial No. 2304)

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:

- (1) What selection criteria will be adopted for the 240 public toilets to be refurbished in the coming 5 years?
- (2) With the Government spending over \$600 million for refurbishing public toilets, how many public toilets are expected to be refurbished each year?
- (3) What are the major items of facilities to be improved?
- (4) Will additional staffing expenses be incurred under the programme? If yes, what is the expenditure to be involved?
- (5) How many public toilets are provided with toilet attendants? Please specify and set out the average hours per day when attendants are stationed at public toilets in each of the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (1)-(2) About 240 public toilets will be refurbished or facelifted in the coming 5 years from 2019-20 to 2023-24 at an estimated capital expenditure of \$600 million. The list of these public toilets is being worked out with regard to their conditions and level of utilisation. We are planning to commence the refurbishment or facelifiting works for about 40 public toilets in 2019-20. Further details such as the location and geographical distribution, as well as the estimated cost of the works of these toilets will be available at a later stage. The improvement programme will gather momentum when all the dedicated staff are in post.
- (3) New design and layouts will generally be adopted for the refurbishment of public toilets, with beautified facades and modern facilities, with a view to making them hygienic, clean and safe. The improvement works may cover exterior design,

installations and equipment, materials, ventilation, odour control, lighting, infra-red sensor-activated taps and flushing facilities, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will adjust the scope of the refurbishment of individual toilets having regard to the actual circumstances.

- (4) 26 additional staff will be deployed to implement the refurbishment or facelifiting programme, incurring an estimated annual expenditure of about \$19.8 million.
- (5) In general, toilet attendant services are provided in public toilets with a high patronage rate or at tourist spots. At present, 264 public toilets managed by the Department are provided with toilet attendant services, comprising 77 on Hong Kong Island, 60 in Kowloon and 127 in the New Territories or on outlying islands. The work shift of toilet attendants is less than 10 hours a day. There is no further breakdown on the average hours of work shifts of toilet attendants.

- End -