

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)109

(Question Serial No. 0029)

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:

As regards the Government's plan to allocate more resources to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for refurbishing its public toilets by phases, improving ventilation and other facilities, as well as enhancing their cleanliness and hygiene, it is estimated that a total expenditure of over \$600 million may be incurred, involving about 240 public toilets in the coming 5 years. Please provide details of:

1. the selection criteria for public toilets to be refurbished;
2. the number of public toilets to be refurbished in each of the coming 5 years;
3. the specific refurbishment works items and new facilities of each public toilet; and
4. the expected implications on manpower and work procedures for management of public toilets upon completion of the refurbishment works.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- 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. 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. It is anticipated that the refurbishment or facelifiting works will improve considerably the hardware of public toilets, which will be conducive to their daily management and upkeeping. The Department will make sure that adequate manpower will be deployed to provide cleansing services for public toilets and that the contractors' performance is under close supervision.

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