

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)214

(Question Serial No. 0301)

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:

Regarding the proposal in this year's Budget that a total expenditure of over \$600 million be spent on refurbishing over 240 public toilets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the coming 5 years, please advise on:

1. the list of the public toilets concerned, the expected timetable for refurbishment works and the estimated annual expenditure;
2. whether the Government will, apart from general refurbishment and retrofitting of facilities, consider demolishing some dilapidated and poorly designed public toilets for redevelopment;
3. whether separate tenders will be invited for the refurbishment/redevelopment works; and
4. whether the Government will consider organising open design competitions for the refurbishment/redevelopment of some suitable public toilets, e.g. public toilets in tourist districts and those of particularly heavy usage, so as to tap on the creativity of the relevant professionals and beautify the community?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

1. 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.

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will not rule out the possibility of demolishing a public toilet and building a new one if the conditions of the toilet and circumstances warrant.
3. The detailed works and procurement arrangements will be worked out when the scope of works and detailed design of the public toilets involved in the refurbishment programme are finalised.
4. FEHD will actively consider in consultation with the Architectural Services Department how to engage the community in providing a creative outlook for suitable public toilets, especially those highly utilised ones in tourist areas.

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