

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)330

(Question Serial No. 5575)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
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 stated in paragraph 169 of the Budget Speech, the Government will 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 advise on:

- (1) the details of the phases and improvement measures for refurbishing the public toilets;
- (2) the list of the 240 public toilets and the selection criteria for the public toilets to be refurbished; and
- (3) whether the Department will, apart from enhancing the cleanliness and hygiene of the public toilets to be refurbished, also improve other facilities, e.g. more unisex toilets, to address the needs of the elderly, the disabled and the transgender persons. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 406)

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 plan to commence 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. 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.

- (3) If circumstances permit, the Department will provide accessible unisex toilets and universal toilets when the public toilets are refurbished.

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