

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)342

(Question Serial No. 6248)

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:

It is mentioned in the last year's Policy Address that \$2 billion has been earmarked in the Budget for the implementation of the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP), which has been launched with the overhaul of Aberdeen Market as the pioneering project. In this regard,

- a. please provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved in the overhaul of Aberdeen Market and the anticipated completion date of the project.
- b. please list the public markets covered by the MMP.
- c. will any arrangements (e.g. re-location, compensation) be provided for market stall operators affected by the works under the MMP?
- d. after implementing the MMP mentioned in last year's Budget, will the Department extend the programme to other public markets under its purview and seek additional provisions? If yes, what is the amount?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (LegCo internal reference no.: 127)

Reply:

The Government has earmarked \$2 billion for the implementation of the 10-year Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). The pioneering project of the MMP is the overhaul of Aberdeen Market. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) briefed the relevant committee of the Southern District Council on the details and progress of the project in February 2020. ArchSD is engaging consultants and will commence the detailed design of plan and preparation of tender documents, etc. as soon as possible. The expenditure of the works can only be accurately estimated upon completion of the design work. Upon completion of the preparatory work, we will seek funding approval from the Legislative Council as soon as practicable and expect to commence the overhaul works in 2021.

At the same time, we plan to overhaul another 3 public markets in Kowloon and the New Territories and expect to take forward the consultation and preparatory work later this year. We also plan to kick-start minor refurbishment and improvement works for at least 3 other public markets in different districts across the territory. The project estimates for taking forward the above minor refurbishment and improvement works, as well as engagement of consultants and the preliminary work for the Aberdeen Market project, is about \$68 million. The estimated expenditure of these projects in 2020-21 is about \$13 million.

The Government will fully consider the relevant circumstances in accordance with the existing policy to provide possible assistance for tenants affected by the MMP.

FEHD will continue to follow up on the first phase projects and identify more markets suitable for the MMP, so as to make the best use of the \$2 billion earmarked to improve the operating environment of markets. When these projects are completed progressively with the expected results achieved, and can generate a clear momentum to bring other public markets into such a mainstream modernisation programme, we will consider seeking additional funding.

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