

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)084

(Question Serial No. 1252)

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 Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated under this Programme that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to implement the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) to improve facilities of existing public markets. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- a) the list of public markets planned for implementation of the MMP in the coming year, the scope of the refurbishment works and expected completion date, as well as the measures to be taken to reduce the impacts on market tenants and the public during the works period; and
- b) whether there is any plan to support all market tenants to install electronic payment facilities given that electronic payment will be a major trend in future; if yes, the details, objective(s) and timetable; if no, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- a) The Government has earmarked \$2 billion for implementing the 10-year Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). The pioneering project of the MMP is the overhaul of Aberdeen Market. The scope of the project mainly comprises re-configuring the overall layout of the market (including re-planning of the stalls, widening the passageways, escalators and entrances); installing air-conditioning system, providing 2 new accessible lifts and 2 new goods lifts for exclusive use by Aberdeen Market, as well as upgrading other building services installations; refurbishing the façade of the market; refurbishing the refuse collection point (including the provision of new facilities designated for recycling of discarded foam boxes); and other miscellaneous improvements (including the provision of more public space and seating, increasing the number of toilets and upgrading of the barrier-free facilities, etc.). The estimated capital cost of the project is about \$254 million and the funding has been approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. We plan to commence the overhaul works in the third quarter of 2021, and will take measures, including the use of pre-fabricated parts as appropriate, with a view to

striving for completion of the works within 2022.

During the works period, we will take appropriate measures to minimise the impact on stakeholders and residents in the vicinity as far as possible. The measures include issuing letters to the licensees of supermarkets and fresh food provision shops near Aberdeen Market before commencement of the works, encouraging them to increase the supply of related commodities to cater for the needs of the residents; staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department closely monitoring the situation of obstruction of pavements and roads by articles placed by shops in Aberdeen, stepping up inspections and liaising with the relevant departments in prosecuting offenders to ensure that the streets are free from obstruction; taking measures to reduce noise and impact during the works period; and liaising with the Transport Department to explore ways to enhance the transport services provided by some public transport operators to and from the markets in the area, so as to facilitate local residents in purchasing daily necessities.

Apart from the overhaul of Aberdeen Market as the pioneering project, we are carrying out the preparatory and consultation work for the overhaul works in Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market and Kowloon City Market, including arranging small group meetings with tenants, briefings for the relevant Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs) on the projects, etc., to collect their views, with a view to reaching a consensus with tenants as soon as possible. Upon ascertaining the scope of works, we will conduct technical feasibility studies with relevant departments. The works timetable and project cost will be confirmed upon completion of the technical feasibility studies and assessment as well as detailed design. We will continue to maintain close liaison with stakeholders during the process and report to the relevant District Councils in a timely manner having regard to the work progress.

In addition, we have consulted and obtained the support of the relevant MMCCs on the minor refurbishment or improvement works for 11 markets (including Ngau Tau Kok Market, Yeung Uk Road Market, Luen Wo Hui Market, Fa Yuen Street Market, Quarry Bay Market, Shui Wo Street Market, Tsuen Wan Market, Mong Kok Cooked Food Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Shek Tong Tsui Market and Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market). Depending on the circumstances, the works include renovation of internal facilities, beautification of external walls, replacement of floor tiles, repainting market facilities, renovation of toilets, maintenance of drainage systems and piping as well as installation of rodent-proof devices, etc. Works in 10 markets have commenced and preparation work for the remaining one is underway.

- b) All tenants in FEHD Skylight Market, which was commissioned in end 2020, have been required to install the contactless payment systems. New public markets and the overhauled public markets under the MMP will make reference to this practice in implementing contactless payment. We will keep in view of the operation of FEHD Skylight Market, with a view to formulating arrangements for the use and promotion of contactless payment in public markets in future.

As for the existing markets, having regard that the use of contactless payment is conducive to reducing the transmission risk of virus in a market setting, the

Government launched the Subsidy Scheme for Promotion of Contactless Payment in Public Markets under the third round of the Anti-epidemic Fund in October 2020. Under the scheme, a subsidy at a flat rate of \$5,000 per stall is provided for market stall tenants to meet the initial set-up costs, as well as service and other fees in relation to the provision of at least one contactless payment means for market patrons. The financial implication of the related measures is absorbed by the Anti-epidemic Fund, and does not fall under the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account.

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