

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)026

(Question Serial No. 0189)

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to implement the Market Modernisation Programme to improve facilities of existing public markets. In this connection, has the Department set the timetable and objectives for implementing the programme? When the installation of air-conditioning facilities in all public markets is expected to be completed?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The Government has earmarked \$2 billion for the implementation of the 10-year Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). The pioneering project is the overhaul of Aberdeen Market. The works officially commenced in November 2021 and are expected to be completed within this year. We have also proposed the overhaul or redevelopment of Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market, Kowloon City Market and Lai Wan Market, the preparatory and consultation work of which are underway at various stages.

The MMP also includes minor refurbishment or improvement works. The first batch of 11 markets benefitting are 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. Amongst these 11 projects, nine have been completed and one is scheduled for completion within 2023. Preparation for the remaining project is underway. The works are expected to commence in phases in the second half of this year. The minor refurbishment or improvement works in Yan Oi Market, Sai Kung Market, Po On Road Market, Wong Nai Chung Market and Smithfield Market are at the early stage of planning. The relevant work will commence within this year.

Overhaul or redevelopment of markets under the MMP will include retrofitting of air-conditioning systems, which is more cost-effective than carrying out separate project solely for retrofitting air-conditioning systems. In the past, some markets had gained support from tenants and reached the support threshold for retrofitting air-conditioning systems. As their

tenants are, to a certain extent, ready for the improvement works, these markets have more potential to be accorded priority for inclusion in the MMP. In identifying markets for overhaul works, the Department will consider a host of factors, including the geographical location and distribution of markets, condition of facilities, business viability, community needs and tenants' readiness, etc.

Besides implementing the MMP, the Department will, depending on the circumstances and needs, improve the ventilation facilities of individual markets as far as practicable, for example, replacing the exhaust air-ducts, and installing mechanical fans and air-coolers, etc.

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