

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)078

(Question Serial No. 0662)

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated under the Programme that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will expedite the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme, including continuing to improve the design and facilities of existing public toilets in phases, and improve the planning, provision and management of public toilets. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the progress of the refurbishment projects in 2022-23, and the percentage of refurbished public toilets out of the total number of public toilets in the territory;
- 2) the projected number of public toilets to be refurbished in the coming year, the expected completion schedule for the refurbishment of all public toilets in the territory, and the expenditure involved in the Programme; and
- 3) whether more smart facilities will be introduced to the public toilets to be refurbished in the future, given that smart facilities, e.g. toilet compartment occupancy indicator, have been introduced to some public toilets under refurbishment.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- 1&2) It was announced in the 2019-20 Budget Speech that the Government would make an additional allocation of \$600 million to implement the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme, under which the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department would refurbish or facelift about 240 public toilets under its management by phases within 5 years starting from 2019-20 (i.e. from 2019-20 to 2023-24). In the past 4 years, the Department actively took the Programme forward. As at 31 December 2022, refurbishment or facelifting projects for over 190 public toilets (or about one-fourth of all the public toilets in the territory) have been rolled out, 95 of which have been completed. The works for over 60 public toilets will commence in 2023-24, bringing the total number of public toilets refurbished or facelifted under the 5-year Programme to over 250. Apart from ensuring the timely completion of the

ongoing projects under the Programme, the Department will advance the planning of the work for the next stage. Besides, the Department will compress the project time by adopting technologies such as the Modular Integrated Construction method and Design for Manufacture and Assembly as far as practicable. The aim is to progressively commence the relevant works for the remaining 430 or so public toilets yet to be refurbished or facelifted in the territory between 2024 and 2028.

- 3) To enhance the quality of service, smart public toilet system has been introduced to 13 public toilets on a trial basis. The Department will closely monitor the performance and effectiveness of the system and apply it to newly built or refurbished public toilets as appropriate.

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