

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)121

(Question Serial No. 3251)

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 Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government has taken forward new policies on bazaars in recent years. It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will organise a number of bazaars in co-operation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the Department will also be responsible for processing the applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence for organising bazaars. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What was the number of bazaars co-organised by the Department with NGOs in each of the past 3 years? How many of them involved the sale of cooked food?
2. What were the staffing establishment of the Department and the funding used in co-organising bazaars in each of the past 3 years?
3. What were the number of applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence for organising bazaars and the number of applications approved in each of the past 3 years?
4. There are comments that the policy on organising bazaars is unclear, the workflow is complicated, and the levels of district support vary. As bazaars become increasingly popular among members of the public, will the Department improve the workflow to make it easier for bazaars to be held in the territory?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

- 1.&2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) did not organise any bazaars in collaboration with non-governmental organisations in the past 3 years. In 2023, FEHD will, by drawing on the experience of the Home Affairs Department in 2022, co-organise weekend bazaars with local groups.

3. The number of applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence for organising bazaars each year from 2020 to 2022 is as follows:

Year	Number of applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence for organising bazaars
2020	4
2021	15*
2022	18

* : 2 of which were cross-year (2021-2022) bazaars.

All the applications above were approved.

4. The Government adopts an open mind towards specific proposals from local residents/organisations for organising bazaars. FEHD stands ready to provide assistance in conjunction with the relevant bureaux and departments for local groups in organising bazaars if suitable sites have been identified by the proponent organisations and support from venue owners and local communities has been obtained, provided that the proposals will not compromise public order and safety, food safety and environmental hygiene, and will not cause obstruction in public passageways. The main role of FEHD is to process the applications for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licence and Temporary Food Factory Licence. When receiving a licence application, FEHD will provide the applicant with one-stop services, which include the transfer of information to the relevant government departments for consideration. If the relevant government departments support the application, FEHD will issue the licence as soon as possible.

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