

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0587)

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:

Under the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP), refurbishment works including retrofitting air-conditioning systems and re-configuring layouts will be carried out for over 10 public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. However, many existing markets have a poor operating environment that requires repair and beautification. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the total expenditure of the overhaul works for Aberdeen Market under the MMP; the estimated expenditure and timetable for the planned market overhaul projects in other districts; and
2. the maintenance provision earmarked for markets not covered by the MMP.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The Department is pressing ahead with 6 overhaul or redevelopment projects under the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP). The pioneering project is the overhaul of Aberdeen Market, the capital cost of which is about \$254 million. The works officially commenced in November 2021 and will be substantially completed in the first quarter of 2023. The market will re-open afterwards.

The Government will also proceed with the overhaul of Lai Wan Market. The capital cost of the project is about \$47 million. The market was closed in February 2023 for overhaul works and is expected to re-open before the Lunar New Year in 2024 at the earliest.

In addition, the preparatory and consultation works for 4 proposed overhaul or redevelopment projects in Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market, Kowloon City Market and North Kwai Chung Market are underway. Upon deciding on the scope of works, the Department will conduct technical feasibility studies with the relevant departments. The works timetable and project cost will be confirmed upon

completion of the technical feasibility studies and assessment as well as the detailed design.

The MMP also includes minor refurbishment or improvement works to upgrade market facilities as soon as possible. Out of the 16 markets currently covered, the works in 14 markets (including Ngau Tau Kok Market, Yeung Uk Road 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, Yan Oi Market, Sai Kung Market, Po On Road Market, Wong Nai Chung Market and Smithfield Market) have been completed. For the remaining 2 markets (Luen Wo Hui Market and Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market), the works or relevant preparatory works are underway, with completion expected in 2023 and in phases in 2024 respectively. The project estimates for taking forward the 16 afore-mentioned minor refurbishment or improvement works are about \$86 million in total.

2. Besides, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has been taking forward measures to improve the operating environment of existing public markets, including improvement of ventilation, lighting systems and fire service equipment, refurbishment of external walls and toilets, etc. The estimated expenditure for the works to be carried out/under planning in 2023-24 is about \$101 million.

To ensure the smooth operation of lifts and escalators in public markets, the Department has started replacing the aged lifts and escalators in phases since 2015-16. To date, we have earmarked about \$558 million for the replacement of 71 lifts and 163 escalators in 37 public markets. As at 31 March 2023, the replacement works of 52 lifts and 127 escalators have been completed, while the remaining works will be gradually completed as planned.

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