

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)074

(Question Serial No. 3202)

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 (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in Programme (3) that the work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department involves continuing to implement the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) to improve facilities of existing public markets. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the current staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the implementation of the MMP?
- (b) What are the progress and timetable of the projects under the MMP being planned by the Department?
- (c) Some people are of the view that there is a lack of communication between the Government and the tenants during the implementation of the MMP. Will the Department include trade representatives in the preliminary consultative machinery in the future, so as to better align market design with the needs of tenants?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

- (a) The Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) is mainly implemented by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) with the assistance of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD). The relevant staff establishments and recurrent expenditures are included in the Estimates of Expenditure of both departments under Head 49 and Head 25. As the Market Development Division (MDD) under FEHD which takes forward the MMP is also responsible for other duties relating to public market development (e.g. new public market development projects, enhancements to market management and market consolidation/closure, etc.), and the relevant team of ArchSD is also responsible for new public market and MMP projects, we do not keep a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in the MMP.

As at 31 March 2025, the staff establishment of the entire MDD under FEHD includes 26 civil servants and 10 non-civil service/post-retirement service contract staff, while that of the relevant team of ArchSD includes 17 civil servants and 10 non-civil service/post-retirement service contract staff. In 2025-26, the estimated expenditures

of the MDD under FEHD and ArchSD are about \$33.64 million and \$27.71 million respectively.

- (b) Under the MMP, FEHD is implementing projects of various scales at suitable markets, including overhaul or redevelopment of markets, stall enhancement, as well as minor refurbishment or improvement works.

Regarding market overhaul or redevelopment projects, Aberdeen Market and Lai Wan Market officially re-opened in May 2023 and March 2024 respectively after overhaul works. FEHD will continue to take forward the overhaul project for Ngau Tau Kok Market. The relevant works timetable can only be confirmed upon completion of the technical feasibility studies and assessment as well as the detailed design. In addition, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) also plans to reprovision Kowloon City Market and other public facilities to the proposed government Joint-User Complex at Carpenter Road in Kowloon City. FEHD will dovetail with the development plan of the URA.

As for stall enhancement projects, the first project was carried out in Queen Street Cooked Food Market (CFM), which resumed full operation in September 2024. At present, its average daily footfall is about 1 600, which has increased by about 20% as compared with that before the works. Stall tenants indicated that the enhancement works have improved the operating environment. Many members of the public have also expressed that the enhanced CFM offers a contemporary feel and a clean and comfortable dining environment. In view of the effectiveness of the stall enhancement project in Queen Street CFM and the positive feedbacks from stall tenants and the public, FEHD will continue to identify other suitable markets for stall enhancement works.

With regard to minor refurbishment or improvement works, FEHD has taken forward the relevant works in 16 markets. As at 31 January 2025, the works in 15 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 CFM, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Shek Tong Tsui Market, Yan Oi Market, Sai Kung Market, Po On Road Market, Wong Nai Chung Market, Smithfield Market and Luen Wo Hui Market) have been completed, while those in the remaining Nam Long Shan Road CFM are expected to be completed in 2025.

- (c) Support from relevant stakeholders, in particular tenants, is crucial to the smooth implementation of projects under the MMP. When implementing the MMP, FEHD maintains close communication with tenants and relevant stakeholders (including the Market Management Consultative Committee comprising tenant representatives) to consult them on various matters (including facilities improvement proposals, rental arrangements and management enhancement measures, etc.) to ensure that the projects can meet the needs of tenants and members of the public.