

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-EEB(F)001**

**(Question Serial No. S020)**

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:

Follow-up question to Reply Serial No. EEB(F)091:

Based on the reply to a question raised on the 2026-27 Budget regarding the plans of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to close under-utilised public markets, the latest progress of the works announced under the Market Modernisation Programme, the operation of Stanley Waterfront Mart (the Mart) which also falls under the programme of Market Management and Hawker Control, and the actual public needs for the relevant facilities in Southern District, my follow-up questions are as follows:

The Mart, together with other public markets, are under the programme of Market Management and Hawker Control of FEHD. It is also an important ancillary tourist facility in Hong Kong. Built with public funds, this public facility, however, has remained vacant for a long period of time with a vacancy rate of 100%. My team and I are concerned with the operation difficulties of the Mart. We had put forth improvement suggestions to FEHD and was replied that it would actively review the operation of the Mart.

1. It has been over a year since FEHD replied that it would actively review the operation of the Mart. What tentative plans does it have that can be made public at present? What is the timetable for resolving the problem?
2. Will FEHD adopt our earlier suggestions of issuing flexible licences, allowing seasonal short-term operation and giving priority to local artisans in leasing a stall, etc., by rolling out a 6-month pilot scheme to tackle the problem of prolonged vacancy first, and then refine the management system in a progressive manner?
3. Will the funding for revitalisation of the Mart be consolidated with that allocated in the Budget for tourism development, so that FEHD can work in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board and Southern District Council to develop a distinctive Stanley Waterfront Mart which can attract visitors and preserve local culture at the same time? What is the estimated expenditure on the revitalisation and publicity work?

Asked by: Hon CHU Lap-wai

Reply:

1. Located along the Stanley Promenade, Stanley Waterfront Mart (the Mart) is a public market managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) with 20 stalls offering light refreshment as well as dry and wet goods. Due to changes in the business environment and other factors, the number of stall tenants at the Mart has gradually decreased in recent years.

In the light of changes in the business environment, FEHD considers that the operating model of the Mart can be revamped by introducing a single operator. Through enhancing the seating area, setting up a pet-friendly rest area, and offering a diversified mix of dining, retail, and cultural experiences, the site can be transformed into a brand new venue welcomed by both the public and tourists. FEHD is inviting the market to submit expressions of interest for the future operation of the site. A briefing session for the interested parties was held in late March. The deadline for submission is 12 June 2026. FEHD will analyse the responses and relevant suggestions received from the market which will serve as reference in charting the way forward.

2. Vacant stalls at the Mart have been leased to interested parties for operation under short-term tenancies at their upset prices since end-2025, with stalls selected on a “first-come, first-served” basis. At present, 1 light refreshment stall has been let out under this model and its operation officially commenced in January 2026.
3. FEHD is open to any suggestions that may enhance the operation of the Mart, and is keen to complement the efforts of the relevant bureaux and departments in promoting Hong Kong’s tourism development. For example, Southern District Office, in collaboration with FEHD and various district organisations, will hold a variety of events in Stanley (including some of the open space in front of the Mart along the promenade) under the Come Chill!@Stanley project during the weekends and public holidays in May 2026 as an initiative to enhance the attraction of the district. District beautification works and social media promotion will also be carried out to attract visitors and enrich the experience of local visitors and tourists from the Mainland and overseas. FEHD is mainly responsible for making the venues available and supporting the events with the existing resources for public market management. Hence, no additional expenditure will be involved.

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