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Replies to supplementary written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 16

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<u>S-CEDB(CCI)02</u>	SV030	CHAN Tanya	160	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CEDB(CCI)01

(Question Serial No. SV029)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Miss Susie HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Follow-up question on Reply Serial No. CEDB(CCI)032:

There are currently at least four fixed network operators (FNOs) actively establishing networks in rural and remote areas so as to provide higher speed broadband services. Among these FNOs, two are existing FNOs while the other two are new FNOs. In this connection, would the Administration please elaborate on the plans offered by the above four FNOs in the provision of the above-mentioned services?

Asked by: Hon MOK Charles Peter (Time of Question: 12:31 p.m. on 6 April 2017)

Reply:

With the full liberalisation of the telecommunications market in Hong Kong, all fixed broadband services are provided on the basis of market competition. The provision of relevant services, the network coverage, the type of technologies adopted and the level of charges are primarily determined by the fixed network operators (FNOs) based on their commercial considerations.

According to our understanding, there are currently at least four FNOs (including two new FNOs and two existing FNOs) which are actively establishing broadband networks in rural and remote areas to provide higher speed broadband services. Based on the latest information provided by the FNOs concerned, among the 700-odd villages located in the New Territories and the outlying islands, around 45% (distributed among districts like North District, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Sha Tin, Sai Kung, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands) have already been covered by higher speed broadband networks, with network transmission speed of 30 Mbps or above.

One of the new FNOs obtained the approval of the Communications Authority (CA) in 2015 for amending its unified carrier licence (UCL), such that it is able to use radio spectrum with wireless access method to provide wireless fixed broadband services in rural and remote

areas. The planned network coverage of that FNO spans across a total of 114 villages in the New Territories and the outlying islands. Up to the end of March 2017, its network and service coverage has already reached over 40 villages in the districts of Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Fanling, Sheung Shui, Tai Po, Sha Tin, Kwai Tsing, etc.

The other new FNO was granted the UCL by the CA in January 2017 for providing internal fixed telecommunications services. It is understood that the main business of that FNO is to establish fibre-based networks in rural and remote areas for providing fixed broadband services. It plans to cover around 300 villages in nine districts including North District, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Sha Tin, Sai Kung, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands within three years. Its target is to provide network and service coverage to more than 500 villages within ten years.

As to the two existing FNOs which are actively establishing high speed broadband networks in rural and remote areas, they are not required to submit their network rollout plans to the CA. Therefore, we do not have detailed information in this respect.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CEDB(CCI)02

(Question Serial No. SV030)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

This is a follow-up question on the reply under Reply Serial Number CEDB(CCI)071:

Among the 19 civil servants recruited by Radio Television Hong Kong in 2016-17, how many were converted from non-civil service contract staff?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya

(The question was asked at 12:46 p.m. on 6 April 2017)

Reply:

As at 31 December 2016, a total of 19 civil servants were recruited by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in 2016-17. Among them, 7 were former non-civil service contract staff of RTHK.

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