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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home Affairs

Session No. : 10

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HAB01

(Question Serial No. S062)

Head: (53) GS: Home Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

With reference to Reply Serial No. HAB011, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. as seen in the key performance indicators, the estimated number of participants under the international youth exchange programmes in 2018-19 (i.e. (a) the International Youth Exchange Programme and (b) the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange) was 1 010 while the actual number was 839. What were the reasons for a smaller actual number?
2. the Government estimates that the number of participants under the 2 programmes/schemes in 2019-20 will be 1 540. Please inform us of the estimated number of participants under the 2 programmes/schemes (a) and (b) respectively?
3. the cash flow of this Programme under sub-head 808 "International Youth Exchange Programme" (the Funding Programme) in 2018-19 was \$12 million and its estimated expenditure was later revised to \$6.262 million. What were the reasons for the revision? What was the actual amount of matching funding approved under this Programme?
4. what is the estimated cash flow under sub-head 808 "International Youth Exchange Programme" (the Funding Programme) in 2019-20?
5. when managing the projects under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange, what specific measures does the Government have to ensure compliance with the recommendations in the Report No. 70 of the Director of Audit?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

1. The revision of number of participants under the international youth exchange programmes in 2018-19 was due to 2 factors: (1) the schedules of exchange programmes under the International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP) were adjusted so as to tally with the overall cycle of the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme newly launched in early 2019, and hence there was a one-off reduction in the number of participants in IYEP in 2018-19; and (2) 3 international exchange projects funded under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange (FSIYE) were cancelled by the organisers due to safety concern of the exchange destinations.
2. For 2019-20, the estimated numbers of participants under FSIYE and IYEP (as part of the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme) are 1 340 and 200 respectively.
3. The reduction in the estimated expenditure on the FSIYE in 2018-19 is mainly due to an adjustment to the scheme cycle starting from 2019 to tally with the usual scheme cycles of other similar funding schemes such as the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland.
4. For 2019-20, we estimate that the cash flow of the FSIYE will be \$14 million.
5. The Home Affairs Bureau has accepted the recommendations in the Report No. 70 of the Director of Audit, and has taken appropriate follow-up actions to take forward all recommendations, covering various aspects of our funding schemes such as the assessment mechanism and criteria, sponsorship limits, and funding guidelines and conditions, including those applicable to the FSIYE. For instance, we have set a minimum number of participants (i.e. 10 persons) for each project funded under FSIYE, increased the weighting attributed to past performance when assessing applications from previous successful applicant organisations, enhanced the system to tighten up monitoring of the funded projects, improved the internal funding guidelines to assist our staff in calculating the funding amounts and the application of relevant funding rules and conditions, etc. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the enhancement measures and review the arrangements and practices of various funding schemes as and when necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-HAB02****(Question Serial No. S063)**

Head: (53) GS: Home Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

With reference to Reply Serial No. HAB011,

1. please list the details of the projects approved under the 2018-19 funding scheme using the following table format;

Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange 2018-19

Organiser	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ quotation/others (please specify))	Name of the exchange project and place of visit	Project date (visiting and receiving (if applicable))	Number of participants	One-way /two-way exchange (please specify)	Expenditure of the project (\$)
Total						

2. as the original Funding Scheme for Exchange in Belt and Road Countries under the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education will be incorporated in the above Scheme, would the Bureau please elaborate on the number of projects with visits to Belt and Road countries/regions and the amount of provision involved in the implementation of the above approved projects?
3. please provide the details of the cash flow, the distribution of expenditure and the use of estimated expenditure to be involved in this Scheme for every subsequent financial year:

Name of the project / Staffing establishment	Estimated expenditure (\$)

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

1. & 2. The scheme cycle of the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange (FSIYE) has been adjusted starting from 2019 to tally with the cycles of other

similar funding schemes such as the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland. The current round of FSIYE was launched in January 2019. The assessment exercise is still ongoing and hence the results are not yet available.

3. For 2019-20, we estimate that the cash flow of the FSIYE will be \$14 million. Estimated cash flow for subsequent years is not yet available. The work related to the implementation of FSIYE is being undertaken by a team including 1 Chief Executive Manager, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Assistant Clerical Officer, among their other duties. The staffing expenditure is absorbed within the overall provision of the Home Affairs Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HAB03

(Question Serial No. S064)

Head: (53) GS: Home Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

With reference to Reply Serial No. HAB053, please inform this Committee of:

1. the specific measures that the Government has, when managing the projects under the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (the Funding Scheme), to ensure compliance with the recommendations in the Report No. 70 of the Director of Audit, including any minimum requirements of the number of participants for every project; and
2. (a) the detailed functions of an Examiner; (b) the number of meetings held; (c) the lists of attendees and absentees for each meeting; and (d) the number of times that Examiners declared an interest at meetings in relation to the vetting of programmes under the Funding Scheme.

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

1. The Home Affairs Bureau has accepted the recommendations in the Report No. 70 of the Director of Audit, and has taken appropriate follow-up actions to take forward all recommendations, covering various aspects of our funding schemes such as the assessment mechanism and criteria, sponsorship limits, and funding guidelines and conditions, including those applicable to the Funding Scheme on Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM). For instance, we have set a minimum number of participants (i.e. 10 persons) for each project funded under FSYEM, introduced a Demerit-point System to better take into account the past track records of applicant organisations, enhanced the system to tighten up monitoring of the funded projects, improved the internal funding guidelines to assist our staff in calculating the funding amounts and application of relevant funding rules and conditions, etc. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the enhancement measures and review the arrangements and practices of various funding schemes as and when necessary.

2. During each application cycle of FSYEM, the applications received would be assessed by an assessment panel comprising members from the Task Force on Youth Exchange and Internship (TFEI) under the Youth Development Commission (YDC). Through assessment of written proposals, the panel would consider the merits of applications against a set of prescribed criteria agreed by the panel, e.g. whether the proposed projects can achieve the stated objectives of the scheme; cost-effectiveness of the proposed projects; track record of the applicant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in organising similar projects; etc.

Members of the TFEI include community leaders, young professionals, experts in youth development matters, etc. Some of them would provide their service to non-profit-making NGOs devoted to youth development work in their personal capacity. YDC and its task forces have put in place a well-established mechanism to handle declaration of interests, including adopting a two-tier reporting system, under which members are required to disclose their interests on first appointment to YDC and thereafter annually. Members are also required to declare their interests every time before the commencement of an assessment exercise under YDC's funding schemes, with reference to the full list of applicant NGOs. Depending on the nature of the interests declared, the chairman concerned will make a ruling on how the interests so declared should be handled. For example, before commencement of the assessment exercise for the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland in 2018-19, the chairman ruled that 8 members who had declared interests should be excluded from joining the assessment panel.

- 3 TFEI meetings and 10 panel interview sessions were held in 2018-19. The attendance list of members at the 3 TFEI meetings is provided at **Annex**.

**Attendance at Meetings of the
Task Force on Youth Exchange and Internship (2018-19)**

Member	Meeting Date* (12.6.2018)	Meeting Date* (26.9.2018)	Meeting Date* (22.1.2019)
Mr CHAN Ho-ting, Mac	Y	Y	Y
Mr CHAN Pok-chi, Jonathan	Y	Y	N
Mr CHENG Chung-man	Y	Y	Y
Mr CHENG Hong-wun	Y	Y	Y
Mr FAN Hoi-kit, Alex	Y	Y	Y
Mr FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth	Y	Y	Y
Mr HO Cheuk-yin, Leo	Y	Y	N
Mr HO Lik-chi, Nicholas	Y	N	Y
Dr HO Yuk-fan	Y	N	Y
Mr KWOK Wing-leung, Andy	N	Y	Y
Miss LAM Lam, Nixie	Y	Y	Y
Mr LEUNG Wang-ching, Clarence	Y	N	Y
Mr LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	Y	Y	N
Dr Kristen LI	Y	Y	Y
Mr MA Tak-yan, Duncan	Y	N	Y
Mr NG Sum-chun	Y	N	Y
Ms NG Sze-nok, Senia	N	Y	Y
Ms POON Tsui-ying, Julia	Y	Y	Y
Mr Hendrick SIN	Y	Y	N/A
Mr SIU King-wai, Kyrus	Y	Y	Y
Mr TOU Yat-lung, Alex	Y	Y	Y
Miss TSE Hiu-hung, Ashley	N	N	N/A
Mr TSUI Siu-lung, James	Y	Y	N/A
Mr YIU Kwok-wai	Y	N	N
Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy	Y	Y	Y
Ms YU Wah, Mary	Y	N	N

* “Y” denotes that the member attended the meeting; “N” denotes that the member did not attend the meeting. “N/A” denotes that the member was not required to attend the meeting having regard to the nature of the interests they have declared vis-à-vis the items to be discussed.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HAB04

(Question Serial No. SV006)

Head: (53) GS: Home Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

A follow-up question to Reply Serial No. HAB018:

Please provide the number of applications received so far under the 2 new funding schemes of the Youth Development Fund, i.e. the "Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" and the "Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", since the application period began on 22 March 2019.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

Applications for the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area are open from 22 March to 30 May 2019. As the 2 new schemes have been launched for a short period of time, we have yet to receive any application as at 18 April 2019.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-HAB05****(Question Serial No. S065)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Miss Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. HAB068, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) a list of the 70 streets resumed under the Private Street Resumption Programme broken down by District Council constituency area; and
- (b) departments undertaking the management of these resumed streets.

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

Under the Private Street Resumption Programme, 70 private streets were resumed under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) with the Transport Department undertaking the management of these streets.

Below is a list of the 70 streets resumed –

No.	Name of Street	District
1.	Cheung On Lane	Central & Western
2.	Chung Wo Lane	
3.	George's Lane	
4.	Ham Yu Street	
5.	Kwai Heung Street	
6.	Kwan Yick Street	
7.	Li Po Lung Path	
8.	Man Hing Lane	
9.	Mui Fong Street	
10.	New Market Street	
11.	Pak Tsz Lane	
12.	Rose Lane	
13.	Sam Ka Lane	

No.	Name of Street	District	
14.	Sam To Lane		
15.	Tam Lane		
16.	Tsun Wing Lane		
17.	Tung Hing Lane		
18.	Un Shing Lane		
19.	Wa In Fong (East)		
20.	Wa In Fong (West)		
21.	Yuk Sau Lane		
22.	Finnie Street		Eastern
23.	Fort Street (sections other than 21-66)		
24.	Kam Ping Street (Phase I)		
25.	Kam Ping Street (Phase II)		
26.	Kin Wah Street (between Cheung Hong Street & North View Street)		
27.	14-30 King Wah Road		
28.	Merlin Street		
29.	North View Street (between Fort Street & Ching Wah Street)		
30.	North View Street (Phases I & II)		
31.	Shell Street		
32.	Baker Street	Kowloon City	
33.	Chung Sun Street		
34.	Fung Yi Street		
35.	Hing Yan Street		
36.	Hing Yin Street		
37.	Hung Fook Street		
38.	Hung Wan Street		
39.	Kai Ming Street		
40.	Luk Ming Street		
41.	Lun Cheung Street		
42.	Lung To Street		
43.	Ming Lun Street		
44.	Ming Lun Street (scavenging lanes behind)		
45.	Pang Ching Street		
46.	Po Loi Street		
47.	Wa Fung Street		
48.	Wan On Street		
49.	Wing Kwong Street (Stages 1 & 2)		
50.	Ying Yeung Street		
51.	Yuk Shing Street		
52.	Kim Shin Lane	Sham Shui Po	
53.	Kiu Yam Street	Wan Chai	
54.	Foo Ming Street		
55.	Fuk Kwan Avenue		
56.	Haven Street		
57.	44-58 Jaffe Road		
58.	442-452 Lockhart Road (scavenging lane behind)		
59.	McGregor Street		
60.	Mercury Street		
61.	Ming Yan Lane		

No.	Name of Street	District
62.	Fuk Chak Street	Yau Tsim Mong
63.	Hop Kwan Street	
64.	Kam Fong Street	
65.	Kam Lam Street	
66.	Kok Cheung Street	
67.	Lee Yip Street	
68.	Mei On Street	
69.	Tak Cheong Lane	
70.	Tung On Street & scavenging lanes	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HAB06

(Question Serial No. S066)

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) District Administration
Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Miss Janice TSE)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. HAB083, of the works projects under the District-led Actions Scheme in the 18 districts, only projects of Eastern, Islands, Yuen Long, Wan Chai, Tuen Mun and Central and Western Districts have progress, while those of the remaining 12 districts are still at an initial planning stage. In this connection, please further elaborate:

- (a) the details of districts for which consultants (i) have been or (ii) will be engaged for conducting preliminary works;
- (b) the reasons for not engaging consultants for conducting preliminary works for the projects of Sai Kung and Central and Western Districts; and
- (c) the estimated schedule for commencement of projects which will carry out preliminary works.

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

The consolidated reply to the questions is as follows –

The projects of Sai Kung and Central and Western Districts concern upgrading facilities of community hall and replacement of escalators respectively. The appointment of consultant is normally not required for these 2 types of project, as such works are respectively undertaken by Architectural Services Department and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

The projects of the remaining districts mainly concern footbridges, escalator/elevator systems, covered walkways and government joint user complexes. Consultant is usually engaged for such types of projects. Among these districts, consultants have already been engaged for the projects in Eastern, Islands, Yuen Long, Wan Chai and Tuen Mun Districts, and the relevant consultancy works at the pre-construction stage are anticipated to complete

by end 2019. As for the rest of the projects, they are still at an initial planning stage and the schedules for appointing consultants are not available at the moment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-HAB07****(Question Serial No. SV007)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Recreation and Sports, (2) Horticulture and Amenities, (3) Heritage and Museums, (4) Performing Arts, (5) Public LibrariesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home AffairsQuestion:

A follow-up question to Reply Serial No. HAB111:

A one-off additional funding of \$135 million has been earmarked for handling the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut. Under which subhead(s) will the funding and estimated expenditure be included?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, KennethReply:

A one-off additional funding of \$135 million has been earmarked under Head 95 for handling the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut. The funding is allocated to the following subheads –

Subhead	\$ million
000 Operational expenses	77
661 Minor plants, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	58
Total	135

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HAB08

(Question Serial No. SV005)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

A follow-up question to Reply Serial Nos. HAB119 and HAB121:

Please provide the number of public sessions of swimming pools and beaches affected by shortage of lifeguards in last year, the number of users affected and assessment of the resultant economic loss.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) currently provides lifeguard services at 44 public swimming pools, 38 gazetted beaches and 5 water sports centres. Apart from civil service lifeguards, non-civil service contract seasonal lifeguards will be employed on a seasonal basis to augment the lifeguard manpower during the swimming season.

Generally speaking, gazetted beaches are open to the public at all times even though red flags and warning signals are hoisted on safety grounds when necessary. Public swimming pools are available for use by members of the public in 3 sessions a day during opening hours. The timing and duration of each session may vary pool by pool to cope with district needs. Partial closure is implemented on a need basis due to scheduled or urgent maintenance, adverse weather affecting the outdoor pools, contingencies due to water contamination by pollutants as well as lifeguard manpower, etc. The number of sessions of partial closure of public swimming pools due to inadequate lifeguards in 2018 is set out at Annex I while no full closure of public swimming pool is recorded due to this reason in 2018. The number of days of suspension of lifeguard services at gazetted beaches in 2018 due to insufficient lifeguards is set out at Annex II. LCSD does not have figures on the number of swimmers affected and the resultant economic loss arising from the partial closure of the swimming pool facilities.

**Sessions of partial closure of public swimming pools
due to inadequate lifeguards in 2018**

Swimming Pool	Number of sessions of partial closure*	
	Insufficient provision of seasonal lifeguards	Sudden sick leave / leave of lifeguards
Central and Western		
Kennedy Town Swimming Pool	249	95
Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool	—	7
Eastern District		
Chai Wan Swimming Pool	460	—
Island East Swimming Pool	—	18
Siu Sai Wan Swimming Pool	—	2
Southern District		
Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool	455	—
Wan Chai		
Morrison Hill Swimming Pool	273	70
Victoria Park Swimming Pool	—	26
Kowloon City		
Ho Man Tin Swimming Pool	423	2
Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool	—	150
Tai Wan Shan Swimming Pool	471	52
Kwun Tong		
Jordan Valley Swimming Pool	52	8
Sham Shui Po		
Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool	390	—
Lei Cheng Uk Swimming Pool	528	—
Sham Shui Po Park Swimming Pool	702	10
Wong Tai Sin		
Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool	1	12
Morse Park Swimming Pool	—	7
Yau Tsim Mong		
Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	383	13
Islands		
Tung Chung Swimming Pool	—	2

Swimming Pool	Number of sessions of partial closure*	
	Insufficient provision of seasonal lifeguards	Sudden sick leave / leave of lifeguards
Kwai Tsing		
Kwai Shing Swimming Pool	535	10
North Kwai Chung Jockey Club Swimming Pool	216	2
Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	371	—
North District		
Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	—	1
Sai Kung		
Sai Kung Swimming Pool	389	26
Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	490	29
Sha Tin		
Hin Tin Swimming Pool	292	53
Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	—	10
Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool	238	10
Tai Po		
Tai Po Swimming Pool	—	9
Tsuen Wan		
Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	121	6
Tsuen King Circuit Wu Chung Swimming Pool	191	174
Tuen Mun		
The Jockey Club Yan Oi Tong Swimming Pool	—	60
Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool	—	125
Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	—	155
Yuen Long		
Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool	—	40
Yuen Long Swimming Pool	224	68

Note

* The figure denotes the number of sessions with some minor pool facilities, such as leisure pool, diving pool or jacuzzi, temporarily suspended for use due to inadequate lifeguards on duty, whilst the major pool facilities, like the main pool and secondary pool will remain open for public use as far as practicable.

**Suspension of lifeguard services at gazetted beaches
due to insufficient lifeguards[#] in 2018**

Gazetted Beach	Number of days of suspension of lifeguard services due to sudden sick leave
Deep Water Bay Beach	1
Silverstrand Beach	1

Note

In 2018, the suspension of lifeguard services at the gazetted beaches was solely due to sudden sick leave/leave of lifeguards but not the insufficient provision of seasonal lifeguards. While lifeguard services were suspended and red flags and warning signals were hoisted on safety grounds, the 2 gazetted beaches remained open to the public.

- End -