

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-HAB19**

**(Question Serial No. SV020)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums, (4) Performing Arts

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

A follow-up question on Reply Serial No. HAB172:

Regarding the \$20 billion the Government set aside for the improvement and development of cultural facilities, what are the areas of application (list of items), principles of use and schedule of implementation?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing

Reply:

- (a) According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill.
- (b) Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund do not form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are not relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.

The Government will set aside \$20 billion for the improvement and development of cultural facilities. We have planned to seek the funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC) for the pre-construction activities of the following 2 projects after consultation with the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs in 2017-18 legislative session –

(a) New Territories East Cultural Centre (NTECC)

We propose to construct the NTECC as a cross-district cultural centre with multi-purpose facilities for performances and rehearsals in the New Territories East region. Subject to the FC's funding approval, the pre-construction activities are scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2018 for completion in 2022. After completion of the pre-construction activities which cover site investigation works, feasibility studies, design for the project, etc., we will work out the estimated costs, manpower requirements and the schedule of the main construction works for seeking the necessary funding approval for the project.

(b) Construction of the Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre (HCRC)

We propose to construct the HCRC as a dedicated storage and conservation facility to meet the long-term preservation need of the growing collections of the museums and heritage centres under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Subject to the FC's funding approval, the pre-construction activities are scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2018 for completion in 2021. After completion of the pre-construction activities which cover site investigation works, feasibility studies, design for the project, etc., we will work out the estimated costs, manpower requirements and the schedule of the main construction works for seeking the necessary funding approval for the project.

As regards other projects such as the expansion of the Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Museum of History and Hong Kong City Hall, and the renovation of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, which aim to provide additional facilities and/or upgrade major facilities to meet modern day needs, they are at different planning stages. We will finalise the details and consult relevant stakeholders when ready. Details on the estimated capital and recurrent costs and implementation schedule of the projects are being worked out.

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