

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB230

(Question Serial No. 0897)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 127 of the Budget Speech that an amount of funding of \$135 million will be provided over 5 years to support performing arts groups and artists in Hong Kong in taking part in performances and productions in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details and specific work involved in the funding, such as the application procedures, selection criteria and funding ceiling for each application?
- (b) In terms of the details and specific work, how is the aforesaid funding different from the funding of \$140 million proposed by the Government in the 2018-19 Budget to support local arts groups and artists for cultural exchanges in the GBA?
- (c) What is the estimated expenditure for supporting local arts groups and artists in taking part in performances and productions in the GBA in the current financial year? How many arts groups and artists are expected to benefit from such support?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) Those arts groups/artists wishing to stage performances in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) may submit programme proposals to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). The amount of funding will be subject to the nature and scale of individual programmes. The Department will consider a host of factors while listening to the views expressed by its collaborative partners in the Mainland. Such factors include: the artistic value and audience appeal in the GBA; the professional standard of artists; the capability and experience of applicants in organising programmes; the financial and technical viability; the venue availability; as well as whether such programmes fit event themes or venue features.
- (b) To implement the major national development strategies under "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", the LCSD had been

granted, for 5 years starting from 2018-19, a time-limited funding of \$140 million in total. Such funding had been used to develop new markets in the GBA, to support local arts groups and artists in staging performances or other appropriate cultural exchange events in the GBA, as well as to nurture future arts administrative personnel and programme agents. The Department is again granted, for 5 years starting from 2023-24, a time-limited funding of \$135 million in total for further strengthening and developing collaboration platforms as well as curating programme brands. The work involved will include the joint production of distinguished programmes like stage performances, talks and seminars. In doing so, the LCSD can enhance the exchanges and experience sharing among the arts and cultural personnel in the GBA, thereby providing more performance opportunities for local arts groups/artists.

- (c) In 2023-24, the LCSD intends to commit around \$25 million to supporting local performing arts groups/artists in taking part in performances and productions in the GBA. Such additional resources will be used to cover commissioning fees for touring programmes of local arts groups/artists in the GBA, direct production costs (artist fee, production costs and transportation) of outbound activities, and other related expenses. A total of about 1 000 artists and arts administrative personnel from around 22 arts groups are anticipated to benefit from this support within this financial year, involving over 90 performances and events.

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