

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)029

(Question Serial No. 2643)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Provision for 2023-24 (\$643.3 million) is \$159.2 million (32.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23 (\$484.1 million). This is mainly due to the increased provision for capital non-works projects and recurrent consequence of the development of the district cooling systems at the Kai Tak Development, partly offset by the reduced provision for a net decrease of 6 posts in 2023-24.

In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) The projects and amounts involved in the capital non-works projects?
- (2) The provision for the net decrease of 6 posts in 2023-24?
- (3) An estimate and breakdown of the annual recurrent expenditure for the development of the district cooling systems at the Kai Tak Development for the coming 3 years (including 2023-24)?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (1) The expenditure on capital non-works projects for 2023-24 mainly includes the expenditure for Subhead 696 "Energy saving projects in government buildings (block vote)" and Subhead 661 "Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)".

The estimated expenditure for Subhead 696 "Energy saving projects in government buildings (block vote)" is \$120 million, which will be used for acquisition and replacement of plant and equipment for government buildings for the purpose of energy saving. The estimated expenditure is \$38 million (46.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, mainly due to the increase in the number of new projects from 56 in the previous year to 100 in 2023-24.

The estimated expenditure for Subhead 661 "Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)" is \$235.7 million, which will mainly be used for "Solar Harvest" (installing solar photovoltaic systems at premises of eligible schools and welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs)); "Green Schools 2.0 – Energy Smart" (installing energy saving installations for eligible schools); "Green Welfare NGOs" (conducting energy audits and

installing energy saving installations at premises of eligible welfare NGOs); and conducting retro-commissioning for major government buildings. The estimated expenditure is higher than the revised estimate of \$188.4 million for 2022-23, mainly because some of the premises (such as schools and welfare NGOs) where works were originally scheduled in 2022-23 were closed, suspended from operation or used as anti-epidemic-related facilities under the fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, resulting in unforeseen delay in project implementation. The relevant expenditure will be settled in 2023-24.

(2) As for the net decrease of 6 posts in 2023-24, the posts involved are time-limited ones and mainly responsible for providing relevant engineering support for the district cooling system (DCS) projects at the Kai Tak Development and in the Tung Chung New Town Extension (East). The provision involved is about \$5.779 million.

(3) The estimated annual recurrent expenditure for the DCS projects (including the existing DCS and an additional one) at Kai Tak for the coming 3 years is as follows:

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Estimated recurrent expenditure (\$ million)	107.503	79.947	10.893

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