

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department      Subhead:

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As regards the indicators of inspections of aerial ropeways, what is the reason that the estimated number of inspections in 2008, which is 80, is less than the 113 inspections conducted in 2007? What is the plan of the Administration to monitor the operation and maintenance of the aerial ropeway of Ngong Ping 360? How much manpower and expenses is estimated to be involved?

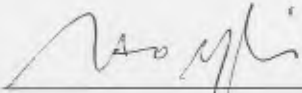
Asked by: Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

The planned number of inspections for the aerial ropeways at Ocean Park and Ngong Ping 360 was originally set at 80 (24 for Ocean Park and 56 for Ngong Ping 360) per annum in 2006. In 2007, in view of the frequent service interruptions of the aerial ropeway of Ngong Ping 360, the number of inspections for this aerial ropeway was increased to 89, while that for Ocean Park remained unchanged. Hence the total number of inspections for the two aerial ropeways in 2007 was 113. Since the re-opening of the aerial ropeway of Ngong Ping 360 on 31 December 2007, it has been operating in a reliable condition. The Department considers that the total number of inspections for the aerial ropeways at Ocean Park and Ngong Ping 360 could therefore be resumed to the 2006 planned level of 80 for 2008.

EMSD will continue to adopt the following established measures for monitoring the safe operation and effective maintenance of Ngong Ping 360 : (a) random and scheduled inspections; (b) audit inspections subsequent to the completion of major alterations or overhauls of major equipment; and (c) investigations of service interruptions.

The establishment of the enforcement team for aerial ropeway safety in EMSD comprises one engineer and one inspector and the total staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$0.99 million. EMSD will redeploy existing manpower resources, as appropriate, to step up the monitoring of the operation and maintenance of Ngong Ping 360 on a need basis.

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ HO KWONG WAI \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 27 March 2008 \_\_\_\_\_