

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)096

(Question Serial No. 1108)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-2026, the Government states that it will step up public education and publicity efforts to enhance the safety of lifts and escalators. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the manpower and resources allocated for 2025-26 to execute this task; and
- (b) information on the public education and publicity efforts launched in 2024-25 and planned for 2025-26?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

At present, there are about 74 500 lifts and 10 900 escalators in Hong Kong. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been enhancing the safety level of lifts and escalators through multi-pronged measures, of which public education and publicity campaigns are an integral part. The EMSD will develop targeted public education initiatives and publicity campaigns based on the results of inspections and investigations into the incidents of lifts and escalators, as well as the statistical data and nature of relevant incidents. Our reply to the Honourable Member's question is as follows:

- (a) As the above public education and publicity campaigns are carried out by officers of different divisions of the EMSD, who also undertake other duties, their payroll cost has been subsumed under the daily operating costs of the EMSD. Therefore, we do not have the breakdown of the manpower and expenditure on this area of work.
- (b) In 2024-25, the EMSD produced and disseminated various publicity materials, including promotional videos on television and social media, radio broadcasts and the departmental newsletter, in order to enrich the public's knowledge about lift and escalator safety. In addition, the EMSD from time to time conducted outreach

activities in schools and elderly centres to provide information on lift and escalator safety to students and the elderly. In 2024, the EMSD organised a total of 286 outreach activities and 45 public briefing sessions and seminars, attracting the participation of over 14 000 and 3 600 persons respectively. Since most of the lift and escalator safety incidents involved human factors and improper use of lifts or escalators, the EMSD plans to further raise the public's safety awareness in using lifts and escalators, and will closely collaborate with the MTR Corporation Limited to implement targeted improvement measures and run relevant publicity campaigns having regard to the causes of the lift or escalator incidents in 2025-26. Moreover, the EMSD will utilise innovation and technology, such as interactive virtual reality equipment, to educate the public about the ways to use lifts and escalators in a safe manner.

- End -