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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 6

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CMAB01

(Question Serial No. S0020)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of Reply Serial No. CMAB003, whether the establishment and the estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances set out, by office, in the reply have included the manpower for and expenditure of the Liaoning Liaison Unit, Shandong Liaison Unit, Shenzhen Liaison Unit, Fujian Liaison Unit, Chongqing Liaison Unit, Hunan Liaison Unit, Henan Liaison Unit? No matter whether they have been included, please list out the respective establishment (including grades and ranks of posts) and the estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances in respect of each liaison unit mentioned above.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim

Reply:

We have set out in Reply Serial No. CMAB003 the establishment as well as expenditure on salaries and allowances of each of the Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) in 2017-18. The figures have already included the manpower for, as well as expenditure on salaries and allowances of their respective liaison unit(s), including those mentioned in this question. In 2017-18, the establishment and the estimated expenditure on salaries and allowances in respect of the liaison units mentioned in the question are as follows: the establishment of the Liaoning Liaison Unit comprises 1 Senior Administrative Officer and 1 Trade Officer, the expenditure on salaries and allowances is estimated to be \$2.78 million; the establishment of the Shandong Liaison Unit comprises 1 Senior Administrative Officer and 1 Trade Officer, the expenditure on salaries and allowances is estimated to be \$2.52 million; the establishment of the Shenzhen Liaison Unit comprises 1 Principal Trade Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer, the expenditure on salaries and allowances is estimated to be \$2.69 million; the establishment of the Fujian Liaison Unit comprises 1 Principal Trade Officer and 1 Trade Officer, the expenditure on salaries and allowances is estimated to be \$2.68 million; the establishment of the Chongqing Liaison Unit comprises 1 Senior Administrative Officer and 1 Trade Officer, the expenditure on salaries and allowances is estimated to be \$2.68 million; the establishment of the Hunan

Liaison Unit comprises 1 Senior Administrative Officer and 1 Trade Officer, the expenditure on salaries and allowances is estimated to be \$2.45 million; the establishment of the Henan Liaison Unit comprises 1 Principal Trade Officer and 1 Senior Executive Officer, the expenditure on salaries and allowances is estimated to be \$2.55 million.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CMAB02

(Question Serial No. S0021)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

During the Chief Executive election held on 26 March 2017, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) lost 2 notebook computers which contained the particulars of over 3 million electors in Hong Kong. Apart from the loss of particular information, there is also the risk of forging identity cards or identity card copies with the information concerned by criminals, heightening the risk of election frauds and vote-rigging in the future.

In the Reply Serial No. CMAB080 of "Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18", the Chief Electoral Officer replied that the REO had reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections.

(1) Is the provision adequate for handling the additional risk arising from the recent loss of electors' information (e.g. the possible vote-rigging due to leakage of information)? If so, for what measures will such provision be used and what is the expenditure involved? If not, will measures be drawn up or additional expenditure be provided?

(2) Will the Government introduce card readers in the coming by-elections and future elections for more effective checking of electors' eligibility? If so, what is the expenditure required for the coming by-elections? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has reserved about \$320 million in 2017-18 for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. Should there be a need to organise by-election, the REO will, depending on the timing, scale and practical arrangements, provide adequate manpower and commence early preparatory work to ensure that the by-election will be smoothly conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

2. In connection with the incident of suspected theft of notebook computers, the REO has written to government departments and organisations of various sectors, including finance, insurance, telecommunications, retail, estate agents, information technology (IT), etc., to notify them of the incident and appeal to their assistance in adopting appropriate measures

to prevent criminals from using the relevant information as a means of identity theft in criminal activities, so as to protect their own interest and also the interest of the data subjects. Following the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD)'s guidelines and advice, the REO informed all geographical constituency electors of the incident via emails or letters to increase their awareness and to minimise potential damage. The REO has also reminded staff to watch out for any unusual or suspicious voter registration and change of particulars applications. For any incomplete or suspicious cases, the staff will clarify with the applicants and ask for written supplementary information, if necessary.

3. Besides, the REO has proposed some preliminary improvement measures, and will fully and duly follow up on the improvement measures and recommendations to be made by PCPD upon the completion of their investigation. To prevent recurrence of similar incidents in future, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau decided to set up a Task Force headed by a Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, comprising representatives from relevant departments as members (including the Security Bureau, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the REO). The Task Force will conduct a comprehensive review of the causes and circumstances of the incident and take into account the lessons learnt, and will propose improvement measures on operational matters in its report, including the handling of personal data, IT security measures, overall venue security management, as well as the REO's internal supervisory structure and procedures, etc. The Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs will submit a report and the relevant recommendations to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs within two months.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-CMAB03

(Question Serial No. SV011)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WONG See-man)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Among the electors whose registration status was removed after checking in 2016, what were the numbers and percentages of the elderly, Hong Kong people who were in the Mainland, or Hong Kong people with “dual-residence” (living in both the Mainland and Hong Kong)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

In the 2016 voter registration cycle, the number of electors removed from the register due to failure to respond to the statutory inquiry procedures was 67 509. The Registration and Electoral Office does not have a statistical breakdown by age of electors who have been removed or information as to whether or not the electors concerned are currently in the Mainland.

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