

## Index Page

### Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2023-24

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs**

**Session No. : 7**

**Consolidated e-file name : CMAB-1-e1.docx**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">CMAB001</a>	2864	CHAN Chun-ying	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB002</a>	1320	CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	144	-
<a href="#">CMAB003</a>	2385	CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB004</a>	2394	CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	144	-
<a href="#">CMAB005</a>	2395	CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	144	-
<a href="#">CMAB006</a>	2396	CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	144	-
<a href="#">CMAB007</a>	2961	CHAN Wing-kwong	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB008</a>	2962	CHAN Wing-kwong	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB009</a>	2963	CHAN Wing-kwong	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB010</a>	2964	CHAN Wing-kwong	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB011</a>	0028	CHAN Yung	144	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
<a href="#">CMAB012</a>	0029	CHAN Yung	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB013</a>	0030	CHAN Yung	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB014</a>	0031	CHAN Yung	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB015</a>	0032	CHAN Yung	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB016</a>	0040	CHAN Yung	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB017</a>	0041	CHAN Yung	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB018</a>	0292	CHAN Yung	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB019</a>	0293	CHAN Yung	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB020</a>	1326	CHAN Yung	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB021</a>	2023	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB022</a>	2024	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB023</a>	2025	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB024</a>	0720	CHOW Man-kong	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">CMAB025</a>	0721	CHOW Man-kong	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB026</a>	1028	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB027</a>	0840	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB028</a>	0841	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB029</a>	0842	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB030</a>	0851	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB031</a>	3128	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB032</a>	1457	KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB033</a>	1460	KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB034</a>	1461	KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB035</a>	1462	KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB036</a>	1514	LAI Tung-kwok	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB037</a>	1515	LAI Tung-kwok	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB038</a>	1516	LAI Tung-kwok	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB039</a>	1518	LAI Tung-kwok	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB040</a>	2807	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB041</a>	3077	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB042</a>	0287	LAM Lam, Nixie	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB043</a>	0288	LAM Lam, Nixie	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB044</a>	0290	LAM Lam, Nixie	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB045</a>	0613	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB046</a>	0614	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB047</a>	2223	LEE Chun-keung	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB048</a>	2224	LEE Chun-keung	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB049</a>	2225	LEE Chun-keung	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB050</a>	2226	LEE Chun-keung	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB051</a>	2717	LEE Hoey Simon	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB052</a>	0700	LEE Wai-king, Starry	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB053</a>	0001	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB054</a>	0021	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">CMAB055</a>	0022	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB056</a>	0023	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB057</a>	1791	LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB058</a>	1793	LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB059</a>	1009	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB060</a>	1010	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	144	(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
<a href="#">CMAB061</a>	0064	NG Kit-chong, Johnny	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB062</a>	3024	SHANG Hailong	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB063</a>	3030	SHANG Hailong	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB064</a>	1586	SO Cheung-wing	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB065</a>	1587	SO Cheung-wing	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB066</a>	1588	SO Cheung-wing	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB067</a>	1853	TAN Sunny	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB068</a>	1854	TAN Sunny	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB069</a>	1855	TAN Sunny	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB070</a>	1856	TAN Sunny	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB071</a>	1645	TAN Yueheng	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB072</a>	2545	TANG Fei	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB073</a>	2546	TANG Fei	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB074</a>	2547	TANG Fei	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB075</a>	2548	TANG Fei	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB076</a>	3147	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB077</a>	3148	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB078</a>	3178	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB079</a>	3179	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB080</a>	3180	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB081</a>	3181	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB082</a>	3182	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB083</a>	3183	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB084</a>	3257	TIK Chi-yuen	144	(4) Rights of the Individual
<a href="#">CMAB085</a>	1263	WONG Kwok, Kingsley	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
<a href="#">CMAB086</a>	1264	WONG Kwok, Kingsley	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB087</a>	1609	YIM Kong	144	(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices
<a href="#">CMAB088</a>	2344	ZHANG Xinyu, Gary	144	-
<a href="#">CMAB089</a>	0291	CHAN Yung	163	Electoral Services
<a href="#">CMAB090</a>	1332	CHAN Yung	163	Electoral Services
<a href="#">CMAB091</a>	2110	CHU Kwok-keung	163	Electoral Services
<a href="#">CMAB092</a>	1517	LAI Tung-kwok	163	Electoral Services
<a href="#">CMAB093</a>	1011	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	163	Electoral Services
<a href="#">CMAB094</a>	1012	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	163	Electoral Services

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">CMAB095</a>	0942	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	163	Electoral Services
<a href="#">CMAB096</a>	0943	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	163	Electoral Services
<a href="#">CMAB097</a>	3531	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	144	-

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB001**

**(Question Serial No. 2864)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The major responsibilities of the 5 Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Government are to, among others, represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland, and promote the strengths of Hong Kong to the Mainland provinces, regions and municipalities. One of the indicators for performance evaluation is "cultural events organised". Please provide:

1. The number of cultural events for "promoting Hong Kong's strengths" organised by each Office and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years.
2. The anticipated number of cultural events for "promoting Hong Kong's strengths" to be organised by each Office and the estimated expenditure involved for 2023-24.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The numbers of public relations/cultural functions/events for promoting Hong Kong's advantages organised or to be organised by the Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government between 2020 and 2023 are as follows:

Year	Number of public relations/cultural functions/events
2020 (actual)	432
2021 (actual)	614
2022 (actual)	584
2023 (estimated)	620

2. As promoting Hong Kong's advantages is an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB002**

**(Question Serial No. 1320)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under this Head that the Mainland Offices of the Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre to enhance public understanding about pursuing development and living in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In this regard, please provide the following information:

1. What are the estimated expenditure and staff establishment for setting up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre?
2. Has the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre drawn up plans for the coming 3 years to strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions, promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). The HKSAR Government is now arranging the deployment of 5 staff members for the work of the Promotion Centre. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Promotion Centre is around \$6.62 million.

2. Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland

or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB003**

**(Question Serial No. 2385)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On supporting Hong Kong enterprises in tapping into the Mainland domestic market, please advise:

1. whether the Mainland Offices of Hong Kong allocated additional resources and manpower in the past 3 years to support Hong Kong enterprises in tapping into the Mainland domestic market; if yes, details of the measures; and
2. the establishment, number of posts, and estimated provision for emoluments of supporting staff of Hong Kong's Mainland Offices in the past 3 years and the coming year, with information categorised by the nine Greater Bay Area cities.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

One of the core functions of the Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is to grasp development potential and opportunities of the Mainland market, and keep Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland abreast of such opportunities, including information about tapping into the domestic market. Meanwhile, the Mainland Offices also actively organise visits to Mainland authorities and bodies, so as to foster economic and trade relations, and support Hong Kong businessmen in tapping into the markets of Mainland. As supporting Hong Kong enterprises is an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, the provision and manpower required cannot be singled out and itemised.

2. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) of the HKSAR Government is mainly responsible for strengthening communication and liaison between Hong Kong and the Guangdong Province, including enhancing government-to-government liaison, fostering and cementing economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and the Guangdong Province on all fronts, taking forward mutual



exchanges and co-operation, boosting investment, promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong people and businessmen in the area. The Shenzhen Liaison Unit established under the Guangdong ETO is a dedicated unit for liaison with the Shenzhen Municipality. It is responsible for strengthening liaison and communication with the local government, fostering economic and trade relations, enhancing mutual co-operation, promoting Hong Kong, and supporting Hong Kong people and enterprises in the area.

3. The service area of the Guangdong ETO covers 5 provinces/region including Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Hainan and Yunnan, and the Guangdong province covers all the cities in the province including the nine Mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The establishment and expenditure of the Guangdong ETO (including the Shenzhen Liaison Unit) in the past 3 financial years and this financial year are set out in the table below, of which around 40% is salary expenses. As the nine Mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is an integral part of the service area of the Guangdong ETO, the relevant manpower and provision cannot be singled out and itemised.

Office	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	59.22	18	64.15	18	78.24	18	82.60

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB004**

**(Question Serial No. 2394)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Will the Government allocate additional resources and manpower to set up a dedicated fund, which supports associations or non-governmental organisations serving Hong Kong people in the Mainland to effectively promote Hong Kong, tell good stories about Hong Kong, and promote the Basic Law and “One Country, Two Systems” in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government have always attached great importance to maintaining close liaison with associations, chambers, enterprises and student groups of Hong Kong people in the Mainland. They also help convey the views and appeals of Hong Kong people in the Mainland to relevant Mainland authorities and take necessary follow-up actions. In addition, the Mainland Offices, in collaboration with associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland, organise various activities such as trade seminars to support Hong Kong people and businessmen, and offer support and sponsorship to the activities organised by those associations (such as annual dinners, seminars and orientation activities for universities) as appropriate, thereby telling good stories about Hong Kong together with associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland. As supporting associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure involved has not been singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB005**

**(Question Serial No. 2395)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's main responsibilities are to, among others, advise bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the resources and staff establishment for advising bureaux and departments on the Basic Law?
2. Are there key performance indicators for promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law to evaluate how well the public grasps and understands the relevant laws?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been providing advice and support to other bureaux and departments in the implementation of the Basic Law. The related work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the CMAB. As such, no breakdown figures in respect of the expenditure and manpower involved are available.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. We will continue

to closely monitor the effectiveness of the promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best result. On the key performance indicators, the Chief Executive announced in the 2022 Policy Address that by 2024, no less than 700 promotional activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law will be organised (10% increase over 2022), with no less than 900 000 participants (10% increase over 2022) and no less than 25 million views via online publicity (15% increase over 2022).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB006**

**(Question Serial No. 2396)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In recent years, more and more young people have pursued study and development in the Mainland. In this connection, please advise this Committee if a fund for supporting Hong Kong students' development in the Mainland will be established to help Hong Kong young people studying in the Mainland pursue development there upon graduation, and to facilitate young people's integration into overall national development? If yes, what are the details? If no, are there other programmes that aim to facilitate young people's integration into overall national development?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has always attached great importance to the support arrangements for Hong Kong people, including young people, to live and develop in the Mainland, and has maintained close communication and liaison with the Mainland authorities to strive for more policies and measures to facilitate Hong Kong people living in the Mainland. At the government level, various policy bureaux and departments are also committed to adopting different support policies and measures.

2. The Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government have maintained close communication and liaison with Hong Kong people and their associations in the Mainland, including students, youth groups, etc., so as to understand the situations of Hong Kong people learning, working and living in the Mainland, and provide appropriate assistance to them as required. Apart from releasing information on further studies, employment and daily life matters, the Mainland Offices will also from time to time organise career talks and visits to enterprises, as well as co-ordinate with Hong Kong enterprises and Mainland institutions and enterprises to provide internship positions to Hong Kong students and young people, with a view to facilitating them to accumulate work experience and plan their career development.

3. In addition to organising various activities with Hong Kong students and youth groups in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices will also offer support and sponsorship to the activities organised by them, such as annual dinners, orientation activities for universities, etc., as appropriate. The Mainland Offices will also arrange different activities for Hong Kong students and young people to enhance their understanding on the country, develop a greater affection for the country, and allow them to better grasp the opportunities brought about by the country's development.

4. The Education Bureau has commissioned the China Education Exchange (Hong Kong) Centre Limited since 2017 to launch and manage the "Internship and Career Information Platform for Hong Kong Students of Mainland Universities" ([www.ujobs-mainlandhe.hk](http://www.ujobs-mainlandhe.hk)), which provides internship and career support and consultation services for Hong Kong students pursuing further studies in the Mainland, including the dissemination of information about further studies and recruitment in the Mainland.

5. Besides, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Youth Development Commission rolled out 2 funding schemes to support youth innovation and entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) in 2019. The Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area subsidises non-governmental organisations to launch youth entrepreneurial projects, providing entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for young people intending to start their business locally and in other municipalities of the GBA. The Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area supports non-governmental organisations to organise short-term experiential programmes at innovation and entrepreneurial bases in the Mainland municipalities of the GBA.

6. In addition, to encourage young people to pursue development in the Greater Bay Area, the HKSAR Government launched the pilot Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme (GBA YES) in 2021, and received favourable feedback from the participating enterprises and the participants. In his Policy Address last year, the Chief Executive announced the regularisation of the scheme to encourage more enterprises to offer jobs and support Hong Kong young people to work in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, so as to foster their career development and talent exchange in the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government launched the regularised GBA YES on 1 March 2023. Participating enterprises should offer local university graduates a monthly salary of not less than HK\$18,000, and station them in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to work and receive on-the-job training. The Government will grant a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 to the enterprises for each young person employed up to 18 months.

7. The HKSAR Government has no plans to establish the fund mentioned in the question for the time being. The HKSAR Government will continue to study and adopt various measures to support the youth development in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB007**

**(Question Serial No. 2961)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is responsible for, among others, promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The establishment and ranks of staff dedicated to promotion and education on the Constitution and the Basic Law, and the estimated expenditure on related emoluments for 2023-24.
2. The actual expenditure on promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 financial years, and the estimated expenditure on such work for 2023-24.
3. Has the Government regularly evaluated the effectiveness of promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Constitution and the Basic Law together form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), providing the strongest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government has all along attached great importance to the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law, with a view to enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. The relevant promotion work is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB). The related emoluments are subsumed under the overall provision for the CMAB, hence, no breakdown figures are available.

2. In the financial years of 2020-21 and 2021-22, the actual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$12 million and \$17 million respectively. In the 2022-23 financial year, the original estimated expenditure of the CMAB for such purpose is \$26 million. In line with the promotion strategy formulated by the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, the CMAB has allocated resources through internal deployment to launch some large-scale promotional activities. As such, the estimated actual expenditure has increased to \$32 million. As for 2023-24, the estimated expenditure is about \$26 million. The CMAB will suitably deploy resources based on the actual circumstances to conduct the promotion work.

3. The CBLPSC provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best result.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2962)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities Commission is responsible for, among others, implementing public education and publicity activities to promote equal opportunities and anti-discrimination. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the details and actual expenditure of the public education and publicity activities implemented to promote anti-discrimination and equal opportunities in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure on promoting anti-discrimination and equal opportunities for 2023-24?
2. Has the Government studied how to enhance protection against discrimination and vilification that may be encountered by persons arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland under the anti-discrimination ordinances? If yes, what are the staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and work progress involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for the implementation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and for carrying out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work as stipulated under these ordinances. In the past 3 years, the EOC implemented various types of public education and publicity activities, and made use of different channels to promote anti-discrimination and equal opportunities, including the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, the Equal Opportunity Employer Recognition Scheme, the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers, the Equal Opportunity Youth Ambassador Scheme, advertisements (including

those on television, radio, MTR and buses), online social media platforms (such as EOC's dedicated page "EO Matters" on Instagram and Facebook, EOC's LinkedIn account and YouTube), electronic newsletters, newspaper articles, roving drama performances in schools, and different competitions.

2. In the past 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23 financial years), the EOC's total expenditures (including staff costs) involved in public education and publicity activities were \$27.73 million, \$30.08 million and \$34.11 million respectively, and the estimated expenditure for the 2023-24 financial year is \$34.23 million. Being an integral part of the EOC's daily work, the related manpower and expenditures incurred by the above work cannot be singled out and itemised, except for individual projects that come with an estimate of expenditure.

3. The Government has all along been committed to building a harmonious, inclusive and caring society. The Government also regularly reviews the protection and implementation of the existing anti-discrimination ordinances to ensure that they meet the needs of the society. We are now working with the EOC to study in detail on how to enhance protection against discrimination or vilification that may be encountered by persons arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland. We will consult the relevant Legislative Council Panel on the proposal at an appropriate time. As the relevant work is an integral part of the work of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the expenditure incurred (including staff costs) cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB009**

**(Question Serial No. 2963)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

During 2023-24, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office was formally established in November 2020. What are the staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operating expenses of the Office in the past 3 years, and what are the estimated staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operating expenses for the current year?
2. What major initiatives have been undertaken by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office since its establishment to take forward the Greater Bay Area development, and what is the effectiveness?
3. How will the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office promote the advantages of different professions in Hong Kong in 2023-24? Will there be dedicated activities to promote the advantages of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong and enhance scientific research collaboration in Chinese medicine in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details?
4. Will the Government consider introducing specific key performance indicators to evaluate the Office's effectiveness in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the "Steering Group on Integration into National Development" (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

6. In addition, the Office will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic “Greater Bay Area Information Station” to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about. As regards key performance indicators, as stated in the 2022 Policy Address, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau plans to organise and participate in promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than 8 000 persons; and reach out to no less than 1 000 entrepreneurs and representatives of business firms in 2023.

7. The number of staff in the existing establishment of the Office is 33. The staff establishment and expenditure of the Office for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Staff establishment	Revised estimate		Sub-total (\$ million)
		Staff cost on civil service posts (\$ million)	Other expenses (\$ million)	
2020-21	33	31	35.22	66.22
2021-22	33	32	27.50	59.50
2022-23	33	32	41.25	73.25

For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure is about \$64.3 million (including staff cost of about \$35 million on civil service posts and other expenses of about \$29.3 million).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB010**

**(Question Serial No. 2964)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's responsibilities are to, among others, implement the improved electoral system and continue to enhance the electoral arrangements. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Since the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 passed by the Legislative Council was published in the Gazette and came into effect on 31 May 2021, what major measures have been taken by the Government to explain, publicise and promote the improved electoral system, and what are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?
2. What are the estimated expenditure and staff establishment for explaining, publicising and promoting the improved electoral system in 2023-24?
3. In view of foreign forces' smears on the improved electoral system, what specific measures were taken by the Government in the past year to make responses and refutations? Will additional resources be allocated to more effectively respond to foreign forces' smears and attacks on the improved electoral system? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has spared no effort to explain to the public the necessity and urgency of improving the previous electoral system as well as the advancement and superiority of the new electoral system. In regard to staff establishment, the relevant work is undertaken by a team of 2 Principal Assistant Secretaries and 7 supporting officers in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), and the resources required are subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the CMAB.

2. On publicity work, the CMAB has allocated over \$16 million since March 2021 to, via various channels and publicity means, explain to different sectors of the community the advancement and superiority of the said electoral system, and how the system will ensure the faithful implementation of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, so that the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” can be steadfastly and successfully implemented, and hence enable Hong Kong to achieve good governance as well as long-term stability and safety. The Government has distributed more than 100 000 pamphlets, which aims to explain to the public the background and justifications of the improved electoral system and the content of Annexes I and II to the Basic Law. Furthermore, a thematic website on improving the electoral system has been launched, on which simple language and images are used to explain the salient points and principles of the Decision of the National People’s Congress on Improving the Electoral System of the HKSAR made by the National People’s Congress on 11 March 2021, the main content of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021, the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive, the constitution of Election Committee and the formation of Legislative Council, the candidate eligibility review mechanism, the registration arrangements for voters and ex-officio members, etc. Besides, we have also placed advertisements at the exterior of government buildings and prominent locations in different districts, and through the media and online platforms, etc., with a view to enhancing public’s understanding of the improvements to the electoral system.

3. Separately, from 1 April 2022 to 28 February 2023, the HKSAR Government issued 11 press releases and wrote to overseas media on 2 occasions, instantly refuting smears and attacks on the improved electoral system made by individuals and media with ulterior motives.

4. The CMAB has earmarked around \$10 million to continue publicising and promoting the new electoral system in the 2023-24 financial year. For example, a series of educational videos will be produced for broadcast on television channels as well as digital and social media platforms, and such videos will be provided to schools and district organisations for publicity and education purposes. In addition, the CMAB will upload the latest publicity materials and information to the thematic website on improving the electoral system for easy reference of the public.

5. In respect of foreign politicians’ and media’s smears, false statements and reports on the improved electoral system, the Government will continue to make prompt refutations and clarifications, and via different channels (including posting articles via blogs and other means, and delivering public speeches), reiterate that Hong Kong’s democratic development will continue to progress in accordance with the law in an orderly manner as per the Constitution and the Basic Law, so as to achieve a high quality democratic system that is consistent with the actual situation of Hong Kong, which fully conforms to the constitutional order under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and manifests Hong Kong characteristics. Furthermore, apart from enhancing the publicity of the improved electoral system overseas, the overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices will continue to closely monitor commentaries from foreign politicians and media, and refute smears and falsehoods immediately. Any external or internal destructive force and political conspiracy trying to interfere with the HKSAR’s determination to safeguard national security in accordance with the law and its democratic development in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law will not succeed.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB011**

**(Question Serial No. 0028)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- (1) The Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Office) is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA) in undertaking political work. In this connection, please provide the details and numbers of SCMA's public, media and community functions planned and co-ordinated by the Office in the past 3 years.
- (2) Regarding such support for SCMA's political work, please set out, in tabular form, the details and numbers of functions in which the Under Secretary and/or the Political Assistant rendered support.
- (3) Regarding the Office's support for SCMA's political work, please set out the manpower and expenditure for the work on overseas Chinese affairs in the past 3 years.
- (4) As far as the Office's staff establishment is concerned, please provide the number of staff responsible for liaising with local organisations of overseas Chinese and Chinese people in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

(1) and (2)

In discharging his official duties, the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA) frequently meets and exchanges views with government officials and people from different sectors of the community, including Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Deputies to the National People's Congress, HKSAR Members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Legislative Council, Members of the Election Committee,



Mainland officials visiting Hong Kong, members of advisory and statutory bodies, the media, associations of Chinese fellow townsmen, ethnic minorities, non-governmental organisations, the business sector, professional bodies and so forth. SCMA also participates in district visits and various activities held by different organisations. In addition, when visiting the Mainland, SCMA meets with local officials, associations of Hong Kong residents, enterprises as well as Hong Kong people living in the Mainland, etc.

SCMA has a very busy work schedule with numerous official activities. A single official activity usually involves the participation of people and stakeholders from different sectors. We therefore have not compiled information on the content or numbers of official activities in the past 3 years categorised by sectors or stakeholders. The Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and the Political Assistant to SCMA offer full support to SCMA in the aforementioned official activities and in undertaking the relevant work.

(3) and (4)

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau does not maintain the relevant figures requested in the questions.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB012**

**(Question Serial No. 0029)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the main responsibilities under this Programme, please provide the following information:

1. The manpower and expenditure for promoting, via social media platforms on the internet, public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 years.
2. The number of posts that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau made through its accounts of social media platforms to deliver and share contents about the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In recent years, the CMAB has made wider use of electronic media in its publicity work, including posting advertisements on major social media platforms for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, launching an online game and an online workshop (entitled “探索·活學《憲法》及《基本法》” in Chinese), and producing various types of publicity and promotion resources (such as multimedia information and animations). Besides, we have made good use of CMAB's social media accounts to proactively share information about the Constitution and the Basic Law with the public.

2. In the past 3 years (i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years), the actual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$12 million, \$17 million and \$32 million (estimated actual expenditure) respectively. The related promotion work via online platforms is an integral part of the duties of and is covered

by the overall expenditure of the CMAB for promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law. As such, no breakdown figures in respect of the expenditure and manpower involved are available .

3. In the past 3 years, a total of 125 posts about the Constitution and the Basic Law were issued and shared via CMAB's dedicated pages on Facebook and Instagram.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB013**

**(Question Serial No. 0030)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As regards Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, please provide the following information:

1. The estimated manpower and expenditure for enhancing the electoral arrangements, and the details of such enhancement work.
2. Respecting the above work to enhance the electoral arrangements, the expenditure on further applying information technology and the target date of implementation.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

After improving the electoral system in 2021, the Government has conducted 4 elections (including the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2022 Chief Executive Election and the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election). The Government will draw reference from the experience of the 4 elections and views from related stakeholders when reviewing the subsisting legislation and practical electoral arrangements. The Government will examine how electoral arrangements could be enhanced to be more efficient and user-friendly whilst ensuring elections are conducted in a fair, open and honest manner.

2. In fact, the Government implemented a series of measures to apply information technology in the 4 aforementioned elections, which included the extensive application of the electronic poll register system for issuing ballot papers, the use of an optical mark recognition system to facilitate vote counting, etc. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will continue collaborating with the Electoral Affairs Commission and the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) to proactively study the wider application of information technology in different stages of the election, including voter registration as well as casting and counting of votes, etc., with a view to improving election procedures and work

efficiency, and facilitating various stakeholders. Before introducing any specific arrangements, we will strike a proper balance among the application of information technology, efficiency enhancement, security risks, privacy protection and public trust, etc. We will consult the Legislative Council on any specific proposals and implementation timetable at an appropriate juncture.

3. The resources and manpower required for the relevant work are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure and establishment of the CMAB; a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower is not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB014**

**(Question Serial No. 0031)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide, in tabular form, the respective staff establishment and expenditure of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan in the past 3 years.
2. As far as the staff establishment of the above Offices is concerned, please provide the number of staff who are non-Hong Kong permanent residents, as well as the number of new recruits and resignees of each Office in the past 3 years.
3. For each of the above Offices, please provide the number of enquiries from Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland about policy and legislation relating to commerce and trade and the economic developments, as well as the number of replies and the average response time in the past 3 years.
4. As regards the setting up of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, please provide the number of responsible staff and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The staff establishment and expenditure of the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Office	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	23	80.43	23	83.65	22	98.71
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	59.22	18	64.15	18	78.24
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	66.11	15	62.86	15	70.97
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	43.49	13	45.49	13	58.21
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	46.53	13	47.05	13	53.56

2. The above staff establishment mainly covers Hong Kong civil servants deployed by the HKSAR Government to work in the Mainland. In addition, the Mainland Offices have engaged local staff, and relevant details are set out in the table below. The Offices do not keep statistics on the annual numbers of new recruits and resignees.

Office	Locally-engaged posts in the Mainland		
	2020-21 (as at 31 March 2021)	2021-22 (as at 31 March 2022)	2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023)
Beijing Office	36	36	37
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	35	35	42
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	25	25	29
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	19	19	22
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	21	21	22
Total	136	136	152

3. In the past 3 years, the number of enquiries relating to commerce, trade and economy received by the Mainland Offices were 2 335 (for 2020), 2 760 (for 2021) and 2 446 (for 2022) respectively. According to the general guidelines on handling official correspondence, the Offices should make a substantive reply within 10 calendar days upon receipt of an enquiry, or take follow-up actions the soonest possible. As these enquiries vary in nature and complexity, the Offices do not keep statistical breakdown based on the different handling situation of each case.

4. Currently, the HKSAR Government is arranging the deployment of 5 staff members for the work of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Promotion Centre is around \$6.62 million.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB015**

**(Question Serial No. 0032)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. The provisions for children's rights have been transferred to the Labour and Welfare Bureau with effect from 1 July 2022. There is no corresponding decrease in the estimated expenditure for 2023-24 under this Programme, but an increase of 4.3% instead. What are the reasons? If there is an increase in operating expenses under this Programme, please set out the relevant expenditure items.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The provisions for children's rights, which have already been transferred to the Labour and Welfare Bureau with effect from 1 July 2022, have been deducted from the original and revised estimates under Programme (4) for 2022-23. To ensure the effective implementation of the work on the rights of the individual in respect of protection for personal data privacy and human rights, promotion of equal opportunities on the ground of gender, family status, race and sexual orientation/gender identity, there is a genuine need to increase the operational provision. Hence, the 2023-24 estimate is still higher than that for 2022-23.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0040)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. The COVID-19 epidemic has affected officers of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in arranging conciliation, including the need to conduct conciliation by telephone, email and letter, instead of face-to-face meetings. As a result, the average time taken to reach a conciliation in 2022 was longer than that in the past years. In this regard, does the EOC have plans to allocate resources for promoting online conciliation so as to reduce the number of days taken for conciliation and enhance the effectiveness of conciliation? If so, what are the plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

One of the main duties of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is to investigate complaints under the anti-discrimination ordinances, and encourage settlement by conciliation between the complainants and respondents where appropriate. During the epidemic, the EOC conducted conciliation mainly by telephone, email and letter so as to prevent the spread of the epidemic. Upon request of the complainants and respondents, the EOC had also arranged conciliation by video-conferencing. In deciding whether to conduct conciliation by video-conferencing, the EOC would take into account a number of factors such as whether the principle of confidentiality can be complied with and whether the parties involved agree to the arrangement. The EOC will continue to be open-minded and proactive in assisting both the complainants and respondents to reach a settlement in the most appropriate, effective and mutually acceptable manner.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB017**

**(Question Serial No. 0041)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. As for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), there will be an increase of 5.6% in the estimated expenditure for 2023-24. Among this, is there any provision for the work on combating doxxing acts? If yes, what are the details? If no, will the PCPD consider allocating more resources for criminal investigations into doxxing cases?
2. Please provide the following information on data breach notifications received by the PCPD in the past 3 years:

Year	Private organisations	Public organisations	Total	Number of individuals affected	Number of days between an organisation's awareness of data breach and notification of such data breach to the PCPD
2019-2020					
2020-2021					
2021-2022					

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

To combat doxxing acts that intrude into personal data privacy, the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 has come into effect on 8 October 2021, criminalising doxxing acts and empowering the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) to carry out criminal investigations and prosecute against doxxing acts. In view of its increased workload, PCPD’s subvention has been increased from \$89.46 million in 2022-23 (revised estimates) to \$94.46 million in 2023-24, representing an increase of 5.6%. The relevant subvention covers the overall expenditure of PCPD’s work, which includes publicity and educational campaigns to combat doxxing acts and criminal investigation and prosecution work against doxxing cases. PCPD will continue to make full use of its resources to effectively carry out its various work, including the effective combat of doxxing acts to safeguard the personal data privacy of the public.

2. Information about personal data breach notifications received by the PCPD in the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	Private organisations	Public organisations	Total	Number of individuals affected	Number of days between an organisation’s awareness of personal data breach and notification of such personal data breach to the PCPD
2019-2020	86	64	150	Around 710 000	The PCPD does not have the relevant information
2020-2021	71	35	106	Around 850 000	
2021-2022	100	42	142	Around 680 000	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB018**

**(Question Serial No. 0292)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please set out, for each of the Mainland Offices, the numbers of enquiries and the types of requests for assistance received from Hong Kong people in the past 3 years.
2. In handling Hong Kong people's enquiries and requests for assistance mentioned above, it may be necessary to approach government departments, non-governmental organisations and public or private enterprises in the Mainland. Please provide relevant figures on government departments, non-governmental organisations and public or private enterprises that were approached by each of the Mainland Offices.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the numbers of enquiries and requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Cases related to immigration and personal safety matters		Others	
		Enquiries	Assistance cases	Enquiries	Assistance cases
Beijing Office	2020	16 481	54	2 729	44
	2021	16 907	32	3 281	22
	2022	17 472	32	3 407	21

Office	Year	Cases related to immigration and personal safety matters		Others	
		Enquiries	Assistance cases	Enquiries	Assistance cases
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong</b>	2020	8 573	410	4 696	90
	2021	44 056	468	6 493	87
	2022	107 015	595	7 800	134
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai</b>	2020	7 613	63	1 284	17
	2021	18 089	34	1 589	5
	2022	45 115	268	1 056	3
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu</b>	2020	1 986	70	1 183	20
	2021	2 956	24	1 038	6
	2022	5 084	185	869	2
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan</b>	2020	1 356	2 622	354	6
	2021	2 569	23	238	13
	2022	5 118	20	404	17

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above enquiries and assistance cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

2. The Mainland Offices approach or refer cases to relevant Mainland authorities in light of the nature of enquiries and at assistance seekers' request. However, the Offices do not have relevant figures on government departments, non-governmental organisations, and public or private enterprises that were approached.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB019**

**(Question Serial No. 0293)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

- 1) As regards how the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) effectively performs the task of promoting internal relations, please provide information on the posts made and shared by the CMAB on the internet and social media platforms in the past 3 years, which sought to publicise and promote local policies and environment to attract Mainland enterprises and people to invest, work or study in Hong Kong. Please set out the numbers and types of the posts made and shared, with a breakdown by online media and social media platform.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region actively promoted Hong Kong's advantages in the Mainland via various online media and social media platforms, such as WeChat, Douyin, Sina Weibo, Kuaishou, Xiaohongshu, Nanfang Plus, Bilibili, etc. Taking the Mainland Offices' WeChat channel as an example, the total number of subscribers has exceeded 230 000. In addition, each Mainland Office on average publishes 1 to 2 posts per day, which receive good response in terms of likes, feedback and shares. For example, as regards the most popular Douyin short videos of the Beijing Office, the number of interaction (likes, comments and adding to favourites) of each video can reach 22 000 on average.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1326)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On “the implementation of public education and publicity activities”, please provide the following information:

1. How will the Government promote the message of anti-“intra-racial discrimination”? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
2. How did the Government promote the message of anti-“intra-racial discrimination” in the past 3 years? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for the implementation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and for carrying out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work as stipulated under these ordinances. At present, the issue of discrimination against persons arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland on ground of their identity as Mainland people falls outside the scope of the EOC’s statutory responsibilities.

2. The EOC has all along attached great importance to and closely monitored situations involving discrimination and harassment in the community, and takes actions and makes public appeals as appropriate having regard to the circumstances and needs. Regarding the issue of discrimination encountered by persons arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland, the EOC has promoted equal opportunities for all, including those arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland, through publicity and education including issuing press releases, writing newspaper articles and receiving media interviews, and appealed to the public to avoid discriminatory acts, etc. For example, during the early phase of the epidemic in early 2020,



there were restaurants that put up notices refusing to serve customers who were from the Mainland and spoke Putonghua. The EOC took immediate action to advise the restaurants to remove the notices. The Chairperson of the EOC, through media interviews and press releases, stressed that discriminatory remarks and acts were not conducive to epidemic control and would rather induce social conflict and instability. Furthermore, in February this year, there were discussions on social media about “speaking Putonghua will be discriminated in Hong Kong”. In response to that, the EOC published a newspaper article, which appealed to service providers and practitioners of the tourism industry to continue upholding a culture of hospitality and striving to promote Hong Kong and tell good stories of Hong Kong.

3. At present, with the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the society is back to normalcy in a steady manner. The EOC will continue to promote the messages of equal opportunities and anti-discrimination through different channels with a view to building a pluralistic and inclusive society with concerted efforts.

4. As the EOC’s public education and publicity activities are an integral part of its daily work, the related manpower and expenditures incurred cannot be singled out and itemised, except for individual projects that come with an estimate of expenditure. Therefore, relevant expenditure and estimate for the work above are not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

<b>CMAB021</b>
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**(Question Serial No. 2023)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please set out the staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and total expenditure of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan in the past 3 years.
2. Further to the question above, please provide the number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong people received by each of the Offices above in the past 3 years.
3. Further to the question above, please set out the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of each Mainland Office for the coming financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The staff establishment and expenditure of the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the past 3 years and for the coming year are set out in the table below:

Office	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	23	80.43	23	83.65	22	98.71	22	88.69
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	59.22	18	64.15	18	78.24	18	82.60

Office	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	66.11	15	62.86	15	70.97	15	70.17
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	43.49	13	45.49	13	58.21	13	52.39
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	46.53	13	47.05	13	53.56	13	51.07

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
Beijing Office	2020	54	44
	2021	32	22
	2022	32	21
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2020	410	90
	2021	468	87
	2022	595	134
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2020	63	17
	2021	34	5
	2022	268	3
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2020	70	20
	2021	24	6
	2022	185	2
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2020	2 622	6
	2021	23	13
	2022	20	17

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above enquiries and assistance cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB022**

**(Question Serial No. 2024)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide, by region and level of study, the number of Hong Kong residents studying at Mainland higher education institutions and research institutes in the past 3 years. If such figures are unavailable, will the Government consider collecting relevant data so as to more effectively support Hong Kong people studying in the Mainland and formulate the pertinent education policy?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education, as at February 2021, January 2022 and December 2022, 16 562, 18 430 and 21 519 Hong Kong students were studying at higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland respectively. A breakdown of the figures by region and level of study is set out at **Annex**.

**Number of Hong Kong students studying at  
higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland  
(as at February 2021)**

<b>Province/Municipality/ Autonomous Region</b>	<b>Post-secondary Programme</b>	<b>Bachelor's Programme</b>	<b>Master's Programme</b>	<b>Doctoral Programme</b>
Beijing	1	1 288	581	158
Tianjin	0	127	3	4
Shanxi	0	3	0	0
Liaoning	0	41	1	3
Jilin	0	27	3	0
Heilongjiang	0	30	1	0
Shanghai	8	582	149	140
Jiangsu	5	597	46	23
Zhejiang	2	333	26	9
Anhui	3	8	3	0
Fujian	32	2 143	96	49
Jiangxi	3	309	7	64
Shandong	1	171	1	4
Henan	0	21	0	1
Hubei	2	587	51	106
Hunan	31	337	15	2
Guangdong	192	6 040	617	432
Guangxi	5	146	11	0
Hainan	10	13	0	0
Chongqing	6	288	8	0
Sichuan	4	383	29	2
Guizhou	1	2	0	0
Yunnan	2	31	4	0
Shaanxi	0	85	1	3
Gansu	0	8	0	0
Qinghai	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>13 600</b>	<b>1 654</b>	<b>1 000</b>

Note: The above information was provided by the Ministry of Education.

**Number of Hong Kong students studying at  
higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland  
(as at January 2022)**

<b>Province/Municipality/ Autonomous Region</b>	<b>Post-secondary Programme</b>	<b>Bachelor's Programme</b>	<b>Master's Programme</b>	<b>Doctoral Programme</b>
Beijing	1	1 291	711	152
Tianjin	0	141	4	4
Hebei	0	7	0	0
Shanxi	0	4	0	0
Inner Mongolia	0	1	0	0
Liaoning	0	48	1	4
Jilin	0	35	4	0
Heilongjiang	0	31	2	0
Shanghai	6	624	182	146
Jiangsu	7	582	50	26
Zhejiang	3	373	36	12
Anhui	4	12	2	0
Fujian	70	2 732	103	51
Jiangxi	3	335	9	65
Shandong	1	178	3	4
Henan	0	36	0	0
Hubei	5	635	62	115
Hunan	20	376	23	2
Guangdong	309	6 383	785	493
Guangxi	5	138	6	0
Hainan	7	17	0	0
Chongqing	8	319	5	1
Sichuan	8	398	45	2
Guizhou	1	4	0	0
Yunnan	2	29	4	0
Shaanxi	1	105	6	3
Gansu	0	11	0	0
Qinghai	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>14 845</b>	<b>2 044</b>	<b>1 080</b>

Note: The above information was provided by the Ministry of Education.

**Number of Hong Kong students studying at  
higher education institutions and research institutes in the Mainland  
(as at December 2022)**

<b>Province/Municipality/ Autonomous Region</b>	<b>Post-secondary Programme</b>	<b>Bachelor's Programme</b>	<b>Master's Programme</b>	<b>Doctoral Programme</b>
Beijing	0	1 283	882	157
Tianjin	1	148	8	4
Hebei	0	14	0	0
Shanxi	0	3	0	0
Inner Mongolia	0	1	0	0
Liaoning	0	57	1	3
Jilin	0	42	4	0
Heilongjiang	0	35	5	1
Shanghai	4	649	231	156
Jiangsu	7	635	50	25
Zhejiang	5	397	59	14
Anhui	3	13	2	1
Fujian	122	2 610	192	48
Jiangxi	3	326	8	58
Shandong	0	198	4	3
Henan	0	47	0	0
Hubei	9	698	86	119
Hunan	20	396	47	5
Guangdong	421	8 643	868	520
Guangxi	14	108	8	0
Hainan	8	20	3	0
Chongqing	9	328	14	1
Sichuan	12	388	58	4
Guizhou	0	6	0	0
Yunnan	2	30	4	0
Shaanxi	0	128	8	3
Gansu	0	11	0	0
Qinghai	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>17 214</b>	<b>2 543</b>	<b>1 122</b>

Note: The above information was provided by the Ministry of Education.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB023**

**(Question Serial No. 2025)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Starting from 1 January 2020, Hong Kong residents working, living or studying in the Mainland may, in accordance with relevant requirements of the *Interim Measures on the Participation in Social Insurance by Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Residents*, participate in social insurance schemes of the Mainland according to law, including the basic pension and basic medical insurance, to enjoy the same treatment as Mainland residents. Does the Government have the number of Hong Kong residents working, living or studying in the Mainland who have participated in the social insurance schemes above? If no, will the Government consider collecting relevant data in order to support Hong Kong people living in the Mainland and formulate the pertinent policies in a more effective manner?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

As the relevant arrangement is under the jurisdiction of the Mainland, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government does not have relevant data for the time being. The HKSAR Government will continue to maintain communication and liaison with relevant departments in the Mainland, and listen to the opinions of Hong Kong people living in the Mainland, so as to examine and strive to formulate appropriate policies to facilitate Hong Kong people living in the Mainland.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB024**

**(Question Serial No. 0720)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under this Programme, Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 include continuing to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the work plans to take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area this year, and what are the details?
2. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the

HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the “Steering Group on Integration into National Development” (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

6. In addition, the Office will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic “Greater Bay Area Information Station” to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about.

7. The number of staff in the existing establishment of the Office is 33. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area is about \$64.3 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB025**

**(Question Serial No. 0721)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under this Programme, Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 include setting up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre to strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions, and promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What work plans and joint projects will be implemented by the Promotion Centre to promote the opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area, and what are the details? What are the specific work plans to provide assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area?
2. What are the additional manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as

well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

2. The HKSAR Government is arranging the deployment of 5 staff members for the work of the Promotion Centre. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Promotion Centre is around \$6.62 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB026**

**(Question Serial No. 1028)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has set up Mainland Offices in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan. Apart from enhancing liaison with the Mainland, these Offices also serve to promote the business opportunities in Hong Kong, attract enterprises and investment, etc. Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- a) What are the details of the events, briefing sessions, etc. organised by these Offices in their respective regions for promoting Hong Kong after the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland?
- b) Upon conclusion of the events, will the Government establish direct contact with the local enterprises and organisations and further follow up on the work of attracting enterprises and investment?
- c) Have these Offices maintained liaison with the Department of Commerce and other local government organs on a regular basis? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

One of the key functions of the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is to organise various activities to promote the advantages of Hong Kong, in particular those brought by the “eight centres” positioning under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. After the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland in February 2023, the large-scale promotional campaign “Hello Hong Kong” has been launched by the HKSAR Government, and the Mainland Offices have actively offered support to attract Mainland visitors to Hong Kong. For the Mainland Offices, organising promotional activities is an important channel for establishing networks. Upon conclusion of the activities, these Offices maintain close liaison with the participating

enterprises and organisations, and take follow-up actions as appropriate, including attracting enterprises and investment.

2. Another key function of the Mainland Offices is to maintain liaison and communication with various levels of government in the Mainland in order to get abreast of the latest development at the national and local level, to reflect the concerns and wishes of Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland as well as to discuss with the Mainland authorities on providing appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises in distress in the Mainland as and when required. Serving as our goal to further strengthen co-operation and liaison with the Mainland authorities, we have set key performance indicators in the 2022 Policy Address where the Mainland Offices will organise no less than 3 200 visits to Mainland authorities or bodies in 2024, an increase of 15% as compared to 2022.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

<b>CMAB027</b>
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**(Question Serial No. 0840)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of discrimination on the following 4 grounds, please set out, in the tables below, the number of complaint cases received, handled and conciliated by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), as well as the number of cases where investigation was initiated by the EOC in the past 5 years.

1. Sex Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Complaint investigation</b>					
Complaints received					
Complaints handled					
Active cases at year end					
Complaints taken to court					
<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>					
Cases received					
Cases processed					
Cases resolved					
Cases taken to court					
<b>Conciliation and settlement</b>					
Complaints conciliated					
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)					



2. Disability Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Complaint investigation					
Complaints received					
Complaints handled					
Active cases at year end					
Complaints taken to court					
Self-initiated investigation					
Cases received					
Cases processed					
Cases resolved					
Cases taken to court					
Conciliation and settlement					
Complaints conciliated					
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)					

3. Family Status Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Complaint investigation					
Complaints received					
Complaints handled					
Active cases at year end					
Complaints taken to court					
Self-initiated investigation					
Cases received					
Cases processed					
Cases resolved					
Cases taken to court					
Conciliation and settlement					
Complaints conciliated					
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)					

4. Race Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Complaint investigation					
Complaints received					

Complaints handled					
Active cases at year end					
Complaints taken to court					
<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>					
Cases received					
Cases processed					
Cases resolved					
Cases taken to court					
<b>Conciliation and settlement</b>					
Complaints conciliated					
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)					

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for the implementation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and for carrying out publicity, public education programmes and enforcement work as stipulated under these ordinances. In the past 5 years, the numbers of cases received, handled and conciliated by the EOC in relation to sex discrimination, disability discrimination, family status discrimination and race discrimination are as follows:

1. Sex Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Complaint investigation</b>					
Complaints received	314	319	304	353	305
Complaints handled	395	446	405	467	423
Active cases at year end	129	106	115	118	82
Complaints taken to court	6	6	0	3	0
<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>					
Cases received	6	17	9	10	11
Cases processed	9	20	9	11	14
Cases resolved	6	20	8	8	14
Cases taken to court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Conciliation and settlement</b>					
Complaints conciliated	90	82	63	78	68
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)	63 (70%)	59 (72%)	51 (81%)	66 (85%)	58 (85%)

## 2. Disability Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Complaint investigation</b>					
Complaints received	539	440	428	489	477
Complaints handled	640	657	549	630	602
Active cases at year end	217	126	143	127	136
Complaints taken to court	1	2	6	1	3
<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>					
Cases received	30	25	14	14	21
Cases processed	36	34	16	17	22
Cases resolved	27	32	11	16	13
Cases taken to court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Conciliation and settlement</b>					
Complaints conciliated	99	104	62	93	81
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)	62 (63%)	79 (76%)	52 (84%)	77 (83%)	72 (89%)

## 3. Family Status Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Complaint investigation</b>					
Complaints received	49	54	41	39	31
Complaints handled	57	69	49	49	39
Active cases at year end	15	8	10	8	11
Complaints taken to court	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>					
Cases received	2	0	0	0	0
Cases processed	2	1	0	0	0
Cases resolved	1	1	0	0	0
Cases taken to court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Conciliation and settlement</b>					
Complaints conciliated	5	7	6	3	2
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)	3 (60%)	5 (71%)	5 (83%)	3 (100%)	2 (100%)

4. Race Discrimination

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Complaint investigation</b>					
Complaints received	69	96	327	100	60
Complaints handled	122	116	345	111	76
Active cases at year end	23	18	11	16	14
Complaints taken to court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Self-initiated investigation</b>					
Cases received	9	2	8	2	1
Cases processed	10	4	8	2	1
Cases resolved	8	4	8	2	1
Cases taken to court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Conciliation and settlement</b>					
Complaints conciliated	5	3	7	7	3
Complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%)	3 (60%)	1 (33%)	6 (86%)	6 (86%)	2 (67%)

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB028**

**(Question Serial No. 0841)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is committed to providing equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The actual expenditure in 2022-23 and the estimated expenditure for 2023-24 on promoting equal opportunities in education for ethnic minorities.
2. Please set out, in table form, the projects and programmes on promoting equal opportunities in education for ethnic minorities in 2022-23, including nature and objectives of the projects, publicity platforms, as well as manpower, resources and expenditure involved.
3. The actual expenditure in 2022-23 and the estimated expenditure for 2023-24 on promoting equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities.
4. Please set out, in table form, the projects and programmes on promoting equal opportunities in employment for ethnic minorities in 2022-23, including nature and objectives of the projects, publicity platforms, as well as manpower, resources and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is responsible for the implementation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602); and for carrying out publicity and public education programmes and enforcement work as stipulated under these ordinances. In the 2022-23 financial year, the

EOC implemented the following projects and programmes to promote equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Publicity Platforms</b>
<b>Education</b>			
Racially Friendly Campus Recognition Scheme	Recognition scheme	To encourage schools to promote racial inclusion among students and accord recognition	Participation of over 60 primary and secondary schools
School Policy Framework for the “Prevention of Racial Discrimination & Harassment”	Policy guidelines	To facilitate schools in formulating policies on prevention of racial discrimination and harassment	All schools in Hong Kong and EOC’s online platforms
“All Races As One” Learning Kit on Eliminating Racial Discrimination	Learning kit	To support teachers in imparting the concepts of racial inclusion and prevention of racial discrimination	All schools in Hong Kong and EOC’s online platforms
“Racial Equality in Kindergarten Admission” Series	Workshop, briefing and educational videos in ethnic minority languages	To brief stakeholders such as kindergarten principals, community workers and ethnic minority parents on racial equality in kindergartens’ admission principles and measures	Education Bureau, The Education University of Hong Kong, and EOC’s online social media platforms
“Education & Career Pathways for Ethnic Minority Youth” Series	Practical guide, workshop for teachers, and online interviews with young ethnic minorities	To enable ethnic minority students and teachers of life planning education to grasp tailor-made information and counselling strategies on education and career pathways	Education Bureau, all secondary schools in Hong Kong, and EOC’s online social media platforms
“Racial Equality in Education” Op-ed Series	Op-ed articles in the newspaper	To explain to the general public and policy makers the difficulties encountered by ethnic minority students in education, and EOC’s related recommendations	Mainstream Chinese and English newspapers

<b>Employment</b>			
Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers	Promotion programme for employers	To encourage employers to formulate employment policies on racial equality, develop a racial inclusion culture among employees, and create a racially-friendly working environment	Participation of over 280 enterprises and organisations
“Workplace Racial Equality & Inclusion” Series	Sharing session, seminar and a series of short videos	To promote best practices on racial equality and inclusion in the workplace	Employer network of the Charter, and EOC’s online social media platforms
EMerging Talent Internship Programme in summer	Matching platform for internship	To assist ethnic minority students of tertiary institutions in gaining work experience through internship thereby enhancing their competitiveness in employment	Employer network of the Charter, and non-governmental organisations

2. The EOC also promotes equal opportunities in education and employment for ethnic minorities through other recurrent programmes, including the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, the Equal Opportunity Youth Ambassador Scheme, online social media platforms (such as EOC’s dedicated page “EO Matters” on Instagram and Facebook, EOC’s LinkedIn account and YouTube), electronic newsletters, training and consultancy services, and so forth.

3. In the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years, the EOC’s total estimated expenditures on public education and publicity (including staff costs) are \$34.11 million and \$34.23 million respectively. Being an integral part of the EOC’s daily work, the related manpower and expenditures incurred cannot be singled out and itemised, except for individual projects that come with an estimate of expenditure. However, about 25% of the aforementioned expenditures are used for publicity and education efforts related to race discrimination.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB029**

**(Question Serial No. 0842)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) has been implemented by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) since 2005-06. As regards the Funding Scheme, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The details of sponsored projects in 2022-23, including the organiser, name, nature, number of beneficiaries and amount of funding of each project.
2. Under the Funding Scheme, the maximum amount of funding for each project is \$200,000. Does the CMAB place a ceiling on the number of sponsored projects or the total amount of sponsorship under the Funding Scheme on a yearly basis? If yes, what are the relevant figures in the past 5 years? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Has the CMAB established a mechanism for assessing the effectiveness of sponsored projects under the Funding Scheme to ensure the proper use of public money? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. In addition to promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities and sexual minorities through the Funding Scheme, has the Government directly launched other schemes or programmes to promote equal opportunities in relation to sexual orientation? If yes, please set out the type, name, implementation period, as well as manpower and expenditure of the programmes in 2022-23.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

Projects sponsored by the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) in 2022-23 are as follows:



<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Nature of Project</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Approved Sponsorship (\$)</b>
Transgender Equality Hong Kong	Transmen in Hong Kong: Visibility vs Invisibility	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, publication production	Around 6 600 <sup>#</sup>	30,450
Gay Harmony	“Love, not violence” Same-sex Couple Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Project	Publication production, video production and broadcast, outreach activities/services	Around 6 100 <sup>#</sup>	51,765
Bravo Theatre	“One small step · View from different angles” 2.0 Sharing Equal Opportunities	Drama performance/ educational theatre performance	Around 6 000	149,950
Gay Harmony	LGBT+ Support & Education Project	Counselling/support services, workshops, outreach activities/ services	Around 3 200	49,192
Pride Lab	做個好盟友—性／別小眾友善影片製作計劃*	Video production and broadcast, outreach activities/ services	Around 2 800 <sup>#</sup>	82,372
Midnight Blue	Midnight Blue Podcast Program	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, sharing sessions	Around 2 100 <sup>#</sup>	81,847
Les Corner Empowerment Association	LGBT+ Deaf and Hearing Companion Scheme	Video production and broadcast	Around 380 <sup>#</sup>	25,515
FREEDOM OF LOVE PROJECT	“Freedom of Love Project” Playback Theatre	Sharing sessions, drama performance	Around 240	47,775
Add Oil Workshop	“He He She She” – “Knowing”, “Exploring” and “Feeling” Workshop and Interactive Documentary Theatre	Drama performance	Around 200	85,890
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association Limited	“Project · True Love” Community Education and Support Scheme- “Synchronization”	Support groups, workshops, counselling/support services	Around 120	38,955

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Nature of Project</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Approved Sponsorship (\$)</b>
New Creation Association Limited	“Project I · CARE” Integration Education and Support Service	Support groups, workshops, counselling/support services	Around 90	29,935
E-Life Education Limited	Friendly Teammate Training and Counseling Program	Workshops, counselling/support services	Around 70	21,630
Gender Empowerment	I Care for My Life	Support groups, workshops, sharing sessions/seminars, counselling/support services	△	149,462
GIA theatre	Rainbow Behind the Stonewall	Drama performance	△	138,600
The Boys’ & Girls’ Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Infinite Spectrum	Workshops/sharing sessions, drama performance	△	110,275
GIA theatre	LGBTQ+ Playback Theatre (Love Is Love)	Workshops/sharing sessions, drama performance	△	86,940
AIDS Concern	Rainbow Healthcare Scheme	Sharing sessions/ seminars, publication production	△	63,997
Post Gay Alliance	Love and acceptance @ families with sexual minority members	Support groups, workshops, counselling/support services	△	58,400
Quarks	Love is Love	Workshops/sharing sessions, video/multimedia production and broadcast	△	24,990

\* Only Chinese name of the project has been submitted by the organisation

# Including online views

△ Relevant figure is unavailable as the project is ongoing

2. In the past 5 years (i.e. 2018-19 to 2022-23), the total amounts of provision earmarked by the Government for the Funding Scheme are \$1.25 million, \$1.25 million, \$1.35 million, \$1.35 million and \$1.35 million respectively.

3. To ensure that the projects meet the objectives of the Funding Scheme, an Assessment Committee, which comprises non-officials as members and chairperson, was set up under the assessment mechanism. In considering applications, the Assessment Committee will consider the projects' objectives, feasibility, relevance to the objectives of the Funding Scheme, anticipated number of beneficiaries, budgetary considerations, and applicants' previous performances. After a project is approved, the sponsored organisation should submit a preliminary report on its project's preparatory work, an interim progress report during the preparation of the project, and a final report, which should cover the number of beneficiaries, participants' feedback, etc., upon the conclusion of the project. During the project, representatives of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will conduct a visit to monitor the effectiveness of the project.

4. In 2022-23, apart from the above Funding Scheme, CMAB allocated \$2.93 million to subsidise the 24-hour hotline for supporting sexual minorities (i.e. Pride Line) operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to provide prompt support and counselling services to sexual minorities and their families, as well as the organisation of support group programmes. In addition, CMAB allocated a provision of \$2.45 million to public education to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders through various means including the broadcast of publicity videos via different channels such as online platforms, display of promotional posters on "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion" at public places, and promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to employers on websites relevant to commerce, industry and recruitment, as well as publications of business chambers and federations. The manpower for supporting the work above is subsumed under the existing staff establishment.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB030**

**(Question Serial No. 0851)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) has temporarily suspended operation with effect from 18 May 2021. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The expenditure of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) in the past 5 years, including the expenditure incurred upon the suspension of its operation (if any), with a breakdown of the expenditure involved.
2. Upon the suspension of operation of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan), what is the status of its office accommodation? Has the office accommodation been idle since then?
3. How many requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in Taiwan were received after the suspension of operation of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan)?
4. The major achievements of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) in the past 5 years, including information on the nature, scale, number of beneficiaries and expenditure of the projects involved.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The actual expenditures of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (HKETCO) in the past 5 years are set out in the table below, of which around 30% is salary-related expenses, and others cover the expenses for HKETCO's daily operation, the activities for exploring business opportunities and promoting Hong Kong, etc.

	<b>Actual expenditure (\$ million)</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	24.98
<b>2018-19</b>	25.97
<b>2019-20</b>	29.28
<b>2020-21</b>	27.70
<b>2021-22</b>	7.88

2. Following the suspension of operation of HKETCO on 18 May 2021, its office has been closed, and its Hong Kong staff members have already returned to Hong Kong.

3. Upon the suspension of operation of HKETCO and as at 28 February 2023, the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department (ImmD) has received a total of 27 cases requesting for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in Taiwan, including cases involving hospitalisation, illness and death. A total of 27 Hong Kong residents were involved. The ImmD will, on a case-by-case basis, provide appropriate and practical assistance to assistance seekers and their families.

4. Prior to the suspension of its operation, the HKETCO had proactively served as an important bridge between Hong Kong and Taiwan, including maintaining liaison and communication with its counterparts; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's tourism, arts and cultures; gathering information on new laws, regulations and policies related to trade and commerce as well as significant developments in Taiwan; and disseminating relevant information to the Hong Kong business sector and Hong Kong businessmen in Taiwan through various channels. On average, the HKETCO had over 50 meetings with Taiwan authorities and trade organisations, and participated in about 100 activities organised by various sectors in Taiwan every year, including fora, exhibitions and workshops. From 2017 up to the suspension of its operation, the HKETCO received over 2 000 visitors and provided them with information or appropriate assistance depending on the circumstances.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB031**

**(Question Serial No. 3128)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): ()  
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On enhancing and further applying information technology in electoral arrangements, please advise:

1. whether there is a dedicated team responsible for applying information technology, including making reference to and studying the practices of other countries and regions, providing technical guidance and support, etc.; and
2. the current progress in enhancing electoral arrangements through application of information technology.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The Government has examined the wider application of information technology at various workflows and processes of a public election, such as voter registration (VR), polling and counting, in the past. In fact, a number of information technology initiatives were introduced in the 4 elections conducted after improving the electoral system in 2021 (including the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, 2021 Legislative Council General Election, 2022 Chief Executive Election and 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election), involving the extensive application of the electronic poll register system for issuing ballot papers, the use of an optical mark recognition system to facilitate vote counting, etc.

2. To further enhance the application of information technology in future elections, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will implement the following initiatives:
  - (a) **Enhancing the electronic poll register system:** This includes upgrading the system's statistical functions so that polling staff could use these functions to retrieve the data collected for compilation of different electoral forms after the

close of poll, thus replacing some of the electoral forms which are still filled in by polling staff manually, so as to streamline procedures and avoid mistakes associated with filling in the forms manually; and improving the user interface to make the system easier to use and operate;

- (b) **Enhancing the Central Platform for Election Advertisements:** This includes updating the software and upgrading the hardware of the Central Platform to ensure its operational stability; and improving the user interface and functions, introducing webpage design that is compatible for use on various mobile devices (i.e. automatic adjustment of webpage layout), so that the users concerned could submit or check election advertisements on the Central Platform using mobile phones. Besides, we will continue enhancing the design of the webpage for candidates' submission of election advertisements to remind the candidates to observe relevant requirements on publishing election advertisements;
- (c) **Enhancing the Mobile Input System for Electoral Statistics:** This enables polling staff to input, record and upload various electoral data to the Statistical Information Centre of the REO through tablet computers, thus replacing the previous work procedures involving fax transmission and inputting data manually, so as to make the data collection process more efficient and accurate;
- (d) **Actively studying the use of electronic counting for the Legislative Council functional constituencies with more registered electors:** This includes identifying suitable counting machines in the market, which could validate accurately choices marked by the "✓" chop on ballot papers as required by the law at a satisfactory speed, for deployment in the next Legislative Council General Election; and
- (e) **Using "iAM Smart" for new registration by geographical constituency electors:** With the assistance of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, the REO is actively extending the use of "iAM Smart" to VR service, i.e. enabling "iAM Smart" users to use the authentication, "e-Me" form filling and digital signing functions to submit online applications for new registration/report on change of particulars by an elector in a geographical constituency, so as to offer greater convenience to the public. Subject to the progress in system development, the REO plans to conduct a trial at some of the VR counters/roving registration counters during this year's VR campaign to gather operational experience for improving the system and processes, with a view to formally launching the service in the VR campaign in the following year.

3. The Government will proactively study the wider application of information technology with a view to improving election procedures and work efficiency, and facilitating various stakeholders. Before introducing any specific arrangements, we will strike a proper balance among the application of information technology, efficiency enhancement, security risks, privacy protection and public trust, etc. We will consult the Legislative Council on any specific proposals and implementation timeframe at an appropriate juncture.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB032**

**(Question Serial No. 1457)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please set out the staff establishment of the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) in the past 3 years.
2. Please provide, in tabular form, the numbers of requests for assistance from Hong Kong people received by the Mainland Offices in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by nature.
3. Will the Government consider enhancing the functions of the Mainland Offices so as to strengthen the capabilities of handling Mainland affairs, support Hong Kong's integration into the Greater Bay Area development, and dovetail with the National 14th Five-Year Plan? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

The staff establishment of the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the past 3 years is set out below:

Office	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Beijing Office	23	23	22
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	18	18
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	15	15



Office	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	13	13
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	13	13

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government, with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
Beijing Office	2020	54	44
	2021	32	22
	2022	32	21
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2020	410	90
	2021	468	87
	2022	595	134
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2020	63	17
	2021	34	5
	2022	268	3
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2020	70	20
	2021	24	6
	2022	185	2
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2020	2 622	6
	2021	23	13
	2022	20	17

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

3. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) of the HKSAR Government and its Shenzhen Liaison Unit, whose service areas cover the nine Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), have jointly promoted the development of the Greater Bay Area and fostered the development of Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Greater Bay Area. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Guangdong ETO will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development

Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland and overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

4. On enhancing the functions of the Mainland Offices, to dovetail with the Government's policy of "competing for talents and enterprises", Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents were set up in the Mainland Offices late last year to proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents in the Mainland and persuade them to pursue development in Hong Kong. In addition, we have set key performance indicators in the 2022 Policy Address where the number of activities organised by Mainland Offices to promote Hong Kong's strengths and opportunities to the Mainland will increase by 15% in 2024 as compared to 2022, so as to step up efforts to tell good stories of Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB033**

**(Question Serial No. 1460)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, enhance Hong Kong people's national security and law-abiding awareness, and deepen the understanding and reinforce the positive perception of the international community on the Hong Kong National Security Law, will the Government continue to strengthen relevant publicity and education work? If yes, what are the details? What are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure for the coming year? If no, what are the reasons?

Has the Government assessed and reviewed the effectiveness of the format and content of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law, and enhanced the promotion strategy in light of the number and feedback of participants? If yes, what are the details of assessment? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews the implementation of promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 working groups under the CBLPSC (namely Working Group on Local Community; Working Group on Teachers and Students; Working Group on Civil Servants; Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Working Group on Community Outside Hong Kong) are respectively assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts to the general public and relevant sectors.

2. The CMAB has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. Specific promotion strategies include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, and co-producing television and radio programmes with the Radio Television Hong Kong;
- (c) launching a large-scale promotional campaign, under which large publicity banners and posters have been unveiled and displayed in stages starting from November 2022;
- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community network.

3. The National Security Law is a national law listed in Annex III to the Basic Law, and is closely associated with the Constitution and the Basic Law. “Safeguarding national security is our collective responsibility” is one of the three promotion themes of the CBLPSC. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will continue to make good use of the platform of the CBLPSC to co-ordinate and formulate with the CBLPSC members and relevant departments strategies and plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law, and strengthen the related publicity and education work.

4. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best result.

5. The HKSAR Government’s promotional work on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law involves the participation of various bureaux and departments. The expenditure and manpower involved are absorbed by their respective overall provision, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB034**

**(Question Serial No. 1461)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (Office) established by the HKSAR Government in November 2020, would the Bureau advise this Committee of the following:

1. The estimated staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operating expenses of the Office for the current year.
2. Will the Bureau consider allocating additional resources to the Office, including manpower and provision for salary and operating expenses? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Will the Bureau consider introducing specific key performance indicators to evaluate the Office's effectiveness in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Has the Bureau pursued with the Mainland authorities the implementation of more preferential measures that facilitate Hong Kong people to work, study, purchase property and live in the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
5. Will the Bureau consider establishing official organisations of the HKSAR Government in the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to strengthen support for Hong Kong enterprises and people there? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling. As regards key performance indicators, as stated in the 2022 Policy Address, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau plans to organise and participate in promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than 8 000 persons; and reach out to no less than 1 000 entrepreneurs and representatives of business firms in 2023.

3. The number of staff in the existing establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.3 million (including staff cost of about \$35 million on civil service posts and other expenses of about \$29.3 million). The Office will consider its manpower and resources requirements having regard to the actual circumstances and needs, and will seek additional provision for manpower and resources in accordance with the established procedures if necessary.

4. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1462)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the numbers of personal data breach notifications received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) since the issuance of the *Guidance on Data Breach Handling and the Giving of Breach Notifications* in June 2010 and its subsequent update in January 2019 respectively? What are the breakdown figures by government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations?

What are the respective numbers of notifications on suspected personal data breach received by the PCPD from government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations during the same period?

After the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Bill 2021 was published in the Gazette and took effect on 8 October 2021, has the PCPD carried out any arrest operation? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

Since the issuance of the *Guidance on Data Breach Handling and the Giving of Breach Notifications* in June 2010 and its subsequent update in January 2019, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) had received 653 and 500 personal data breach notifications respectively. The number and breakdown of the notifications involving government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations are as follows:

Number of personal data breach notifications			
	Government departments	Private organisations	Total
June 2010 to December 2018	336	317	<b>653</b>
January 2019 to February 2023	235	265	<b>500</b>
Total:	571	582	<b>1 153</b>

2. Since the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 came into effect on 8 October 2021 and up till 28 February 2023, the PCPD carried out a total of 16 doxxing arrest operations (including 2 joint operations with the Police), arresting 16 persons in total, 5 of which were eventually prosecuted with 3 being found guilty. Those arrested mainly committed doxxing acts relating to monetary, work or relationship disputes, while doxxing channels included social media platforms, instant messaging software and pamphlets, etc.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB036**

**(Question Serial No. 1514)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Mainland Offices established by the Government, please provide information in the past 3 years:

1. The staff establishment of each Mainland Office.
2. The expenditure of each Mainland Office.
3. The number and type of requests for assistance received by each Mainland Office.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The staff establishment and expenditure of the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Office	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	23	80.43	23	83.65	22	98.71
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	59.22	18	64.15	18	78.24

Office	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	66.11	15	62.86	15	70.97
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	43.49	13	45.49	13	58.21
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	46.53	13	47.05	13	53.56

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government, with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
Beijing Office	2020	54	44
	2021	32	22
	2022	32	21
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2020	410	90
	2021	468	87
	2022	595	134
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2020	63	17
	2021	34	5
	2022	268	3
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2020	70	20
	2021	24	6
	2022	185	2
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2020	2 622	6
	2021	23	13
	2022	20	17

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB037**

**(Question Serial No. 1515)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (Office) was formally established in 2020 to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Government in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please set out, in tabular form, the grades, establishment and actual numbers of staff of various units under the Office in the past 3 years.
2. The actual expenditure or revised estimate of the Office in the past 3 years, and among which the actual expenditure or revised estimate on civil service posts.
3. The estimated expenditure of the Office for 2023-24, and among which the estimated expenditure on civil service posts.
4. What initiatives will be undertaken by the Office in 2023-24 to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Government in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the “Steering Group on Integration into National Development” (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. The staff establishment and expenditure of the Office for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Staff establishment <sup>(Note)</sup>	Revised estimate		Sub-total (\$ million)
		Staff cost on civil service posts (\$ million)	Other expenses (\$ million)	
2020-21	33	31	35.22	66.22
2021-22	33	32	27.50	59.50
2022-23	33	32	41.25	73.25

Note: The staff establishment of the Office consists of 10 Administrative Officer Grade officers, 8 Executive Officer Grade officers, 3 Information Officer Grade officers, and 12 supporting staff (from the grades of Personal Secretary, Clerical Officer and Motor Driver). The manpower of the Office is arranged according to the staff

establishment, and will be flexibly deployed with respect to circumstances to meet the operational needs when vacancies arise.

For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure is about \$64.3 million (including staff cost of about \$35 million on civil service posts and other expenses of about \$29.3 million).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB038**

**(Question Serial No. 1516)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

At present, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) provides free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need, offering preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters for reference purposes and assisting them in resolving issues. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the numbers of calls and visits made to and of people who met with lawyers of the free legal advisory service in the past 3 years?
2. What were the expenditures incurred by the Guangdong ETO on the free legal advisory service in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure on commissioning an organisation to provide free legal advisory service for 2023-24?
3. Are there plans to extend the free legal advisory service to other Mainland Offices? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

At present, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of calls and visits made to and of people who met with lawyers of the free legal advisory service are set out in the table below:

	<b>Number of calls and visits*</b>	<b>Number of people who met with lawyers</b>
<b>2020</b>	2 081	638
<b>2021</b>	2 775	1 154
<b>2022</b>	2 408	1 105

\* refers to the total number of usage of free legal advisory service through phone calls, fax, email and visits by assistance seekers

3. In the past 3 financial years, the expenditure on the provision of free legal advisory service of the Guangdong ETO was about RMB¥1.12 million, RMB¥1.13 million and RMB¥1.16 million respectively. In 2023-24, an amount of about RMB¥1.20 million has been earmarked for commissioning an organisation to provide the relevant service.

4. Apart from Hong Kong residents in the service area of the Guangdong ETO, Hong Kong residents in other Mainland provinces and municipalities may also use the free legal advisory service. At present, most of the enquiries and requests for assistance are made by those in the service area of the Guangdong ETO. We will review service demand from time to time, and strive to enhance the relevant service.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB039**

**(Question Serial No. 1518)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government has the responsibility to explain to the public the necessity and urgency of improving the electoral system. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The staff establishment for the relevant work in the past 2 years.
2. Please set out, in tabular form, the respective expenditure of publicity programmes that the Government implemented in the past 2 years to promote the ordinance on improving the electoral system.
3. What will be done in future to strengthen promotion and publicity on the improved electoral system?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has spared no effort to explain to the public the necessity and urgency of improving the previous electoral system as well as the advancement and superiority of the new electoral system. In regard to staff establishment, the relevant work is undertaken by a team of 2 Principal Assistant Secretaries and 7 supporting officers in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), and the resources required are subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the CMAB.

2. On publicity work, the CMAB has allocated over \$16 million since March 2021 to, via various channels and publicity means, explain to different sectors of the community the advancement and superiority of the said electoral system, and how the system will ensure the faithful implementation of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, so that the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” can be steadfastly and successfully implemented, and hence enable

Hong Kong to achieve good governance as well as long-term stability and safety. The Government has distributed more than 100 000 pamphlets, which aims to explain to the public the background and justifications of the improved electoral system and the content of Annexes I and II to the Basic Law. Furthermore, a thematic website on improving the electoral system has been launched, on which simple language and images are used to explain the salient points and principles of the Decision of the National People's Congress on Improving the Electoral System of the HKSAR made by the National People's Congress on 11 March 2021, the main content of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021, the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive, the constitution of Election Committee and the formation of Legislative Council, the candidate eligibility review mechanism, the registration arrangements for voters and ex-officio members, etc. Besides, we have also placed advertisements at the exterior of government buildings and prominent locations in different districts, and through the media and online platforms, etc., with a view to enhancing public's understanding of the improvements to the electoral system.

3. Separately, from 1 April 2022 to 28 February 2023, the HKSAR Government issued 11 press releases and wrote to overseas media on 2 occasions, instantly refuting smears and attacks on the improved electoral system made by individuals and media with ulterior motives.

4. The CMAB has earmarked around \$10 million to continue publicising and promoting the new electoral system in the 2023-24 financial year. For example, a series of educational videos will be produced for broadcast on television channels as well as digital and social media platforms, and such videos will be provided to schools and district organisations for publicity and education purposes. In addition, the CMAB will upload the latest publicity materials and information to the thematic website on improving the electoral system for easy reference of the public.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB040**

**(Question Serial No. 2807)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work on “engaging the private sector in promoting racial inclusion and equality through an Employment Charter and a racially friendly service campaign”, please provide:

- in the table below the number of employers who have signed the Charter and the proportion of staff of other ethnic groups employed by them in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2020, 2021 and 2022) since the launch of the Charter in 2018.

Name of employers	Total number of employees	Number of employees of other ethnic groups	Type of posts held by employees of other ethnic groups

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) initiated a scheme entitled the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers (Charter) in August 2018. A total of 9 good practices are recommended in the Charter to encourage employers to introduce measures on racial diversity and inclusion in the areas of employment policies, staff culture and working environment. The number of signatories has continued to rise over the past 3 years. As at the end of 2020, 2021 and 2022, the number of employers who have signed the Charter is 143, 203 and 266 respectively. To help the signatories meet the commitment to promote racial diversity and inclusion in the workplace, the EOC organised 13 seminars and over 20 sharing sessions between 2020 and 2022 to promote best practices on equal opportunities in employment for people of all races and human resources of local ethnic minorities, thereby motivating them to provide equal employment opportunities for ethnic minorities.

2. The up-to-date list of signatories to the Charter is available on EOC's website: [https://www.eoc.org.hk/Upload/files/EM%20Unit/files/The%20Racial%20Diversity%20and%20Inclusion%20Charter/Signatory%20List\\_Full\\_20230228.pdf](https://www.eoc.org.hk/Upload/files/EM%20Unit/files/The%20Racial%20Diversity%20and%20Inclusion%20Charter/Signatory%20List_Full_20230228.pdf). As some of the signatories have neither published data of their employees in the public domain nor kept record of the race of their employees, the EOC does not have or is not authorised to disclose information on the total number of employees, the number of ethnic minority employees or the posts they held in the signatories.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3077)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work to “investigate suspected breaches of the requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance”,

1. How many complaints on doxxing were received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in the past 3 years (i.e. 2020-2022)? Were specific groups (such as police officers and public officials) involved in these complaints? Please provide a breakdown of figures by year and specific group involved.
2. How many doxxing cases were investigated by the PCPD in the past 3 years (i.e. 2020-2022)? Among them, how many cases in which the offenders were prosecuted and successfully convicted? Please provide a breakdown of figures by year.
3. Since the enactment of legislation on doxxing acts, what is the amount of expenditure incurred on enforcement actions? According to the Government's assessment, has the legislative intent been effectively achieved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the number of complaints related to doxxing acts received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) is 289, 240 and 630 respectively. The PCPD does not maintain a breakdown of figures by specific group being doxxed. In the same period, the numbers of PCPD's criminal investigations, arrests, prosecutions and cases convicted by court under the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (Amendment Ordinance) are as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Sum</b>
Doxxing case investigations	Not applicable*	25*	89	<b>114</b>
Persons arrested		1	11	<b>12</b>
Persons prosecuted		0	5	<b>5</b>
Persons convicted		0	2	<b>2</b>

\* The Amendment Ordinance took effect on 8 October 2021, only after then PCPD was empowered to carry out criminal investigations and prosecute against doxxing acts. Prior to that, PCPD referred 59 and 36 doxxing cases to the Police for follow-up in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

2. PCPD's subvention has been increased from \$89.46 million in 2022-23 (revised estimates) to \$94.46 million in 2023-24, representing an increase of 5.6%. The relevant subvention covers the overall expenditure of PCPD, which includes publicity and educational campaigns to combat doxxing acts and criminal investigation and prosecution work against doxxing cases. Upon criminalisation of doxxing acts, PCPD is given new criminal investigation and prosecution powers to handle doxxing cases from criminal investigation to collection of evidence and prosecution, thereby achieving the legislative intent of effectively and promptly combating doxxing acts. PCPD will continue to make full use of its resources to effectively carry out various work, including the effective combat of doxxing acts to safeguard the personal data privacy of the public.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0287)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As regards the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (i) the respective numbers of complaint cases in relation to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance received, handled and found substantiated by the EOC in the past 3 years;
- (ii) the respective expenditure of public education and publicity activities (including television announcements, newspaper advertisements and social media) conducted by the EOC to promote anti-discrimination and equal opportunities in the past year;
- (iii) the reasons why the 2023-24 estimate of the EOC is 6.2% lower than that of the previous year.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

In the past 3 years (i.e. from 2020 to 2022), the respective numbers of complaint cases in relation to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) received and handled by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>No. of complaints received</b>	1 100	981	873
<b>No. of complaints handled</b> (Note 1)	1 348	1 257	1 140
<b>Outcome of complaint cases handled</b> (Note 2)			
- Conciliation successful	177	213	152
- Conciliation unsuccessful	44	43	26
- Investigation discontinued	1 110	964	830
- Resolved	17	26	19
- Under investigation (as at 28 February 2023)	0	11	113

Note 1: The number of complaint cases handled includes the cases received in that year and those brought forward from the previous year.

Note 2: Complaint cases which have been handled by the EOC are categorised as “conciliation successful”, “conciliation unsuccessful”, “investigation discontinued”, “resolved” and “under investigation”. The present figures provided are based on the progress/outcome of the cases handled in that year.

2. In 2022-23, the EOC implemented various types of public education and publicity activities to promote anti-discrimination and equal opportunities, including the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers, advertisements (including those on television, radio, MTR and buses), multimedia promotion programmes, newspaper articles, roving drama performances in schools, and different competitions. The total expenditure (including staff costs) involved was around \$34.11 million. Being an integral part of the EOC’s daily work, the related manpower and expenditure incurred by the above work cannot be singled out and itemised, except for individual projects that come with an estimate of expenditure.

3. The provision for the EOC in 2023-24 is lower than the revised estimate for 2022-23 by 6.2% (around \$8.6 million) mainly because the Government provided a time-limited funding of \$1.5 million each year for 3 years starting from 2020-21 to support the EOC’s staff cost for enhanced training on racial inclusion, and such time-limited provision will cease at the end of 2022-23. In 2022-23, the Government disbursed to the EOC an additional one-off funding of \$7.77 million to continue to meet the staff costs for the aforementioned enhanced training on racial inclusion and for organising publicity schemes relating to equal opportunities in the coming 3 years. In other words, in addition to other funding allocations in 2022-23, the EOC was given the aforementioned \$1.5 million time-limited funding and the one-off funding of \$7.77 million for 3 years (totaling \$9.27 million). This sum will not be provided in the 2023-24 estimate. On the other hand, the Government will provide a one-off funding of around \$0.64 million to the EOC for replacement of an official vehicle in 2023-24. Therefore, by reducing \$9.27 million while increasing \$0.64 million in the allocations (\$9.27 million - \$0.64 million = \$8.63 million), the provision for the EOC in 2023-24 is lower than that in 2022-23 by 6.2% (around \$8.6 million). The Government will maintain close communication with the EOC to ensure that it has adequate resources to discharge its statutory functions.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0288)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (i) The actual expenditure on promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 years, and the estimated expenditure on promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (ii) The division of work among various government bureaux and departments on promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law.
- (iii) Has the Government evaluated the effectiveness of promotional programmes on the Constitution and the Basic Law? How does the Government assess if the target groups have acquired an accurate understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details and criteria? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Constitution and the Basic Law together form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), providing the strongest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law.

2. In the financial years of 2020-21 and 2021-22, the actual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$12 million and \$17 million respectively. In the 2022-23 financial year, the original estimated expenditure of the CMAB for such purpose is \$26 million. In line with the promotion strategy formulated by the

Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, the CMAB has allocated resources through internal deployment to launch some large-scale promotional activities. As such, the estimated actual expenditure has increased to \$32 million. As for 2023-24, the estimated expenditure is about \$26 million. The CMAB will suitably deploy resources based on the actual circumstances to conduct the promotion work.

3. The CBLPSC provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 working groups under the CBLPSC (namely Working Group on Local Community; Working Group on Teachers and Students; Working Group on Civil Servants; Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Working Group on Community Outside Hong Kong) are respectively assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts to the general public and the relevant sectors.

4. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of various promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best result.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB044**

**(Question Serial No. 0290)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As regards Mainland and Taiwan Offices, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (i) The types, numbers and effectiveness of promotional activities conducted and to be conducted by the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the past 3 years and for 2023-24.
- (ii) The types and numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government in the past 3 years.
- (iii) Will the Government allocate resources to conduct surveys on demographics of Hong Kong people living in the Mainland so as to gather more accurate data for provision of more appropriate support?
- (iv) The reasons why the 2023-24 estimate is 1.8% lower than that of the previous year.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- (i) The Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government proactively promote Hong Kong's different advantages to various sectors in the Mainland, and from time to time organise or participate in various types of promotional activities, including seminars, exhibitions, film festivals, concerts, gala dinners, etc. Since the scope and category of the activities are very extensive, we do not keep statistical breakdown and the numbers of activities organised or to be organised in 2020 to 2023 are as follows:

Year	Number of public relations/cultural functions/events
2020 (actual)	432
2021 (actual)	614
2022 (actual)	584
2023 (estimated)	620

After the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland in February 2023, the large-scale promotional campaign “Hello Hong Kong” has been launched by the HKSAR Government, and the Mainland Offices have actively offered support and co-operate with the relevant work to attract more Mainland visitors to Hong Kong. The promotional activities generally receive a positive response from participants, and the Mainland Offices will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of such work from time to time, and to make appropriate adjustment when necessary to achieve the best results.

- (ii) In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government, with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
Beijing Office	2020	54	44
	2021	32	22
	2022	32	21
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2020	410	90
	2021	468	87
	2022	595	134
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2020	63	17
	2021	34	5
	2022	268	3
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2020	70	20
	2021	24	6
	2022	185	2
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2020	2 622	6
	2021	23	13
	2022	20	17

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

- (iii) At present, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has compiled and released the analysis data of “Hong Kong residents usually staying in Guangdong Province” (<https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/Eindexbysubject.html?scode=160&pcode=D5320188>). The Government will, having regard to the actual situation and needs, consider in a timely manner collecting and producing other relevant statistics on particular subjects so as to support the research and formulation of policies.
- (iv) In 2022-23, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Mainland Offices stepped up their efforts in organising more celebratory events including exhibitions, cultural performances, gala dinners or receptions, youth or student programmes, film festivals, etc. These events were organised for celebrating the anniversary of the HKSAR with the Mainland residents as well as to promote Hong Kong by telling good stories of Hong Kong, hence contributing to the increase in the estimate for the Mainland Offices in 2022-23. Following the successful conclusion of the celebratory events, there are corresponding adjustments to the 2023-24 estimate. Nevertheless, the extent of adjustment is minor which indicates the Mainland Offices have retained sufficient resources to effectively perform the work for promoting Hong Kong’s advantages.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB045**

**(Question Serial No. 0613)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office and the 5 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. As regards the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, what are the staff establishment and expenditure in each of the years since its establishment and for the coming year? What are the work and plans for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, and what is the effectiveness? What projects will be implemented in the coming year, and what are the concrete details and timetables?
2. As regards the 5 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland, what work was/will be undertaken in the past 3 years and in the coming year, what is the expenditure/estimated expenditure involved, and what is the effectiveness? What projects will be implemented in the coming year, and what are the specific targets, details and timetables?
3. Will the Government set up offices or liaison units in more Mainland cities, including the eight Mainland cities (not counting Guangzhou) of the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, how will the Government strengthen co-operation and liaison between Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong

residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the "Steering Group on Integration into National Development" (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

In addition, the Office will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic "Greater Bay Area Information Station" to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about.

The number of staff in the existing establishment of the Office is 33. In 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, the revised estimated expenditure for taking forward the

development of the Greater Bay Area is about \$66.22 million, \$59.5 million and \$73.25 million respectively. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure is about \$64.3 million.

2. In the past 3 years, the Mainland Offices proactively served as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including enhancing communication and liaison with counterparts in the Mainland; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to develop markets along the Belt and Road; promoting the Greater Bay Area development; and assisting in enhancing arts and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, etc.

Another main function of the Mainland Offices is organising various activities to promote Hong Kong's advantages, particularly the advantages of the positioning of Hong Kong's eight centres under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. After the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland in February 2023, the large-scale promotional campaign "Hello Hong Kong" has been launched by the HKSAR Government, and the Mainland Offices have actively offered support and co-operate with the relevant work to attract more Mainland visitors to Hong Kong. The promotional activities generally receive a positive response from participants, and the Mainland Offices will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of such work from time to time, and to make appropriate adjustment when necessary to achieve the best results.

The expenditures of the Mainland Offices in the past 3 years and this year are set out in the table below:

Office	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	80.43	83.65	98.71	88.69
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	59.22	64.15	78.24	82.60
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	66.11	62.86	70.97	70.17
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	43.49	45.49	58.21	52.39
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	46.53	47.05	53.56	51.07



3. As it is convenient to travel around the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, we consider that, at the moment, the more desirable arrangement is to integrate and focus resources on increasing manpower of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO), so that it could make flexible deployment to meet the service needs of the nine cities of the Greater Bay Area. On the other hand, to further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support provided for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Guangdong ETO will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB046**

**(Question Serial No. 0614)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 of this Programme, it is mentioned that the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the staff establishment and recurrent expenditure of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre?
2. What activities will be conducted by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre in the current year? Please set out, in tabular form, (i) names; (ii) dates; (iii) scale; (iv) target groups; and (v) expenditure/estimated expenditure of the activities, and indicate whether such activities are organised on a (vi) regular or one-off basis.
3. Will the Government consider setting up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre in other Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland to promote the Greater Bay Area's development opportunities in other Mainland cities?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) as well as the support provided to Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), InvestHK and relevant organisations and

institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc. The HKSAR Government is arranging the deployment of 5 staff members for the work of the Promotion Centre. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Promotion Centre is around \$6.62 million.

2. The service targets of the Promotion Centre are all Hong Kong people and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will keep in view the operation of the Promotion Centre after its establishment, including the collaboration arrangements with the HKTDC and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland and the results, and the service needs of Hong Kong people and enterprises, before considering further work arrangements.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB047**

**(Question Serial No. 2223)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitution and the Basic Law are of great importance to the country and the HKSAR in the past and in the future. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has been making great efforts to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to different groups. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the details and actual expenditure of the activities for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law to civil servants, educators, employees of public and subvented organisations etc. in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure on promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law for 2023-24?
2. Is there a mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law to the target groups of civil servants, educators, employees of public and subvented organisations, and legal professionals? If yes, what are the details of the mechanism? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Has the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau worked with the Education Bureau in developing a series of programmes and activities to promote the Constitution, the Basic Law and national education at primary and secondary schools and tertiary institutions? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews the implementation of promotional programmes by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC, and the

5 working groups under the CBLPSC (namely Working Group on Local Community; Working Group on Teachers and Students; Working Group on Civil Servants; Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Working Group on Community Outside Hong Kong) are respectively assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts to the general public and relevant sectors. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology, with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the promotional activities, and adjust the strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the maximum promotional effectiveness.

2. As regards training for civil servants, the CSB, through the Civil Service College (CSC), has in recent years continued to strengthen civil service training on the constitutional order and safeguarding national security by organising regular training programmes and thematic seminars, as well as developing more e-learning resources. In the past 3 years (2020 to 2022), about 36 000 civil servants at different levels received training organised by CSC with contents covering the Constitution, the Basic Law, the constitutional order of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the National Security Law and national security etc. The feedback of participants on these programmes has been positive. They generally consider that the programmes have enhanced their understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law, and have helped them acquire a better understanding of the relationship between the Basic Law and the discharge of official duties. Since such training is part and parcel of the day-to-day operation of the CSC, hence, no breakdown figures on the expenses involved in the provision of such training are available.

3. As for promotion work in the education sector, the EDB has been adopting a wide array of measures with a “multi-pronged and co-ordinated” approach, which include providing curriculum guides, developing learning and teaching resources, offering training to teachers, and organising life-wide learning activities for students, etc., to support primary and secondary schools in promoting national education (including Constitution and Basic Law education) within and beyond the classroom through whole-school participation, and enhancing students’ sense of national identity. In the past 3 years, the EDB has continuously organised the Constitution and Basic Law Knowledge Enrichment/Advanced Online Courses for Teachers, “Understanding Our Country” and Online Knowledge Enrichment Programmes on “National Security Education”, and workshops on national flag raising ceremony etc., thereby enabling teachers to learn about the key concepts of the Constitution and the Basic Law, encompassing the historical background of “One Country, Two Systems”, the drafting process of the Basic Law, as well as the constitutional basis and structure of the Basic Law. Besides, starting from the 2020/21 school year, the EDB has incorporated contents pertinent to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law in the core training programmes for newly-joined teachers, serving teachers and teachers aspiring for promotion. EDB has also strengthened the relevant elements in the training programmes for school managers and principals of primary and secondary schools. Furthermore, the EDB has collaborated with expert organisations to organise more in-depth thematic programmes for which legal experts and academics are invited as speakers. Participants of the above training programmes expressed that the activities could deepen their understanding of the Constitution

and the Basic Law. The EDB will continue to deploy resources to take diversified and specific measures so as to fully support schools' holistic and systematic planning and implementation of national education within and beyond the classroom. The related expenditure and budget are subsumed under the EDB's recurrent expenditure, and no breakdown of figures are available.

4. Post-secondary institutions have been implementing a series of measures since the 2021/22 academic year to incorporate national education and national security education into students' learning, which include organising seminars, sharing sessions, workshops, forums and study tours, etc. In further pursuance of the abovementioned objectives, the HKSAR Government has included whole-person development as one of the four strategic directions adopted in the 2022-25 triennium of the University Grants Committee, illustrating that instilling a strong sense of civic duty into students through values education at university level would help nurture graduates to become the future pillars of our society. Education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law should also form an important part of the university curriculum, with a view to nurturing students into law-abiding and responsible citizens. In respecting post-secondary institutions' autonomy in curriculum design, the EDB encourages the institutions to offer students learning opportunities within and outside the classroom to enhance their awareness of our country's history and culture, constitutional order and the latest development in various aspects, thereby helping them gain a deeper understanding of the country, develop a stronger sense of national identity, and achieve an enhanced sense of national security, law-abidingness and civic duty.

5. On promotion work in the legal sector, the Department of Justice (DoJ) hosted the Basic Law Legal Conference themed "Stability to Prosperity" on 27 May 2022, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and enhance the understanding of the Basic Law among the legal sector and the community. The Conference highlighted the status of the Constitution as the genesis of the Basic Law, and stressed that for Hong Kong to leverage on its unique advantages under "Two Systems" and contribute to the country, it is imperative to adhere to the original aspirations of the Basic Law, fully and faithfully implement the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" with unwavering determination, and enhance the "One Country, Two Systems" regime.

6. A sourcebook entitled "Basic Law: Selected Drafting Materials and Significant Cases" was launched by the DoJ at the Conference. The content of the sourcebook covers selected drafting materials and relevant Basic Law cases, the interpretations of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on the Basic Law, as well as other pertinent materials. As a more comprehensive record of the formulation and implementation of the Basic Law, the sourcebook is conducive to fostering a correct understanding of the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law among different sectors of the community.

7. To enhance the legal sector's understanding and knowledge of the country's latest developments, including its legal and judicial systems, socio-economic conditions and development directions, the DoJ co-organised with Tsinghua University 4 courses entitled "The Fundamental Principles of Chinese Law", for which renowned scholars were invited to elucidate the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security to the HKSAR's government counsels and private lawyers. The participants and scholars had very positive feedback about the courses, and engaged in lively interaction and discussion during the courses.

8. The expenditure and budget of the above activities are subsumed under the DoJ's recurrent expenditure, and will continue to be absorbed by the DoJ's existing resources.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2224)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau indicates that it will continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the HKSAR Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Government consider setting up additional liaison units in the Mainland cities, particularly the cities of the Greater Bay Area, as a one-stop platform to provide substantive support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, which may cover job-seeking, job-matching, entrepreneurship consultation, education for children, and adaptation to the new environment etc.? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Are there policies, measures and activities to further encourage, promote and co-ordinate Hong Kong young people's integration into the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

At present, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has established a total of 5 Offices and 11 Liaison Units in the Mainland. With service areas covering various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the Mainland, their functions include strengthening communication and liaison between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities, fostering and cementing economic and trade relations between the HKSAR and Mainland provinces and municipalities, taking forward mutual exchanges and co-operation, boosting investment, and supporting Hong Kong people and businessmen in the areas. The service area of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) and the Shenzhen Liaison Unit established



thereunder has covered the nine Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and they provide relevant services for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, which include publishing booklets on practical information about living in the Mainland, and producing short videos providing information about daily life in the Mainland such as opening of bank accounts, application for residence permits, participation in social insurance, as well as information on employment, education and property purchase etc. The Guangdong ETO makes use of social media platforms and electronic newsletters etc. to disseminate useful and relevant information to Hong Kong people and enterprises in a timely manner, so as to assist Hong Kong residents to better adapt to living in the area. The Guangdong ETO also arranges visits to Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area from time to time, and organises trade seminars for Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland, such as the Seminar on New Trends of Business in the Greater Bay Area in January 2023, and the Seminar on Cross-border Financial Services and the Mainland Labour Laws in April 2022. On supporting and encouraging Hong Kong young people to start their businesses in the Greater Bay Area, the Guangdong ETO has from time to time been engaging in exchanges with operators and young entrepreneurs of youth entrepreneurial bases in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The Exchange Seminar on Mainland Laws for Youth Entrepreneurship and the Dongguan-Hong Kong Exchange Session on Youth Entrepreneurship in the Greater Bay Area organised by the Guangdong ETO in June and July 2022 respectively also received overwhelming response. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Guangdong ETO will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc. The HKSAR Government will continue to maintain close liaison with Hong Kong people and enterprises in different Mainland cities and understand what their needs are for pursuing development and living in the Mainland, so as to suitably reflect them to the relevant Mainland authorities and to provide assistance as appropriate. Besides, the HKSAR Government will keep in view the effectiveness of the work of the Mainland Offices and Liaison Units, and make suitable arrangements and adjustments where necessary to achieve optimal results.

2. The HKSAR Government will continue to enhance various youth programmes so as to encourage young people to study, participate in internship and exchange programmes, and start their business or work in the Mainland. For example, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Youth Development Commission rolled out 2 funding schemes to support youth innovation and entrepreneurship in the Greater Bay Area in 2019. The Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area subsidises non-governmental organisations to launch youth entrepreneurial projects, providing entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for young people intending to start their business locally and in other municipalities of the Greater Bay Area. The Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area supports non-governmental organisations to organise short-term experiential programmes at innovation and

entrepreneurial bases in the Mainland municipalities of the Greater Bay Area. To encourage young people to pursue development in the Greater Bay Area, the HKSAR Government also launched the pilot Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme (GBA YES) in 2021, and received favourable feedback from the participating enterprises and the participants. In his Policy Address last year, the Chief Executive announced the regularisation of the scheme to encourage more enterprises to offer jobs and support Hong Kong young people to work in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, so as to foster their career development and talent exchange in the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government launched the regularised GBA YES on 1 March 2023. Participating enterprises should offer local university graduates a monthly salary of not less than HK\$18,000, and station them in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to work and receive on-the-job training. The Government will grant a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 to the enterprises for each young person employed up to 18 months.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2225)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office was formally established in 2020 to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. Besides, the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre to strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions, and promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and expenditure on emoluments of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in 2023-24?
2. How will the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office promote the advantages of different professions in Hong Kong and facilitate citizens in seizing the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area in 2023-24?
3. What is the amount of operating fund earmarked for the Office in the year? Will the Government set performance targets and indicators to evaluate the Office's performance?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland

cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the "Steering Group on Integration into National Development" (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

6. In addition, the Office will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic "Greater Bay Area Information

Station” to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about. As regards key performance indicators, as stated in the 2022 Policy Address, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau plans to organise and participate in promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than 8 000 persons; and reach out to no less than 1 000 entrepreneurs and representatives of business firms in 2023.

7. The number of staff in the existing establishment of the Office is 33. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$64.3 million (including staff cost of about \$35 million on civil service posts and other expenses of about \$29.3 million).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB050**

**(Question Serial No. 2226)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Following the official promulgation for implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law and the implementation of the improved electoral system, stability and order have been restored in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide, in tabular form, details on the work undertaken by the Government to publicise, explain or promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the improved electoral system in the past year, including the use of social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, as well as the staff establishment and expenditure involved.
2. Will additional resources be allocated in future to publicise or continuously promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the improved electoral system so that young people will attach greater importance to and acquire deeper understanding of safeguarding national security? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The consolidated reply of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) and the Security Bureau (SB) to the question is as follows:

2. With the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (National Security Law) on 30 June 2020, stability has been restored in the society; and the Decision of the National People's Congress on Improving the Electoral System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Decision) made by the National People's Congress on 11 March 2021 has ensured that the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" is faithfully implemented in the political system of Hong Kong.

## Improving the Electoral System

3. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has spared no effort to explain to the public the necessity and urgency of improving the previous electoral system as well as the advancement and superiority of the new electoral system. In regard to staff establishment, the relevant work is undertaken by a team of 2 Principal Assistant Secretaries and 7 supporting officers in the CMAB, and the resources required are subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the CMAB.

4. On publicity work, the CMAB has allocated over \$16 million since March 2021 to, via various channels and publicity means, explain to different sectors of the community the advancement and superiority of the said electoral system, and how the system will ensure the faithful implementation of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, so that the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” can be steadfastly and successfully implemented, and hence enable Hong Kong to achieve good governance as well as long-term stability and safety. The Government has distributed more than 100 000 pamphlets, which aims to explain to the public the background and justifications of the improved electoral system and the content of Annexes I and II to the Basic Law. Furthermore, a thematic website on improving the electoral system has been launched, on which simple language and images are used to explain the salient points and principles of the Decision made by the National People’s Congress on 11 March 2021, the main content of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021, the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive, the constitution of Election Committee and the formation of Legislative Council, the candidate eligibility review mechanism, the registration arrangements for voters and ex-officio members, etc. Besides, we have also placed advertisements at the exterior of government buildings and prominent locations in different districts, and through the media and online platforms, etc., with a view to enhancing public’s understanding of the improvements to the electoral system.

5. The CMAB has earmarked around \$10 million to continue publicising and promoting the new electoral system in the 2023-24 financial year. For example, a series of educational videos will be produced for broadcast on television channels as well as digital and social media platforms, and such videos will be provided to schools and district organisations for publicity and education purposes. In addition, the CMAB will upload the latest publicity materials and information to the thematic website on improving the electoral system for easy reference of the public.

## The National Security Law

6. Since the promulgation and implementation of the National Security Law in the HKSAR on 30 June 2020, the Government has introduced the National Security Law to different people through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets and compendium of articles, issuing press releases, placing newspaper advertisements, officials taking part in interviews on television, radio and other media, and organising/attending seminars (including webinars), etc.), as well as through Economic and Trade Offices, and has responded to concerns raised.

7. At the same time, in July 2021, the HKSAR Government first launched the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition” covering the importance of the National Security Law, the legal regime, enforcement mechanisms, major provisions and effectiveness, plus introduction of the work of the disciplined services departments in

safeguarding national security; mini games were also provided. In July 2022, the SB updated the content of the online virtual exhibition, thereby enriching the substance of the exhibition. The SB has also prepared and distributed a series of souvenirs to bureaux/departments, schools and youth uniformed groups of the disciplined services departments to promote the abovementioned online virtual exhibition.

8. The SB also organised jointly with the Education Bureau the “2022 Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme to encourage participation of teachers and students from all schools in the slogan-cum-poster design competition and online quiz competition. The award presentation ceremony of the Programme was held in late July 2022 to commend winning schools and students, and the winning entries of the slogan-cum-poster design competition were uploaded to the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”.

9. Through their youth groups, the disciplined services departments under the SB have all along helped youths cultivate good character, positive thinking and law-abiding awareness, facilitated their understanding of national development and enhanced their sense of national identity. The disciplined services departments will also continue their efforts in taking forward national security education for members of the youth groups, with a view to raising the awareness of national security among youngsters.

10. Furthermore, the HKSAR Government has also produced Announcements in the Public Interest for broadcasting on television and radio, as well as at government buildings, online platforms and webinars, to highlight the effectiveness of the National Security Law in stopping chaos and restoring order in Hong Kong, and in ensuring steadfast and successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle as well as long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

11. On another front, the HKSAR Government has been adopting a “multi-pronged and co-ordinated” approach and taking a wide array of measures, which include providing curriculum guides, developing learning and teaching resources, offering training to teachers, organising life-wide learning activities for students, etc. to support schools’ effective planning and implementation of national security education within and beyond the classroom in a holistic and systematic manner, with a view to enabling teachers and students to better understand the importance of national security and develop an awareness of and a sense of responsibility for safeguarding national security.

12. Besides, the National Security Law is a national law listed in Annex III to the Basic Law, and is closely associated with the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Government will continue to, through the platform of the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, co-ordinate and formulate with the CBLPSC members strategies and plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law.

13. The HKSAR Government’s promotional work on the National Security Law involves the participation of various departments. The expenditure incurred is absorbed by the overall provision, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

14. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue allocating resources for its promotional work on the National Security Law through various channels, including online channels. The HKSAR Government will also continue strengthening the publicity and



education, so as to raise the national security and law-abiding awareness of Hong Kong residents. Major initiatives in 2023 include: to enhance the national security awareness of about 10 000 members of youth uniformed groups of disciplined services departments; continue to enrich the content of the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”; continue to take forward the “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme; and to deepen the understanding of the international community on the National Security Law and its positive messages.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB051**

**(Question Serial No. 2717)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's main responsibilities include promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and promoting and co-ordinating co-operation and liaison with the Mainland, Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Does the Government have any new concrete plan for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and "One Country, Two Systems" in overseas countries, the Mainland and Hong Kong?
2. What are the expenditure and manpower deployment for the promotional work above?
3. The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan has temporarily suspended operation. Does the Government have any plan to address such a situation?
4. What are the plans and specific work for promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CBLPSC and its working groups have been planning and organising various types of activities to extensively promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts to target groups and the general public.

2. Regarding the promotional work in overseas countries and the Mainland, the specific

work of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) includes promotional activities and speaking occasions held by senior government officials during visits to overseas countries and the Mainland, various local promotional activities carried out by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in overseas countries and the Mainland, promotional activities and speaking occasions organised for Hong Kong students studying in overseas countries and the Mainland, liaison with the consulates in Hong Kong, and promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law via publications and online platforms. The HKSAR Government will continue to take forward such promotional work to generate greater publicity.

3. On local promotional efforts, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been carrying out relevant publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. Specific promotion strategies include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, and co-producing television and radio programmes with the Radio Television Hong Kong;
- (c) launching a large-scale promotional campaign, under which large publicity banners and posters have been unveiled and displayed in stages starting from November 2022;
- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law of the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community network.

4. The HKSAR Government's promotional work on the Constitution and the Basic Law involves the participation of various bureaux and departments. The related work is an integral part of their duties and functions. As such, no breakdown figures in respect of the expenditure and manpower involved are available.

5. On another front, upon the suspension of operation of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (HKETCO) in Taipei in May 2021, we have kept a close watch on the latest condition in cross-Strait relations and Taiwan, and will take a holistic approach on various relevant factors in considering the arrangement of the HKETCO.

6. In regard to promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland, since the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland in February this year, the Chief

Executive and the Principal Officials of the HKSAR have actively visited the Mainland for high-level visits and exchanges, hosting and attending bilateral and multilateral co-operation meetings with provinces and municipalities in the Mainland, and participating in meetings and activities organised by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government and the relevant Mainland organisations in areas of business and trade, culture, art, tourism, sports, etc., so as to strengthen the co-operation with the Mainland comprehensively. The senior HKSAR officials have proactively attended the local promotional activities, give speeches and accept media interviews during their visits in the Mainland in order to enhance the effectiveness of publicity and tell good stories of Hong Kong. In addition, the Mainland Offices and relevant organisations also promote Hong Kong's advantages through diversified activities, encourage and support representatives of different professions and sectors to visit the Mainland, and strengthen exchanges with the Mainland.

7. The Mainland Offices will continue to play the bridging role, organise visits to relevant Mainland authorities and bodies, attend various events, as well as participate in business and trade meetings. They will also make good use of the online and offline platforms, including digital and multimedia platforms, and mass media platforms such as television, radio, newspapers, etc. These platforms will also be used for disseminating information, short videos, interview programmes, etc., for promoting Hong Kong's advantages and opportunities in the Mainland.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0700)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To strengthen the support provided by the Mainland organisations of the HKSAR Government for Hong Kong businessmen, to give fuller play to the functions in terms of Government-to-Government, and to strive for a better business environment for Hong Kong businessmen and help them resolve issues more effectively, will the Government consider recruiting persons who are non-civil servants to serve as the heads of Mainland organisations? What plans have been drawn up for establishing a more specific collaboration mechanism among Mainland Offices of different organisations, and for developing more user-friendly modes and procedures in handling requests for assistance?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

In addition to providing support for Hong Kong businessmen in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) should also report to the HKSAR Government about the latest development in the Mainland, and facilitate the exchange and collaboration between the two places in trade, investment, culture, etc. As the head of a Mainland Office has to represent the HKSAR Government in handling official matters with the Mainland authorities, as well as to shoulder the financial and legal responsibilities associated with the use of public money and various contractual arrangements, the candidate leading a Mainland Office should thus possess vast public administrative experience and be familiar with the policies, division of labour and internal operation of the HKSAR Government. A senior civil servant with extensive executive experience and ability taking up the post of the head of a Mainland Office will lead the Office to operate smoothly and discharge its functions effectively.

2. Currently, the post of Director of Mainland Office is an established permanent civil servant post. It has all along been the practice of the HKSAR Government to select a suitable civil servant in terms of seniority and experience to take up the post of Director of Mainland Office. In fact, there is no shortage of officers within the HKSAR Government

who are familiar with Mainland affairs. Various heads of Mainland Offices have working experiences in the Mainland. Regardless of whether HKSAR Government officials have stationed or worked in the Mainland in the past, the duties of these officials nowadays are deeply involved in dovetailing with national strategies and closely communicating with the Mainland. In addition, the Mainland Offices have employed local and experienced staff members, who work with officers from Hong Kong to provide services and support for Hong Kong businessmen in the Mainland.

3. As regards the collaboration among different organisations in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices have been closely communicating and co-operating with offices of Hong Kong organisations (such as Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Tourism Board) in the Mainland, so as to achieve synergy and jointly tell good stories of Hong Kong. The key performance indicators in relation to telling the good stories of Hong Kong as set out in the 2022 Policy Address include the target number of times that the Mainland Offices are required to attend events in the Mainland, attend speaking occasions and participate in business and trade meetings in 2024, and the said events and meetings are related to different organisations' offices in the Mainland. This indicates that the Mainland Offices will further strengthen liaison and co-operation with offices of Hong Kong organisations in the Mainland.

4. The Mainland Offices have been committed to providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, including relaying their views or requests to the relevant departments of the HKSAR Government or the Mainland authorities for follow-up. The Mainland Offices will continue with their determined efforts to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, and render appropriate and practical assistance to them where needed.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0001)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. On promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, what are the actual expenditure in the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for the coming year?
2. In regard to the Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme and the Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme, please set out the organisations under sponsorship, names of projects, amounts of sponsorship, and numbers of participants in sponsored projects (only applicable to the Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme) in the past 3 years, as well as the estimated amount of sponsorship for the coming year.
3. In each of the past 3 years, how many meetings were convened by the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and what were the attendance rates of members? Regarding the secretariat service provided by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), what are the staff establishment and expenditure in the past 3 years and for the coming year?
4. On CMAB's efforts to promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and national security education, what promotional work was undertaken in the past 3 years and what will be undertaken in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The Constitution and the Basic Law together form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), providing the strongest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government has all along attached great importance to the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law, with a view to enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)

has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner, and stepping up publicity efforts in recent years to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law.

2. In the financial years of 2020-21 and 2021-22, the actual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$12 million and \$17 million respectively. In the 2022-23 financial year, the original estimated expenditure of the CMAB for such purpose is \$26 million. In line with the promotion strategy formulated by the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS), the CMAB has allocated resources through internal deployment to launch some large-scale promotional activities. As such, the estimated actual expenditure has increased to \$32 million. As for the 2023-24 financial year, the estimated expenditure is about \$26 million. The CMAB will suitably deploy resources based on the actual circumstances to conduct the promotion work.

3. The Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme and the Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme (Sponsorship Schemes) provide sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions. With effect from February 2023, the Sponsorship Schemes have been renamed as the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme, and the scope of research sponsorship scheme has been expanded to cover research on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law.

4. The total amount of sponsorship and number of participants of the Sponsorship Schemes in the past 3 years are set out below:

Year	Amount of sponsorship (\$)	Number of participants of projects
2020-21	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$8,183,700 Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$2,319,950	About 151 900
2021-22	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$6,685,300 Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$1,323,200	About 166 300
2022-23	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$4,826,090 Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$1,304,000	About 315 800

5. Details of the sponsored projects are at [Annex](#).



6. The CBLPSC (formerly known as the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee) convened around 2 meetings in each of the past 3 years, and its 5 working groups held meetings on an ad hoc basis. The secretariat support for the CBLPSC is provided by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 officers of other ranks in the CMAB. The related emoluments are subsumed under the overall provision for the CMAB, hence, no breakdown figures are available.

7. The National Security Law is a national law listed in Annex III to the Basic Law, and is closely associated with the Constitution and the Basic Law. The CBLPSC has appropriately incorporated the content of the National Security Law into the promotional activities of the Constitution and the Basic Law, so as to enable the public to have a deeper understanding of the constitutional order of Hong Kong and enhance their awareness of national security. “Safeguarding national security is our collective responsibility” is one of the three promotion themes of the CBLPSC. The HKSAR Government will continue to make good use of the platform of the CBLPSC chaired by the CS to co-ordinate and formulate with the members strategies and plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law, and strengthen the related publicity and education work.

Details of the sponsored activity projects in the past 3 years are set out below:

**2020-21**

Name of organisation	Title of project
New Home Association New Territories West Service Center	The Prosperity of Basic Law
Wofoo Leaders' Network	Learning Basic Law through history and tour
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	「愛・在香港」－《基本法》校園推廣計劃 2020-2021*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Basic Law Promotion in Community and Schools 2020-21
Youth • Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽 2020-2021*
National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong Basic Law Multi-media Teaching and Learning kit: 2020 back and forth 30 years
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	《基本法》多面體 — 全港學生辯論賽系列 2020-21*
Ma On Shan Youth Association	第二屆基本法推廣巡迴嘉年華 — 時空解謎*
Savantas Policy Institute	Know Your Basic Law Symposium
New Home Association Kowloon West Service Center	Basic Law Promotion in Community
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children
Tin Shui Wai Women Association Limited	Let's understand the basic law together
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽 2021*
Chin Ching Association	基本法與您同行*
Toi Shan Association Primary School	“Basic Law for Children's Learning” Creative Reading Sharing Project
Hong Kong Commerce & Industry Association LTD	《中學生電台節目製作基本法》*
Starian	星星法律匯：與基本法同行*
Hong Kong New Arrivals Services Foundation Limited	《基本法》大發現*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	第五屆全港大專生《基本法》推廣計劃*

Name of organisation	Title of project
Mong Kok Yin Ngai Societies	Singing Along to Basic Law
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	善德基金會認識憲法、《國安法》、《基本法》— 與法治同行系列比賽2021*
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children (Phase 2)
National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong Basic Law Multi-media Teaching and Learning kit: 2020 back and forth 30 years
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 18 <sup>th</sup> Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
RSEFHK Maria College	《基本法》網上問答比賽*
Kowloon East Chaoren Association	齊來認識《基本法》— 推廣日、問答比賽暨頒獎禮*
Knowledge Association	Knowledge contest on the Basic Law for all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong
Hong Kong Army Cadets Association	全城攜「守」基本法*
Academy of Chinese Studies	“To ensure the smooth and long-term successful practice – ‘one country, two systems’ policy and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China” Learning and Teaching Packages
Zhongshan University Law Faculty Hong Kong Students Association Limited	Learning by Playing Basic Law Series Activity
Greater China Wisdom Charity Foundation Limited	基本法三十週年系列講座之「過去、現在、將來」*
Hong Kong Competence Education Research Institute	School Sharing Programme on Basic Law Education
Bauhinia Institute	第六屆「一國兩制」和《基本法》推廣活動*
Basic Law Foundation	紀念《基本法》頒布30周年巴士推廣*
Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong	Public Lecture Series on the Chinese Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law

\* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

**2021-22**

Name of organisation	Title of project
Kowloon City Youths Association	Light the City · Basic Law Promotion Activity
Youth · Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽2021-2022*
Hong Kong Association of Youth Development Limited	「識」法精英培訓計劃*
New Home Association Kowloon West Service Center	Let's get to know the Basic Law
Federation of Industries and Commerce in Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Charitable Foundation Ltd.	VR Adventures in Basic Law
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「考基本·尋法寶」《基本法》推廣活動*
The HKFYG Institute for Leadership Development Limited	Engaged Learning: Basic Law Education Programme
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	第一屆青年法治領航員訓練計劃*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Basic Law Promotion in Community and Schools 2021-2022
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children (Phase 3)
National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong Basic Law Multi-media Teaching and Learning kit: 2020 back and forth 30 years
Tai Po Youths Association	Tai Po District Basic Law Promotion Programme 2021
Hong Kong Young Leaders Development Association	香港青少年基本法推廣視頻創作大賽2021*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽2022*
New Home Association New Territories West Service Center	一·兩·知多點點基本法*
Zhongshan University Law Faculty Hong Kong Students Association Ltd	The 23rd online quiz competition on Basic Law & One Country Two System promotional activity
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	慶祝香港回歸25週年 — 善德基金會「一國兩制」教育計劃2022*
Hong Kong Higher Education Convergence	Project of “Children’s Book, Board Games, and Studying about the Basic Law”

Name of organisation	Title of project
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	全港小學生《基本法》校園推廣計劃 2022*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Symposium in Commemoration of the 32nd Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law of the HKSAR
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 19th Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Basic Law Foundation Limited	12月「國家憲法日」電車推廣、及4月「國家安全日」和「紀念《基本法》頒布31周年」巴士廣告推廣活動系列*
Basic Law Foundation Limited	《基本法》及法治電視教育節目項目*
Hong Kong Commerce & Industry Association Ltd	第二屆《中學生電台節目製作基本法》*
Flash Action	基本法遊走十八區*
Kowloon Federation of Associations	1st “Secure Homeland” Basic Law and NSL School Promotion Programme
Chinese History and Culture Enhancement Fund Limited	Promotion of the Basic Law Education for Children (Phase 4)
Endeavor Education Center	真識《基本法》2022*

\* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

**2022-23**

Name of organisation	Title of project
National History Education (Hong Kong) Ltd.	Learning Basic Law through Board Games
Chung Yeh Yuk Tsoi Educational Organization Company Limited	The 2nd Hong Kong Young Leaders in Law Training Scheme
Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	2022 Basic Law Speech Contest
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「考基本·尋法寶」《基本法》推廣活動2023*
Youth·Travel	「《基本法》與我」香港中小學生海報設計比賽2022-2023*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	《基本法》多面體 – 全港學生辯論賽系列2022-2023*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽2023*
Youth Chain Limited	東區「看過·聽過·走過 – 基本法」*
Ngau Tau Kok Kaifong Welfare Assn. Ltd	Basic Law and Us
Hong Kong Basic Law Foundation Limited	1 <sup>st</sup> Basic Law and NSL Tertiary Students' Promotion Programme
Hong Kong Youth Power Association	「青識」基本法*
Kowloon Federation of Associations	「國安·家好」社區推廣系列活動2023*
Hong Kong Ladies Dynamic Association	齊來認識《憲法》、《基本法》*
Basic Law Foundation Limited	4月「紀念《基本法》頒布33周年」電車廣告推廣活動系列*
Hong Kong Elderly Charitable Limited	基本法「耆」望人人識*
East Teenagers Go	保家衛國基本法*
Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Touch Base: Enhancing Basic Law awareness among youth in the community through immersive social games
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	紀念《基本法》頒布三十三周年系列活動*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 20 <sup>th</sup> Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Chin Ching Association	「始於基本 您我同心」基本法推廣計劃*
HK11 Association Limited	HK11 Law-abiding Elite Cultivate Program

\* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

Details of the sponsored research projects in the past 3 years are set out below:

**2020-21**

Research organisation	Subject of research
Hong Kong Policy Research Institute	社會事件對青少年《基本法》推廣工作的影響和建議*
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	A comparative analysis of the media reports of the implementation of One Country Two Systems and Basic Law by Mainland, UK and US
Basic Law Foundation	香港法庭案例判決和深層憲制及法理問題的研究*

\* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

**2021-22**

Research organisation	Subject of research
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	對學校、社會團體、媒體和網絡進行國家安全宣傳和教育初探*
Hong Kong Policy Research Institute	Case Studies of Junior and Senior Secondary School Basic Law Education: Lesson Preparation, Observation and Briefing

\* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

**2022-23**

Research organisation	Subject of research
Beijing Institute of Hong Kong & Macau Scholars	Quantitative Study on the Differences in the Understanding of the Rights and Obligations of the Basic Law by Different Age Groups and the Corresponding Suggestions
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	基本法實施以來的重要議題研究-25年回顧與前瞻*

\* The organisation in question only submitted the Chinese title for the project.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB054**

**(Question Serial No. 0021)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for, among others, advising bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. On advising bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, what are the specific tasks, manpower and expenditure involved?
2. On promoting public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, what are the specific tasks, manpower and expenditure involved?
3. What are the estimated expenditures on these two areas of work for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. Specific promotion strategies include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, and co-producing television and radio programmes with the Radio Television Hong Kong;
- (c) launching a large-scale promotional campaign, under which large publicity banners and posters have been unveiled and displayed in stages starting from November 2022;



- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community network.

The above work is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers in the CMAB.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The CMAB provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 working groups under the CBLPSC (namely Working Group on Local Community; Working Group on Teachers and Students; Working Group on Civil Servants; Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Working Group on Community Outside Hong Kong) are respectively assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts to the general public and related sectors.

3. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best result.

4. In the 2022-23 financial year, the original estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is \$26 million. In line with the promotion strategy formulated by the CBLPSC, the CMAB has allocated resources through internal deployment to launch some large-scale promotional activities. As such, the estimated actual expenditure has increased to \$32 million. As for the 2023-24 financial year, the estimated expenditure is about \$26 million. The CMAB will suitably deploy resources based on the actual circumstances to conduct the promotion work.

5. The CMAB has been providing advice and support to other bureaux and departments in the implementation of the Basic Law and such work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the CMAB. As such, no breakdown figures in respect of the expenditure and manpower involved are available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB055**

**(Question Serial No. 0022)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the expenditures incurred on the promotion of the Basic Law in the past 3 years?
2. How are promotional programmes on the Basic Law evaluated in terms of effectiveness?
3. What are the evaluation results in each of the past 3 years?
4. Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the current evaluation method? If yes, what are the results of assessment? If no, what are the reasons?
5. How does the Government strengthen promotion of the relationship between the Constitution of our country and the Basic Law?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Constitution and the Basic Law together form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), providing the strongest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government has all along attached great importance to the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law, with a view to enabling the public to have a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Chief Executive stated in his 2022 Policy Address that the promotion and education on the Constitution and the Basic Law should be further strengthened and taken forward proactively with a focus on three themes, namely: (1) the Constitution precedes the Basic Law, and “One Country” precedes “Two Systems”; (2) the high degree of autonomy in the HKSAR comes under the authorisation of the Central

Government; and (3) safeguarding national security is our collective responsibility. These themes aim at enhancing public understanding of the constitutional basis and order of the HKSAR which are based on the Constitution and the Basic Law, and that national security is of paramount importance to “One Country, Two Systems”. The HKSAR Government will continue to step up publicity efforts, and the specific measures include making wider use of online platforms, launching large-scale promotional campaigns, producing television programmes, and strengthening promotion targeting specific groups such as students, teachers, young people and civil servants, etc.

2. In the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23), the actual expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$12 million, \$17 million and \$32 million (estimated actual expenditure) respectively.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) and its 5 working groups (namely Working Group on Local Community; Working Group on Teachers and Students; Working Group on Civil Servants; Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Working Group on Community Outside Hong Kong) have been planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts to the general public and relevant sectors. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances in order to achieve the best result.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0023)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's work to promote national security among the public, what are the staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and total expenditure in each of the past 3 years and for the coming year? How many promotional activities on national security were sponsored in each of the 3 years, and what were the sponsored organisations, names of activities and amounts of sponsorship involved? How much has been reserved for providing sponsorship in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will continue to make good use of the platform of the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to co-ordinate and formulate with the members strategies and plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law. The HKSAR Government's promotional work on the National Security Law involves the participation of various bureaux and departments. The initiatives include: launching the National Security Law online virtual exhibition and providing mini games, as well as preparing a series of souvenirs to promote the virtual exhibition; organising the "2022 Let's Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security" Programme, which featured a slogan-cum-poster design competition and an online quiz competition; promoting national security education through youth groups of disciplined services departments; producing videos to highlight the effectiveness of the National Security Law; and taking a wide array of measures, which include providing curriculum guides, developing learning and teaching resources, offering training to teachers and organising life-wide learning activities for students, to support schools' effective planning and implementation of national security education within and beyond the classroom in a holistic and systematic manner. The expenditure incurred by various departments for the promotion of the National Security Law is absorbed by their respective overall provision, and therefore no breakdown figures in respect of the expenditure and manpower involved are available.

2. The HKSAR Government has implemented various schemes to support non-profit-making organisations in conducting promotional activities on the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security, such as the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme and the Community Participation Scheme. The HKSAR Government does not have breakdown figures on the amount of sponsorship for promotional activities on national security.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1791)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention of this Programme that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre will be set up to strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions, and promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development. According the Youth Development Blueprint, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office will provide the latest practical information for young people interested in pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to help them explore more choices and opportunities for study, employment and entrepreneurship, etc. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The details, estimated expenditure and staff establishment for setting up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre.
2. In addition to the Promotion Centre, what other publicity means are used by the Government to promote the opportunities of the Greater Bay Area development among local young people, and what is the expenditure involved?
3. Will the Government consider setting up a community promotion fund on the Greater Bay Area development, which subsidises youth groups to promote the opportunities of the Greater Bay Area at the community level adopting themes and publicity means that are appealing to Hong Kong young people? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong

of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc. The HKSAR Government is arranging the deployment of 5 staff members for the work of the Promotion Centre. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Promotion Centre is around \$6.62 million.

2. In addition, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic “Greater Bay Area Information Station” to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Office on publicity and promotion for the development of the Greater Bay Area is about \$20.7 million. The development of the Greater Bay Area has a very extensive scope, and the Office is also responsible for the overall promotion of different policy areas, so breakdown of manpower and expenditures involved in promoting individual areas is not available.

3. Apart from the aforementioned work to promote the opportunities of the Greater Bay Area development, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau of the HKSAR Government also encourages young people to join exchange and experiential activities in the Mainland (including the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area) through various funding schemes, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, and Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB058**

**(Question Serial No. 1793)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

One of the major responsibilities of Hong Kong's Mainland Offices is to provide information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The expenditure and staff establishment of the Mainland Offices on supporting Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland in the past 3 years and the current year? Are there key performance indicators for the work on supporting these students?
2. The numbers and details of requests for assistance from Hong Kong students and young people in the Mainland in the past 3 years, and the numbers of cases referred to the Mainland authorities for follow-up actions.
3. The numbers, types, numbers of participants and effectiveness of the activities organised by the Mainland Offices for Hong Kong students and young people in the Mainland in the past 3 years.
4. The expenditure on supporting and sponsoring activities organised by student or youth groups of Hong Kong people in the Mainland in the past 3 years and the current year, as well as the numbers and types of activities, numbers of participants, methods of providing support and sponsorship, and the average amount of sponsorship.
5. Given the increasing number of Hong Kong young people studying, working or starting up business in the Mainland, what measures are in place to strengthen communication and liaison with these young people?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government have been striving to maintain close communication and liaison with Hong Kong



people and their associations in the Mainland, including students, youth groups, etc., so as to understand the situations of Hong Kong people learning, working and living in the Mainland, and provide appropriate assistance to them as required. Apart from releasing information on further studies, employment and daily life matters, the Mainland Offices will also from time to time organise career talks and visits to enterprises, as well as co-ordinate with Hong Kong enterprises and Mainland institutions and enterprises to provide internship positions to Hong Kong students and young people, with a view to facilitating them to accumulate work experience and plan their career development.

2. In addition to organising various activities with Hong Kong student and youth groups in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices will also offer support and sponsorship to the activities organised by them, such as annual dinners and orientation activities for universities, as appropriate. The Mainland Offices will also arrange different activities for Hong Kong students and young people to enhance their understanding on the situation of the country, develop a greater affection for the country, and allow them to better grasp the opportunities brought about by the country's development.

3. As supporting Hong Kong students and young people in the Mainland is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure and manpower involved as well as the number of activities have not been singled out and itemised. Regarding the requests for assistance, as the Mainland Offices compile relevant statistics by the nature of cases, the breakdown of the statistics on requests for assistance from Hong Kong students and young people in the Mainland is not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB059**

**(Question Serial No. 1009)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Mainland Offices are responsible for, among others, encouraging and attracting investors to Hong Kong, and promoting Hong Kong's advantages as an investment and business centre in Asia. In addition, Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 include strengthening communication with the Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland, and providing better support to the Hong Kong businessmen by obtaining and disseminating information on policy and legislation relating to commerce and trade and the latest economic developments.

In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The manpower and expenditure for the above work on promoting Hong Kong and supporting Hong Kong businessmen in 2023-24.
2. The business and trade activities in the Mainland were seriously affected by the epidemic in the past 3 years. What are the details of support provided by the Mainland Offices for Hong Kong businessmen, and what is the effectiveness?
3. How effective was the work undertaken by the Mainland Offices to encourage and attract investors to Hong Kong in the past 3 years? Please provide the number of companies and/or investors to Hong Kong, and the total amount of investment in Hong Kong.
4. The Government's Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) came into operation on 23 December 2022. To dovetail with the work of OASES, Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents are set up in the Mainland and overseas offices to proactively reach out to target enterprises. Will Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents of the Mainland Offices take enhancement measures in 2023-24 to attract investors and enterprises to Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government have been proactively serving as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including enhancing communication and liaison with counterparts in the Mainland; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong as a desirable platform to expand business along the Belt and Road; promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; gathering relevant information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional developments; and disseminating such information to the Hong Kong business sector through various channels by, amongst others, giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings, issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases, etc. During the epidemic, the Mainland Offices continued to collect views of Hong Kong people and businessmen, including the operating difficulties encountered, and help them relay views to or seek assistance from relevant Mainland authorities. The Mainland Offices evaluate the effectiveness of such work from time to time, and the related activities generally receive a positive response from participants.

2. Another main function of the Mainland Offices is organising various activities to promote Hong Kong's advantages, particularly the advantages of the positioning of Hong Kong's eight centres under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. After the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland in February 2023, the HKSAR Government has launched the large-scale promotional campaign "Hello Hong Kong", and the Mainland Offices have actively offered support and co-operate with the relevant work to attract more Mainland visitors to Hong Kong. In addition, the Mainland Offices continue to work closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). The HKTDC conducts thematic studies on the investment environment in the Mainland. The related reports are available online on HKTDC's website and the websites of the Mainland Offices for easy access by the business sector and the public. As the above work is an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, the provision required cannot be singled out and itemised.

3. During the epidemic in the past 3 years, InvestHK and the Mainland Offices continued to, through different forms of online and offline investment promotion activities, including meetings with clients, investment promotion visits, fora, seminars and round-table meetings, promote Hong Kong's business advantages and Hong Kong as an ideal platform for Mainland enterprises to "go global", and actively assist Mainland potential investors in setting up or expanding business in Hong Kong. The number of Mainland investment promotion projects completed by InvestHK between 2020 and 2022 and the amount of investment involved are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projects completed</b>	<b>Amount of investment (HK\$ million)</b>
2022	82	13,614
2021	73	18,839
2020	67	9,933

4. Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in the Mainland Offices will provide support to the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) under the Financial Secretary by proactively reaching out to target and strategic enterprises in the Mainland, and conducting initial negotiation and liaison work. Besides, when Principal Officials of the HKSAR Government visit the Mainland, the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents will arrange for them visits and exchanges with target and strategic enterprises so as to grasp these enterprises' intention and plan to invest in Hong Kong, and relevant information will be passed to OASES in a timely manner for follow-up actions. Having regard to the needs and requests of OASES, the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents will undertake studies on individual strategic industries and enterprises, and in line with the Government's targets for business and talent attraction, actively assist target and strategic enterprises in implementing their plan to set up or expand business in Hong Kong through corporate visits, business discussions and promotional activities. In 2023-24, the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents will continue to actively implement their relevant work according to the Government's ever-refining policy measures on attracting businesses, investment and talents.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB060**

**(Question Serial No. 1010)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The performance indicators for the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) include customer satisfaction, and the survey of which is conducted on a biennial basis. In 2021, the percentage of the parties involved in complaints who were satisfied with the services provided to them by the EOC was 62%. The estimated satisfaction level for 2023 is still set at 62%.

In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Government reviewed why the satisfaction level in 2021 is relatively low, and whether it is scientific and reasonable to set the estimated satisfaction level for 2023 at 62%?
2. Will the EOC roll out measures to enhance service quality in 2023-24? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. It is mentioned under Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision for Programme (5) that the provision for 2023-24 is \$3.6 million (1.6%) lower than the revised estimate for the previous year, and this is mainly due to the cessation of some time-limited subvention to the EOC. What are the details of such subvention? Has assessment been made on whether the cessation of such subvention would affect the services of the EOC?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has commissioned external consultants to conduct surveys on a biennial basis to gather feedback on efficiency and effectiveness of its complaint handling and enquiry services since 2016. In 2021, 62% of the parties involved in complaints were satisfied with the services provided by the EOC in the preceding year.

2. According to the analysis by the external consultant undertaking the subject satisfaction survey, a survey on public services of this kind was susceptible to social sentiments. As this survey covered service users' satisfaction on EOC's complaint handling and enquiry services in 2020, the parties involved in complaints might be affected by the social movement and the epidemic, resulting in a lower satisfaction level as compared to that in 2019. Nevertheless, the external consultant indicated that the EOC had fared well when compared to the same kind of overseas organisations as evidenced in similar surveys. Taking into account the external consultant's analysis, the parties involved in complaints may still be adversely affected by post-epidemic sentiments. The EOC has thus conservatively estimated that satisfaction level will remain at 62% for 2023.

3. For continuous service improvement, the EOC would introduce corresponding measures to enhance the satisfaction of service users based on the findings of each survey. Based on the findings of the 2021 survey and having regard to the needs of staff of the Complaint Services Division (CSD), the EOC has arranged the staff concerned to attend workshops on enhancing complaint handling and communication skills, and sponsored them to enrol in conciliation training courses. Furthermore, a dedicated team responsible for processing enquiry and the preparatory work of complaints handling under CSD has further streamlined the complaints handling procedures with a view to handling enquiries and complaints more efficiently.

4. The cessation of some time-limited subvention to the EOC as mentioned under Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision for Programme (5) refers to the Government's provision of a time-limited funding of \$1.5 million to the EOC each year for 3 years starting from 2020-21 to support the EOC's staff cost for enhanced training on racial inclusion, which will cease at the end of 2022-23. Nevertheless, the Government has not reduced its support for the EOC. In 2022-23, the Government disbursed to the EOC an additional one-off funding of \$7.77 million to continue to meet the staff costs for the aforementioned enhanced training on racial inclusion and for organising publicity schemes relating to equal opportunities in the coming 3 years. In other words, in addition to other funding allocations in 2022-23, the EOC was given the aforementioned \$1.5 million time limited funding and the one-off funding of \$7.77 million for 3 years (totaling \$9.27 million). This sum will not be provided in the 2023-24 estimate. On the other hand, the Government will provide a one-off funding of around \$0.64 million to the EOC for replacement of an official vehicle in 2023-24; and increase the provision to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data by around \$5 million. Therefore, by reducing \$9.27 million while increasing \$5.64 million (\$0.64 million + \$5 million = \$5.64 million) in the allocations, the provision for Programme (5) in 2023-24 is around \$3.6 million lower than that in the preceding year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB061**

**(Question Serial No. 0064)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s main responsibilities under this Programme are to, among others, "promote and co-ordinate co-operation and liaison with the Mainland, Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan, and advise bureaux and departments on related matters as necessary". Please advise this Committee of CMAB's work to promote and co-ordinate co-operation and liaison with Taiwan in 2022-23 and the expenditure involved. Please also set out the specific work plan, estimated expenditure and timetable for the coming year.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been offering advice to policy bureaux and departments on the handling of matters related to Taiwan. Besides, while the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei has temporarily suspended operation with effect from May 2021, Hong Kong and Taiwan would maintain communication on a case-by-case basis when necessary. For example, when Hong Kong people are in distress in Taiwan, both sides would liaise at the working level to provide appropriate assistance for the Hong Kong people in distress and their families. As the relevant work is an integral part of the work of the CMAB, the provision required cannot be singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3024)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Hong Kong National Security Law was officially promulgated for implementation on 30 June 2020 to restore stability and order in Hong Kong. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's responsibilities are to, among others, promote public understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and conduct elections in accordance with the Basic Law and the decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Would the Government provide information on the following:

1. What work was undertaken by the Government to publicise, explain or promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Improving Electoral System Ordinance in the past year? Please provide details in tabular form, including the statistics on the use of social media platforms such as facebook, Twitter and Instagram. What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved? What is the number of people reached out? Is the Government certain that such promotional work could effectively generate publicity among young people?
2. Will additional resources be allocated in future to publicise or continuously promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Improving Electoral System Ordinance on social media platforms, so as to enhance young people's understanding of the above initiatives? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. What are the establishment and ranks of staff dedicated to the promotion and education of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and what is the estimated expenditure involved?
4. What are the specific targets and details of the work? Apart from producing publications, displaying publicity banners and broadcasting Announcements in the Public Interest on television, what other measures are taken to equip the public with an accurate understanding of important constitutional documents and political systems (including the arrangements for improving the electoral system)?



5. Further to the question above, how many target groups are identified by the Government for its publicity work, e.g. members of the public, civil servants, university students, secondary school students, business associations, and expatriates working in Hong Kong? How does the Government assess if the target groups have acquired an accurate understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law?
6. On the promotion and education of the Constitution and the Basic Law, what is the division of work between the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and other bureaux, such as Chief Secretary and Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Secretary and Under Secretary for Education, and Secretary and Under Secretary for Security? How effective collaboration across bureaux is achieved to reach the targets of the promotional work?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

Having consulted the relevant bureaux and departments, the consolidated reply to the question is as follows:

Overall Strategy for Promotion of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews the implementation of promotional programmes by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) provides secretariat support to the CBLPSC. The 5 working groups under the CBLPSC (namely Working Group on Local Community; Working Group on Teachers and Students; Working Group on Civil Servants; Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Working Group on Community Outside Hong Kong) are respectively assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law on various fronts to the general public and relevant sectors.

3. The CBLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities from time to time through evaluating their popularity and efficacy based on the number and feedback of participants, and give due regard to the development and trend of promotional media and information technology with a view to optimising the promotion strategy. Relevant Directors of Bureaux have joined the CBLPSC as members to offer advice and necessary support for the purpose of effectively promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law. We will continue to make good use of the platform of the CBLPSC and keep a close eye on the effectiveness of various promotional activities, and adjust the promotion strategy as appropriate having regard to the actual circumstances to achieve the maximum promotional effectiveness.

## Promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law

4. Regarding the specific promotion work, the CMAB has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. The relevant promotion work is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers in the CMAB. The related emoluments are subsumed under the overall provision for the CMAB, hence, no breakdown figures are available. Regarding the expenditure for promotion, the original estimated expenditure of the CMAB in the 2022-23 financial year is \$26 million. In line with the expanded promotion strategy formulated by the CBLPSC, the CMAB has allocated resources through internal deployment to launch some large-scale promotional activities. As such, the estimated actual expenditure has increased to \$32 million. As for 2023-24, the estimated expenditure is about \$26 million. The CMAB will suitably deploy resources based on the actual circumstances to conduct the promotion work.

5. The strategies adopted by the CMAB to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, and co-producing television and radio programmes with the Radio Television Hong Kong;
- (c) launching a large-scale promotional campaign, under which large publicity banners and posters have been unveiled and displayed in stages starting from November 2022;
- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law by the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community network.

## Promotion of the National Security Law

6. On the promotion work of the National Security Law, since the promulgation for implementation of the National Security Law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has introduced the National Security Law to different people through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets and compendium of articles, issuing press releases, placing newspaper advertisements, and officials taking part in interviews on television, radio and other media,

and organising/attending seminars (including webinars), etc.), as well as through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, and has responded to concerns raised.

7. In addition, the HKSAR Government first launched the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition” in July 2021 covering the importance of the National Security Law, the legal regime, enforcement mechanisms, major provisions and effectiveness, plus introduction of the work of the disciplined forces in safeguarding national security; mini games were also provided. As at 6 March 2023, the online virtual exhibition recorded over 390 000 visits. The Security Bureau (SB) updated the content of the online virtual exhibition in July 2022, thereby enriching the substance of the exhibition. The SB has also prepared a series of souvenirs for distribution to bureaux/departments, schools and youth uniformed groups of disciplined services departments, with a view to promoting the online virtual exhibition mentioned above.

8. The SB and the EDB jointly organised the “2022 Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme to encourage participation of teachers and students from all schools in the slogan-cum-poster design competition and the online quiz competition. The award presentation ceremony for the programme was held in late July 2022 to commend the winning schools and students, and the winning entries of the slogan-cum-poster design competition were uploaded to the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”.

9. Through their youth groups, the disciplined services departments under the SB have all along helped youths cultivate good character, positive thinking and law-abiding awareness, facilitated their understanding of national development, and enhanced their sense of national identity. The disciplined services departments will also continue their efforts in taking forward national security education for members of the youth groups, with a view to raising the awareness of national security among youngsters.

10. Furthermore, the HKSAR Government has produced Announcements in the Public Interest for broadcasting on television and radio, as well as at government buildings, online platforms and webinars, to highlight the effectiveness of the National Security Law in stopping chaos and restoring order in Hong Kong, and in ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

11. On another front, the HKSAR Government has been adopting a “multi-pronged and co-ordinated” approach and taking a wide array of measures, which include providing curriculum guides, developing learning and teaching resources, offering training to teachers, organising life-wide learning activities for students, etc., to support schools’ effective planning and implementation of national security education within and beyond the classroom in a holistic and systematic manner, with a view to enabling teachers and students to better understand the importance of national security and develop an awareness of and a sense of responsibility for safeguarding national security.

12. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to allocate resources for its promotional work on the National Security Law through different channels, including online channels, so as to raise the national security and law-abiding awareness of Hong Kong residents, especially our youths. Major measures in 2023 include: to enhance the national security awareness of about 10 000 members of youth uniformed groups of disciplined

services departments; continue to enhance the content of the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”; continue to take forward the “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme; and deepen the understanding of the international community of the National Security Law and its positive messages. In respect of foreign politicians’ and media’s smearing, false statements and reports, the Chief Executive, Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux will continue to make prompt refutations and clarifications. Furthermore, apart from enhancing the publicity of the National Security Law overseas, the overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices closely monitor commentaries from foreign politicians and media, and will continue to refute smearing and false statements. Any external or internal destructive force and political conspiracy trying to interfere with the HKSAR’s determination to safeguard national security in accordance with the law will not succeed.

### Promotion of the Improved Electoral System

13. The HKSAR Government has spared no effort to explain to the people from all walks of life the necessity and urgency of improving the electoral system as well as the advancement and superiority of the new electoral system. In regard to staff establishment, the relevant work is undertaken by a team of 2 Principal Assistant Secretaries and 7 supporting officers in the CMAB, and the resources required are subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the CMAB.

14. On publicity work, the CMAB has allocated over \$16 million since March 2021 to, via various channels and publicity means, explain to different sectors of the community the advancement and superiority of the said electoral system, and how the system will ensure the faithful implementation of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, so that the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” can be steadfastly and successfully implemented, and hence enable Hong Kong to achieve good governance as well as long-term stability and safety. The HKSAR Government has distributed more than 100 000 pamphlets, which aims to explain to the public the background and justifications of the improved electoral system and the content of Annexes I and II to the Basic Law. Furthermore, a thematic website on improving the electoral system has been launched, on which simple language and images are used to explain the salient points and principles of the Decision of the National People’s Congress on Improving the Electoral System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region made by the National People’s Congress on 11 March 2021, the main content of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021, the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive, the constitution of Election Committee and the formation of Legislative Council, the candidate eligibility review mechanism, the registration arrangements for voters and ex-officio members, etc. Besides, we have also placed advertisements at the exterior of government buildings and prominent locations in different districts, and through the media and online platforms, etc., with a view to enhancing public’s understanding of the improvements to the electoral system.

15. The CMAB has earmarked around \$10 million to continue publicising and promoting the new electoral system in the 2023-24 financial year. For example, a series of educational videos will be produced for broadcast on television channels as well as digital and social media platforms, and such videos will be provided to schools and district organisations for publicity and education purposes. In addition, the CMAB will upload the latest publicity materials and information to the thematic website on improving the electoral system for easy reference of the public.

## Overall Expenditure and Staff Establishment Involved in the Promotional Work

16. Apart from the circumstances provided above, the HKSAR Government's promotional work on various fronts mentioned above involves various bureaux and departments. The expenditure and staff establishment involved are absorbed by the overall provision of the respective bureaux and departments, and therefore no breakdown figures are available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3030)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Hong Kong Smart City Blueprint 2.0 has proposed to build a “Smart Hong Kong” with innovation and technology. In addition, as mentioned in the Policy Address last year, the Government endeavours to improve the quality of life of the people through a series of measures, including turning government services online and promoting fuller use of “iAM Smart” as the platform for one-stop digital services. In this connection, what plans does the Government have to take forward the adoption of “iAM Smart” in government services? For example, will it study the possibility of allowing citizens to register as electors via “iAM Smart” or, to extend the application broader and deeper, allowing Hong Kong people to cast their votes in statutory elections via “iAM Smart”?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Government has examined the wider application of information technology at various workflows and processes of a public election, such as voter registration (VR), polling and counting in the past. In fact, a number of information technology initiatives were introduced in the 4 elections conducted after improving the electoral system in 2021 (including the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, 2021 Legislative Council General Election, 2022 Chief Executive Election and 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election), involving the extensive application of the electronic poll register system for issuing ballot papers, the use of an optical mark recognition system to facilitate vote counting, etc.

2. Regarding VR, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is working closely with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to actively extend the use of “iAM Smart” to VR service, i.e. enabling “iAM Smart” users to use the authentication, “e-Me” form filling and digital signing functions to submit online applications for new registration/report on change of particulars by an elector in a geographical constituency, so as to offer greater convenience to the public. Subject to the progress in system development, the REO plans

to conduct a trial at some of the VR counters/roving registration counters during this year's VR campaign to gather operational experience for improving the system and processes, with a view to formally launching the service in the VR campaign in the following year.

3. In respect of electronic voting, although electronic voting can, in theory, enhance efficiency, reduce the manpower required and mitigate the risk of human error, a lot of complicated issues are also involved at the same time, such as how to effectively verify electors' identity, monitor the autonomy and secrecy of voting, and ensure system security and stability, etc. To ensure that public elections are conducted safely and efficiently in a fair, just and open manner, the Government will continue examining various proposals, so as to improve electoral related arrangements constantly.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB064**

**(Question Serial No. 1586)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau mentions under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that it will “set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre to strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions, and promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area”. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The estimated and actual expenditures on publicising and promoting the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the past 3 years? What are the work progress and actual efficacy?
2. What are the specific work details and timetable for setting up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre? What are the estimated expenditure and expenditure items? What is the expected efficacy? Will key performance indicators be introduced to assess the performance of the Promotion Centre?
3. With which sectors, organisations and institutions will the Promotion Centre collaborate? What are the details?
4. In 2023-24, how will the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office promote Hong Kong's strengths in financial and legal services etc. to support local sectors and enterprises in grasping development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:



The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the "Steering Group on Integration into National Development" (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. In addition, the Office will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic "Greater Bay Area Information Station" to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about.

6. The expenditures of the Office on publicity and promotion for the development of the Greater Bay Area in the past 3 years are provided below:

Year	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
2020-21	18	27.7
2021-22	21	20.0
2022-23	34	33.6

7. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc. The HKSAR Government is arranging the deployment of 5 staff members for the work of the Promotion Centre. For 2023-24, the estimated expenditure of the Promotion Centre is around \$6.62 million.

8. As regards key performance indicators, as stated in the 2022 Policy Address, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau plans to organise and participate in promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than 8 000 persons; and reach out to no less than 1 000 entrepreneurs and representatives of business firms in 2023.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB065**

**(Question Serial No. 1587)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau mentions under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that it will “promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland, especially the distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world”. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Are there specific plans or proposals for further strengthening economic and trade liaison with and enhancing the investment promotion function in the Mainland, particularly for resuming normal travel of people to restart economic activities after the epidemic? If yes, what are the details, timetables and expenditures involved? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Please set out, by province in the Mainland, the (i) gender, (ii) age group, (iii) occupation of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, as well as the (iv) number of those engaging in economic activities in the past 3 years.
3. Will the survey on “Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province” be further deepened and extended to cover all provinces of the country so that the Government could grasp the distribution, number and occupation etc. of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Are there plans to conduct regular surveys on Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland to grasp their actual needs, and in line with the work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland, to formulate specific complementary measures that are more appropriate and tailor-made to further support them in expanding business and meet their needs? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

One of the key functions of the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is to promote the advantages and opportunities of Hong Kong. To this end, the Mainland Offices have from time to time organised various activities to promote the advantages of Hong Kong, in particular those brought by the “eight centres” positioning under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. After the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland in February 2023, the large-scale promotional campaign “Hello Hong Kong” has been launched by the HKSAR Government, and the Mainland Offices have actively offered support to attract more Mainland visitors to Hong Kong. For the Mainland Offices, organising related activities is also an important means to establish networks. Upon conclusion of the activities, these Offices will maintain liaison with the participating enterprises and organisations, and follow up related work as appropriate, including work related to attracting enterprises and investment.

2. According to the Census and Statistics Department’s (C&SD) estimation, the number of Hong Kong residents usually staying in Guangdong Province in the past 3 years by gender and age group is set out at Annex. Since the relevant statistical estimates do not provide a breakdown by occupation and by participation in economic activities, the relevant figures are not available. Besides, as the scope of the estimates is limited to Guangdong Province only, there are no estimated figures for various provinces in the country. The HKSAR Government will continue to monitor the living and development situations and needs of the Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, and consider in due course collecting and producing other data for policy research, having regard to the actual circumstances and needs.

3. At present, the Mainland Offices maintain close liaison with associations, chambers, enterprises and student groups of Hong Kong people in the area to understand the situations of Hong Kong people working, studying and living in the area, and provide appropriate assistance as required including conveying their views and requests to the Mainland authorities. We will also look into appropriate policy measures based on the living and development needs of Hong Kong people in the area and discuss with the Mainland authorities to strive for implementation of the measures, so as to facilitate the living and development of Hong Kong people in the area. The Mainland Offices will also, in collaboration with associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland, organise various activities such as trade seminars to support Hong Kong people and businessmen, and offer support and sponsorship to the activities organised by those associations (such as annual dinners, seminars and orientation activities for universities) as appropriate. In addition, to support Hong Kong people in the area, the Mainland Offices will collect practical information on medical care, business, employment, education and legal services, etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets, including electronic versions provided on the Mainland Offices’ websites, to assist Hong Kong people to better adapt to local life. In 2023-24, the Mainland Offices will continue to strengthen the above work.

**Statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province  
from 2019 to 2021 disaggregated by sex and age group**

Reference time-point	Sex	Age group					Total
		0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
<b>End-2019</b>	Male	110 200	16 200	43 000	87 100	54 900	311 400
	Female	94 700	14 100	33 600	50 200	34 100	226 600
	Sub-total	204 900	30 300	76 500	137 300	89 000	538 000
<b>End-2020</b>	Male	108 000	21 700	45 400	83 300	56 100	314 500
	Female	91 800	20 100	37 900	57 800	35 800	243 300
	Sub-total	199 800	41 700	83 400	141 100	91 800	557 900
<b>End-2021</b>	Male	98 500	25 000	43 600	72 200	52 300	291 600
	Female	83 700	23 200	37 200	54 700	32 900	231 700
	Sub-total	182 300	48 200	80 800	126 900	85 100	523 300

Note:

For a specific reference time-point, the figures above refer to the number of Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above during the 1-year period from 6 months before the reference time-point to 6 months after the reference time-point. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding. Statistics of 2022 are still under compilation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB066**

**(Question Serial No. 1588)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the functions of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The numbers and types/details of requests for assistance received by each Mainland Office of the HKSAR Government in the past 3 years.
2. The Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government have facilitated the application for and collection of HKSAR travel documents by Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. Please provide, for each Mainland Office of the HKSAR Government, the latest total number of HKSAR travel documents processed, and the number of applications for (i) HKSAR Passport, (ii) Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and (iii) Re-entry Permit.
3. The staff establishment and estimated expenditure of each Mainland Office of the HKSAR Government for 2023-24, with a breakdown of the expenditure involved.
4. The details of support services provided by each Mainland Office of the HKSAR Government for Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland.
5. Are there specific plans to enhance the services of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government or deliver additional services to provide more appropriate support for Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
Beijing Office	2020	54	44
	2021	32	22
	2022	32	21
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2020	410	90
	2021	468	87
	2022	595	134
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2020	63	17
	2021	34	5
	2022	268	3
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2020	70	20
	2021	24	6
	2022	185	2
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2020	2 622	6
	2021	23	13
	2022	20	17

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above cases having regard to the actual circumstances.

2. The numbers of applications for HKSAR travel documents received by and the numbers of HKSAR travel documents issued by the Mainland Offices in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Office	Year	HKSAR Passport		Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and Re-entry Permit	
		Number of applications received	Number of passports issued	Number of applications received	Number of documents issued
Beijing Office	2020	677	595	-	-
	2021	1 417	1 414	13	6
	2022	619	1 708	112	67
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	2020	1 436	1 098	-	-
	2021	4 529	4 007	222	75
	2022	2 275	7 611	5 111	1 249

Office	Year	HKSAR Passport		Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and Re-entry Permit	
		Number of applications received	Number of passports issued	Number of applications received	Number of documents issued
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	2020	1 392	1 271	-	-
	2021	2 850	2 594	54	19
	2022	2 079	3 648	309	134
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	2020	82	77	-	-
	2021	199	178	8	2
	2022	262	425	161	27
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	2020	57	52	-	-
	2021	173	167	11	2
	2022	132	433	128	33

Note: The replacement services for Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and Re-entry Permit of the Mainland Offices commenced on 29 September 2021 and 29 November 2021 respectively.

As facilitating Hong Kong residents' application for and collection of HKSAR travel documents in the Mainland is an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, the provision required cannot be singled out and itemised.

3. The staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government in 2023-24 are set out in the table below:

Office	Staff establishment	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	22	88.69
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	82.60
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	70.17
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	52.39
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	51.07

4. Currently, the Mainland Offices maintain close liaison with associations, chambers of commerce, enterprises and student groups of Hong Kong people in the Mainland, so as to



understand their situations on working, learning and living in the Mainland, and provide appropriate assistance to them where needed. Besides, the Mainland Offices also, in collaboration with associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland, organise various activities such as trade seminars to support Hong Kong people and businessmen, and offer support and sponsorship to the activities organised by those associations (such as annual dinners, seminars and orientation activities for universities) as appropriate. In addition, to support Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, the Mainland Offices also collect practical information on medical care, business, employment, education, legal services, etc. and prepare booklets for Hong Kong residents living in the area, with electronic versions available on the Offices' websites, to assist Hong Kong residents to better adapt to living in the area. At present, the Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Jinan, Qingdao, Ningbo, Hefei, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou etc. In 2023-24, the Mainland Offices will continue to step up the implementation of above work.

5. The HKSAR Government will review the functions and service scope of the Mainland Offices from time to time, and will keep on enhancing and improving the work and service of the Mainland Offices according to the actual circumstances and needs, in order to provide the most appropriate assistance and services to the citizens and enterprises.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1853)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 of this Programme that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office; and support the Steering Group on Integration into National Development chaired by the Chief Executive to actively dovetail with the national strategies including the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Greater Bay Area development, and strengthen regional co-operation with the Mainland. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Are there policies, measures and activities for strengthening the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the year? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Are there plans and policies that support the Steering Group on Integration into National Development to promote HKSAR's integration into overall national development in the following 4 major areas: dovetailing with the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Greater Bay Area development; work plans and priorities for fostering a greater flow of people, goods, capital and information within the Greater Bay Area; strengthening regional co-operation mechanisms with Mainland provinces and municipalities; and promoting high-quality development of co-operation between Hong Kong and the Belt and Road countries in trade and commerce, professional services and cultural exchanges? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the “Steering Group on Integration into National Development” (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, as well as formulates strategic plans for Hong Kong to dovetail with key national strategies including the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) and the Belt and Road Initiative, and to strengthen the co-operation with Mainland provinces and municipalities. The Steering Group has two main objectives: the first is strengthening leadership capability as the Chairman and the 3 deputies together form a “1+3” leadership at the top-level; the second is strengthening overall co-ordination and steering the implementation of relevant work for integration into national development.

2. At the end of last year and in March this year, the Chief Executive convened two plenary meetings of the Steering Group to discuss the key initiatives and targets for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to proactively integrate into national development in future. Various concrete work items on the positioning of the eight centres of the HKSAR under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the development of the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative etc. have been worked out and carefully reviewed, and they have been prioritised in order of importance, and the concrete work plan for the year formulated, by adhering to the principles of being proactive and pragmatic, achieving mutual benefits, and benefitting the economic development of Hong Kong etc.

3. As regards the work to take forward the Greater Bay Area development, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong

Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

6. In addition, the Office will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic “Greater Bay Area Information Station” to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB068**

**(Question Serial No. 1854)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the major responsibilities of the Mainland Offices are to enhance liaison and communication with the Central People's Government (CPG), the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland, and promote the strengths of Hong Kong to the Mainland provinces, regions and municipalities. In regard to implementing General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions and spirit of the 20th National Congress, strengthening co-operation between Hong Kong and the CPG and other authorities, and expediting the development of provinces, regions and municipalities, including collaboration in promoting the development of innovation and technology, industries, commerce and economy, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Mainland Offices draw up plans to strengthen co-operation between the HKSAR Government and the CPG, the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Many international enterprises, academic institutions, research and development institutes, etc., in Hong Kong wish to enhance liaison and communication with the CPG and the Mainland provinces, regions and municipalities. Will the Mainland Offices strengthen work in this regard? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. To strengthen co-operation between Hong Kong and relevant Mainland institutions, and expedite the development of provinces, regions and municipalities, including collaboration in promoting the development of innovation and technology, industries, commerce and economy, will the Government and relevant bureaux study how to help research and development centres under the HKSAR Government, such as the 5 research and development centres under the Innovation and Technology Commission, i.e. Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, Automotive Platforms and Application Systems R&D Centre, Hong Kong Applied Science and

Technology Research Institute, Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre, and Nano and Advanced Materials Institute, to set up branches or bases in the Greater Bay Area and other provinces and municipalities to facilitate mutual co-operation and achieve the synergy effect? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.:3)

Reply:

At present, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) have established regional co-operation mechanisms with various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Shenzhen, Fujian, Sichuan, Hubei and the Pan-Pearl River Delta region, so as to comprehensively deepen co-operation with these places in areas of finance, business and trade, transport, healthcare, infrastructure, education, innovation and technology, training, etc.

2. In addition to the co-operation mechanisms mentioned above, the HKSAR Government will continue to deepen co-operation with other provinces and municipalities in the Mainland; explore more co-operation platforms; actively integrate into the national development; leverage Hong Kong's advantages and capitalise on Hong Kong's strengths to serve the country's needs. At the same time, we will continue to enhance and create development momentum and space for Hong Kong, thereby achieving complementary advantages and mutual benefits.

3. Since the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland in February this year, the Chief Executive and the Principal Officials of the HKSAR Government have actively visited various provinces and municipalities in the Mainland for high-level visits and exchanges, hosting and attending bilateral and multilateral co-operation meetings with provinces and municipalities in the Mainland, and participating in meetings and activities organised by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (Mainland Offices) and the relevant Mainland organisations in areas of business and trade, culture, art, tourism, sports, etc., so as to strengthen the co-operation with the Mainland comprehensively.

4. The Mainland Offices and relevant organisations will promote Hong Kong's advantages through diversified activities. For example, the Mainland Offices will encourage and support representatives of different professions and sectors to visit the Mainland, telling good stories of Hong Kong in the Mainland. Besides, the Mainland Offices will offer appropriate assistance to organisations from different sectors in Hong Kong, such as research and development institutes and universities, to explore room for co-operation with the Mainland, such as setting up offices or campuses in the Mainland.

5. The Mainland Offices will continue to play the bridging role, to organise visits to Mainland authorities and bodies, to attend speaking occasions, to conduct media interviews and briefings, as well as to participate in business and trade meetings, etc. They will also make good use of the online and offline platforms, including mass media platforms such as digital and multimedia, television, radio, newspapers, etc. These platforms will be used for disseminating information, short videos, interview programmes, etc., for promoting Hong Kong's advantages and opportunities in the Mainland.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1855)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitution and the Basic Law together form the constitutional basis of the HKSAR, providing the strongest and firmest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. To ensure the full and accurate implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”, and the robustness of “One Country, Two Systems”, we must strictly adhere to the Constitution and the Basic Law. As such, it is imperative to continue strengthening publicity and public education on the Constitution and the Basic Law, so as to enable the public to have a correct understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law.

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to, among others, advise bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Are there policies and plans to advise bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promote civil servants' correct understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law in the year? If yes, what are the details, manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Are there policies and plans to promote the public's correct understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law in the year? If yes, what are the details, manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

For the implementation of the Basic Law related matters, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) has been providing advice and support to other bureaux and departments. The related work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the

CMAB. As such, no breakdown figures in respect of the expenditure and manpower involved are available.

2. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) attaches great importance to ensuring civil servants' accurate understanding of the constitutional order of the HKSAR and national security. The Civil Service College (CSC) under the Civil Service Bureau has in recent years continued to strengthen civil service training on the constitutional order and safeguarding national security by organising regular training programmes and thematic seminars, as well as developing more e-learning resources. The CSC has established a systematic training framework and designated training programmes for mandatory attendance by officers of different levels. Arrangements of induction training for new recruits have been updated in July 2022. All new recruits are required to complete within the probationary period a foundation training programme. The contents cover understanding "One Country, Two Systems", the Constitution, the Basic Law, the National Security Law, as well as the country's system and major policies. Non-completion will render the officers concerned not being able to be confirmed to the permanent establishment. Officers of degree or professional grades are also required to take part in advanced training upon confirmation to the permanent establishment, so as to deepen their understanding of the constitutional order of the HKSAR, and enhance their awareness in safeguarding national security. Non-completion will adversely affect the promotion prospects of the officers concerned. In view of the resumption of cross border travel with the Mainland, the CSC will gradually resume arranging middle and senior-level civil servants to attend national studies training programmes, thematic visits and staff exchange programmes on the Mainland. In 2023, the CSC will launch 2 training initiatives, which include (i) working with the Institute for Hong Kong and Macau Studies, Peking University to design an in-depth training programme on "One Country, Two Systems" and the contemporary China for directorate officers, and (ii) launching a dedicated series of seminars on the theme of "Holistic View of National Security" to foster civil servants' understanding of the challenges Hong Kong faces in safeguarding national security in the complex international environment and the responsibilities civil servants should shoulder in safeguarding national security. Since such training is part and parcel of the day-to-day operation of the CSC, hence, no breakdown figures on the manpower and expenses involved in the provision of such training are available.

3. The CMAB has been carrying out promotion and publicity work through different means and in a diversified manner to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. Specific promotion strategies include:

- (a) organising thematic seminars;
- (b) using electronic media to promote widely to different strata of the society by various means, e.g. posting advertisements on social media for promotion of the videos on the Constitution and the Basic Law, designing online games, and co-producing television and radio programmes with the Radio Television Hong Kong;
- (c) launching a large-scale promotional campaign, under which large publicity banners and posters have been unveiled and displayed in stages starting from November 2022;



- (d) enhancing awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law of the general public and students through promotional activities at the district level, such as organising roving exhibitions and arranging the mobile resource centre to pay visits to different districts and schools; and
- (e) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quizzes and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience through their extensive community network.

The above work is undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 supporting officers in the CMAB. In the 2023-24 financial year, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$26 million.

4. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB070**

**(Question Serial No. 1856)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The National 14th Five-Year Plan and the development of the Greater Bay Area have brought tremendous development opportunities to Hong Kong. The business, industrial and professional sectors in Hong Kong are keen on integrating into the overall national development and engaging in the development of the Greater Bay Area. Yet, the policies and practices in relation to commerce and trade in the Greater Bay Area vary among the cities, such as slight differences in details on contracts, taxation and legislation etc.

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that in the year, the relevant Mainland Offices will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre to strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions, and promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Are there policies and plans to promote the work in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Are there policies and plans to strengthen communication with Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland, and provide better support to Hong Kong businessmen by further obtaining and disseminating information on policy and legislation relating to commerce and trade and the latest economic developments, so as to help and encourage them to engage in the development of the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the "Steering Group on Integration into National Development" (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB071**

**(Question Serial No. 1645)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government has set up the Task Force on Promoting and Branding Hong Kong, which aims to take the initiative to promote Hong Kong's opportunities to overseas countries and the Mainland. Please advise how will the Mainland Offices of Hong Kong support the publicity work, and strengthen liaison and communication with the Central Government, as well as provincial and municipal governments and other departments in the Mainland? What are the manpower deployment and expenditure allocation involved?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

Since the implementation of the gradual resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland on 8 January this year, the Chief Executive and the Principal Officials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government have actively planned to visit various provinces and municipalities in the Mainland for high-level visits and exchanges, hosting and attending bilateral and multilateral co-operation meetings with provinces and municipalities in the Mainland, and participating in meetings and activities organised by the Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (Mainland Offices) and the relevant Mainland organisations in areas of business and trade, culture, art, tourism, sports, etc., so as to strengthen the co-operation with various provinces and municipalities in the Mainland comprehensively. The Mainland Offices will also take advantage of the opportunity when senior HKSAR Government officials visiting the Mainland to arrange for officials to attend promotional activities, give speeches and accept media interviews in order to enhance the effectiveness of publicity and tell good stories of Hong Kong in the Mainland. In addition, the Mainland Offices and relevant organisations will also promote Hong Kong's advantages through diversified activities, encourage and support representatives of different professions and sectors to visit the Mainland, and deepen exchanges with various places.

2. The Mainland Offices will continue to play the bridging role, to organise visits to Mainland authorities and bodies, to attend speaking occasions, to conduct media interviews

and briefings, as well as to participate in business and trade meetings. They will also make good use of the online and offline platforms, including digital and multimedia platforms, and mass media platforms such as television, radio, newspapers, etc. These platforms will also be used for disseminating information, short videos, interview programmes, etc., for promoting Hong Kong's advantages and opportunities in the Mainland.

3. Besides, bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government are also proactively expediting various co-operation projects with the Mainland, including youth exchange, internship, activities promoting start-ups, etc., so as to further strengthen the co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in different areas.

4. As the work on publicity, promotion, communication, liaison, etc. is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure and manpower involved have not been singled out and itemised.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2545)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the plans implemented to promote to Hong Kong and the international community the positive influence of the National Security Law on Hong Kong since its implementation; the details, manpower and expenditure involved; and the promotional programmes targeting primary and secondary schools and universities as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon TANG Fei (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key work plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews the implementation of promotional programmes by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The 5 working groups under the CBLPSC (namely Working Group on Local Community; Working Group on Teachers and Students; Working Group on Civil Servants; Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Working Group on Community Outside Hong Kong) are respectively assisted by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau (EDB), Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department in planning and organising various types of activities to promote the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law on various fronts to the general public and relevant sectors.

2. Since the promulgation and implementation of the National Security Law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has introduced the National Security Law to different people through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets and compendium of articles, issuing press releases, placing newspaper advertisements, officials taking part in interviews on television, radio and other media, and organising/attending seminars (including webinars), etc.), as well as through

the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, and has responded to concerns raised.

3. In 2023, the Security Bureau (SB) will, among others, further enhance the national security awareness of about 10 000 members of youth uniformed groups of disciplined services departments, and continue to enhance the content of the National Security Law online virtual exhibition. Our country has designated 15 April each year as the National Security Education Day. To dovetail with the National Security Education Day on 15 April 2023, the EDB and the SB will continue to jointly organise the “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme in the current school year. In addition to the slogan-cum-poster design competition and the online quiz competition, a writing competition and a bulletin board design competition are also organised to encourage participation of teachers and students from all schools, with a view to raising their national security awareness and creating a positive atmosphere of safeguarding national security, thereby enabling national security education to continuously take root in schools and the community.

4. Besides, the HKSAR Government will continue to deepen the understanding of the international community of the National Security Law and its positive messages. In respect of foreign politicians’ and media’s smearing, false statements and reports, the Chief Executive, Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux will continue to make prompt refutations and clarifications, attend different events, and write blogs and post articles. Furthermore, apart from enhancing the publicity of the National Security Law overseas, the overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices also closely monitor commentaries from foreign politicians and media, and will continue to refute smearing and false statements.

5. On promotion of national security education, the EDB has, since the implementation of the National Security Law, provided schools with detailed administration and education guidelines, requiring schools to implement measures related to safeguarding national security and national security education in various areas, including school administration, staff management and training, learning and teaching, student guidance and discipline as well as home-school co-operation.

6. The learning elements pertinent to national security education have long been incorporated into primary and secondary school curricula, such as the subjects of General Studies, Chinese Language, Chinese History, History, Geography as well as Citizenship and Social Development. With the promulgation and implementation of the National Security Law, national security education has been introduced to the school curriculum, so as to strengthen national education, and enhance the school sector’s awareness of law-abidingness and sense of responsibility for safeguarding national security. In 2021, the EDB has issued the Curriculum Framework of National Security Education in Hong Kong and curriculum frameworks on national security education for relevant subjects, which serve as reference for primary and secondary schools in devising holistic plans and promoting national security education through whole-school participation.

7. The EDB has been adopting a “multi-pronged and co-ordinated” approach on an ongoing basis and has developed learning and teaching resources, and organised life-wide learning activities for students etc. to fully support schools’ holistic and systematic planning and implementation of national security education within and beyond the classroom. These efforts seek to enhance teachers’ and students’ understanding of our country’s development, and foster their sense of national identity and awareness of national security, law-abidingness

and civic duty. The EDB also offers training to teachers. Starting from the 2020/21 school year, the EDB has incorporated contents pertinent to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law in the core training programmes for newly-joined teachers, serving teachers and teachers aspiring for promotion.

8. Furthermore, the EDB continues to organise Mainland exchange programmes for students, covering diverse themes and different destinations, and subsidise those organised by schools, including the Mainland study tours of Citizenship and Social Development to be commenced in April 2023. These programmes enable students to gain first-hand experience of our country's development in the aspects of history, culture, economy, education, science and technology from multiple perspectives, deepen what they have learnt in class and strengthen their sense of national identity and awareness of safeguarding national security.

9. In regard to post-secondary institutions, a series of measures have been implemented by post-secondary institutions since the 2021/22 academic year to incorporate national education and national security education into students' learning, which include organising seminars, sharing sessions, workshops, forums and study tours, etc. In further pursuance of the abovementioned objectives, the HKSAR Government has included whole-person development as one of the four strategic directions adopted in the 2022-25 triennium of the University Grants Committee, illustrating that instilling a strong sense of civic duty into students through values education at university level would help nurture graduates to become the future pillars of our society. Education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law should also form an important part of the university curriculum, with a view to nurturing students into law-abiding and responsible citizens.

10. In respecting post-secondary institutions' autonomy in curriculum design, the EDB encourages the institutions to offer students diversified learning opportunities within and outside the classroom to enhance their awareness of the country's history, culture, constitutional order and the latest developments in various aspects, thereby helping them gain a deeper understanding of the country, develop a stronger sense of national identity, and achieve an enhanced sense of national security, law-abidingness and civic duty. The institutions may continue to flexibly utilise their resources to take forward the promotion, education and research on topics related to national education and national security education.

11. The HKSAR Government's promotional work on the National Security Law involves the participation of various bureaux and departments. The related emoluments are subsumed under their respective overall provision, hence, no breakdown figures are available.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2546)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. To dovetail with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Government should continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work for Hong Kong to engage in the Greater Bay Area development. Please advise this Committee if there are policies, measures and activities to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work for Hong Kong to integrate into the Greater Bay Area development? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Will new policies and measures be formulated to facilitate young people in Hong Kong to study, work and live in the Greater Bay Area so as to encourage more young people to pursue development there? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TANG Fei (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached great importance to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and has introduced a number of policy measures in various areas over the past few years to support Hong Kong residents and enterprises to pursue development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as to assist the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in tapping into international markets, thereby leveraging Hong Kong's dual roles in "going global and attracting foreign investment".

2. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (the Office) is the main unit of the HKSAR Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will continue to proactively participate in the work of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area at the Central level and maintain close liaison with relevant Central

Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. Building on the foundations of existing work, the HKSAR Government will seek further policy innovation and breakthrough, strive to pursue more policy measures which are of benefits to Hong Kong and can contribute to the development of our country and the Greater Bay Area at the same time, with a view to developing the Greater Bay Area into an international first-class bay area ideal for living, working and travelling.

3. The Chief Executive has announced, in his 2022 Policy Address, the establishment of the “Steering Group on Integration into National Development” (the Steering Group) chaired by himself and with the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice as deputies to enhance its leadership and steering capability. The Steering Group takes forward and provides steer for the work on integration into national development holistically from a macro perspective, and formulates the strategic direction for Hong Kong to dovetail with national strategies such as the Greater Bay Area development. The Office will strengthen the co-ordination with bureaux and departments on their work to proactively take forward the Greater Bay Area development under the steer of the Steering Group.

4. At the same time, the Office will co-ordinate with bureaux to make good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms, to utilise the task forces as platforms for enhancing interface, and to improve inter-connectivity and strengthen the high-quality co-operation in various aspects between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits.

5. In addition, the Office will continue to maintain close liaison with chambers of commerce, professional organisations and relevant stakeholders. By means of diversified channels, including online and offline platforms, such as a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, exhibitions, and the electronic “Greater Bay Area Information Station” to be set up in various districts of Hong Kong, the Office will strategically promote the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area, and disseminate more information about the development to the general public, enterprises and stakeholders, thereby telling the good stories about the Greater Bay Area, and encouraging different sectors of the society to actively participate in the development to reap the benefits it brings about.

6. To further enhance publicity and promotion in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area as well as the support for Hong Kong people and enterprises there, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the HKSAR Government will set up the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (the Promotion Centre). Through strengthening strategic co-operation with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, InvestHK and relevant organisations and institutions in the Mainland or from overseas, the Promotion Centre will promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate support and assistance when needed to Hong Kong people and enterprises in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, by means of providing information on the Greater Bay Area and enquiry services as well as organising seminars and study missions, etc.

7. Besides, the HKSAR Government will continue to enhance various youth programmes. On education, the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government supports

Hong Kong secondary school graduates who intend to pursue further studies in the Mainland through the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme (MUSSS). The MUSSS comprises two components: a means-tested subsidy and non-means-tested subsidy. The subsidy levels have been increased by about 5% to 16% with effect from the 2022/23 academic year. On employment, the HKSAR Government launched the pilot Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme (GBA YES) in 2021, and received favourable feedback from the participating enterprises and the participants. In his Policy Address last year, the Chief Executive announced the regularisation of the scheme to encourage more enterprises to offer jobs and support Hong Kong young people to work in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, so as to foster their career development and talent exchange in the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government launched the regularised GBA YES on 1 March 2023. Participating enterprises should offer local university graduates a monthly salary of not less than HK\$18,000, and station them in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to work and receive on-the-job training. The Government will grant a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 to the enterprises for each young person employed up to 18 months.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB074**

**(Question Serial No. 2547)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under the influence of the epidemic and China-United States relations, cross-Strait relations further deteriorated in 2022. Please advise this Committee if exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan in economy, trade and other areas have been adversely affected by the deteriorated cross-Strait relations? If yes, what measures are in place to address the challenges? If no, what are the reasons? Please set out the policy measures taken by the Government during the epidemic in the past 3 years to promote economic and trade co-operation among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and leverage the important role of Hong Kong as a bridge between the Mainland and Taiwan.

Asked by: Hon TANG Fei (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (HKETCO) in Taipei under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau had always been proactively serving as an important bridge between Hong Kong and Taiwan, including maintaining liaison and communication with relevant counterparts; representing and promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests; encouraging and attracting investments to Hong Kong; promoting Hong Kong's tourism, arts and cultures; gathering information on new laws, regulations and policies related to trade and commerce as well as significant developments in Taiwan; and disseminating relevant information to the Hong Kong business sector and Hong Kong businessmen in Taiwan through various channels. However, Taiwan's series of actions in recent years has severely damaged Hong Kong-Taiwan relations, gradually jeopardising the operating environment for the HKETCO in Taiwan. As the HKETCO could hardly achieve the expected effectiveness of work, and to protect the safety and rights of its Hong Kong staff members, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has eventually decided to temporarily suspend the operation of the HKETCO with effect from May 2021. Despite that, Hong Kong and Taiwan would maintain communication on a case-by-case basis when necessary. For example, when Hong Kong people are in distress in Taiwan, both sides would liaise at the working level to provide appropriate assistance for the Hong Kong people

in distress and their families. We will continue to keep a close watch on the latest developments in cross-Strait relations, and handle matters related to Taiwan in a pragmatic manner.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2548)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With increasing exchanges between the Mainland and Hong Kong, more and more Hong Kong people are now living in the Mainland. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of Hong Kong people living in the Mainland (please give a breakdown of figures by province or municipality).
2. The number of Hong Kong people working in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (please give a breakdown of figures by city and type of job and industry).
3. What measures are available to cater for the essential needs of Hong Kong people living in the Mainland, including the needs in the areas of policy support, legal services, healthcare, housing and elderly services? Will new measures be introduced in the coming year to deploy more resources to assist Hong Kong people living in the Mainland (including those studying in the Mainland)?

Asked by: Hon TANG Fei (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

According to the estimation of "Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province" compiled and released by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), as at the end of 2021 (the data for 2022 is still under consolidation) the estimated number of Hong Kong permanent residents that usually stay in Guangdong Province was 523 300 (i.e. Hong Kong permanent residents who have stayed in the Guangdong Province for 6 months and above cumulatively during the 6 months before and after the reference time-point). Since the relevant statistical estimates do not provide a breakdown of the types of job and industries performed by individuals and by municipalities, there is no breakdown of the types of job and industries engaged by Hong Kong residents in Mainland municipalities

in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. As the scope of the estimates is also limited to Guangdong Province only, there are no figures for the Mainland as a whole. For details of the estimates, please refer to the relevant webpage of the C&SD (<https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?scode=160&pcode=D5320188>).

2. At present, the Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government (Mainland Offices) maintain close liaison with associations, chambers, enterprises and student groups of Hong Kong people in the Mainland to understand the situations of Hong Kong people working, studying and living in the Mainland, and provide appropriate assistance as required. For example, the Mainland Offices will organise sharing and exchange activities about living in the Mainland, provide information about postgraduate studies and recruitment upon graduation that meets the needs of Hong Kong students, and conduct career talks in collaboration with associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland. In addition, to support Hong Kong people in the area, the Mainland Offices will collect practical information on medical care, business, employment, education and legal services, etc., and disseminate such information through production of information booklets, including electronic versions provided on the Mainland Offices' websites, to assist Hong Kong people to better adapt to local life. At present, the Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Jinan, Qingdao, Ningbo, Hefei, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou, etc. In 2023-24, the Mainland Offices will continue to strengthen the above work.

3. At the same time, the Mainland Offices will convey the views or appeals of Hong Kong people in the Mainland to relevant Mainland authorities for follow-up. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong has also commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters.

4. On social security, following the extension of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Old Age Allowance to Guangdong and Fujian, the Government has extended the Old Age Living Allowance (including Normal and Higher allowances) to the 2 provinces with effect from 1 January 2020 to provide appropriate assistance for elders who choose to reside in the 2 provinces. On service provision, the Social Welfare Department purchases services from 2 residential care homes for the elderly operated by Hong Kong non-governmental organisations in Shenzhen and Zhaoqing through the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, with a view to providing an additional option for elderly persons who are on the waiting list for subsidised care and attention places and choose to live in the Mainland. The residential places of elderly persons participating in the Scheme are fully subsidised by the Government.

5. As for medical service, designated healthcare institutions operating in the nine Mainland municipalities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area are allowed to use Hong Kong-registered drugs with urgent clinical use, and medical devices used in Hong Kong public hospitals with urgent clinical use and advanced clinical applications, subject to the approval of Guangdong Province under the Work Plan for Regulatory Innovation and Development of Pharmaceutical and Medical Device in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area promulgated by the Central Government earlier. The HKSAR Government will implement the measure at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital

(HKU-SZH) on a trial basis, and has already kick-started follow-up work and discussed the implementation details with the relevant Mainland authorities. Moreover, the Government launched a pilot scheme in October 2015 to enable voucher users to use vouchers to pay for the fees of outpatient medical care services provided by designated clinics/departments of the HKU-SZH. The pilot scheme has been regularised with effect from 26 June 2019. Same as the arrangement in Hong Kong, elders can use vouchers at the HKU-SZH to receive preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. At present, each eligible Hong Kong elder aged 65 or above is provided with an annual voucher amount of \$2,000, which can be used for eligible services in Hong Kong and at the HKU-SZH.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3147)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government established the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) in May 2005, and has set up the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) to provide funding support to worthwhile community projects, with a view to promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations or transgenders, or providing support services for the sexual minorities. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The existing establishment, salary and work nature of GISOU's staff.
2. GISOU's actual expenditure in the past 5 years and estimated expenditure for the current year.
3. The total amount of sponsorship granted to community organisations under the Funding Scheme in the past 5 years, and the details of the sponsored community projects, including the actual amount of sponsorship approved for each community organisation.
4. Has the Government taken note of the concern relayed by some community organisations that some organisations have been granted sponsorship under the Funding Scheme despite having made discriminatory remarks against people of different sexual orientations or gender identities in public, contravening the original intention of the Funding Scheme, and what are the reasons for granting sponsorship to these organisations?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

At present, the staff establishment of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) comprises 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Executive Officer II, who are mainly

responsible for managing and monitoring the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme), handling enquiries and complaints related to gender identity and sexual orientation, carrying out education and promotion programmes, etc., so as to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. GISOU’s revised estimates/estimates in the past 5 years (i.e. 2018-19 to 2022-23) and for the current year are as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Staff costs (\$ million)</b>	<b>Expenditure on publicity and promotion (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total amount of provision earmarked for the Funding Scheme (\$ million)</b>
2018-19	1.22	2.53	1.25
2019-20	1.27	2.28	1.25
2020-21	1.34	2.37	1.35
2021-22	1.34	1.85	1.35
2022-23	1.37	2.25	1.35
2023-24 (estimate)	1.37	2.25	1.35

2. In the past 5 years, the total amounts of sponsorship approved under the Funding Scheme are \$1.2 million, \$1.24 million, \$1.34 million, \$1.34 million and \$1.34 million respectively. Details of the sponsored projects are set out at Annex.

3. To ensure that the sponsored projects meet the objectives of the Funding Scheme, an Assessment Committee, which comprises non-officials as members and chairperson, was set up under the assessment mechanism. Only applications which tie in with the objectives of the Funding Scheme, i.e. promoting equal opportunities for people of different orientations and transgenders or providing support services for sexual minorities, will be considered for sponsorship. In considering applications, the Assessment Committee will consider the project’s content, feasibility, budgetary considerations, anticipated number of beneficiaries, and applicants’ experience and management capability, etc. If the Assessment Committee is aware that the applicant has contradicted the purpose or objectives of the Funding Scheme, it will give due consideration when assessing its application.

2018-19

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Nature of Project</b>	<b>Approved Sponsorship (\$)</b>
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Workshops, outreach activities and production of short videos	27,048
Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship	Workshops	18,637
AIDS Concern	Workshops, seminars, online education, and production of leaflets, publications and short videos	74,900
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	7,539
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Screening	13,135
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, workshops, production of leaflets, outreach activities and counselling services	60,753
Bravo Theatre	Drama performances	149,990
Down to Earth	Support group, workshops, sharing sessions and counselling services	128,177
Gender Empowerment	Support group and production of short videos	25,819
Post Gay Alliance	Support group, workshops and counselling services	75,160
H.K.S.K.H. Shatin Children & Youth Integrated Service Centre-Jockey Club Youth Express	Training for volunteers, workshops, production of short videos and screening	80,070
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Workshops and drama performances	123,282
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Production of publications	31,421
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Workshops and production of short videos	54,360
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performances	111,646
Nu Tong Xue She	Sharing sessions, seminars and production of short videos	39,375
GIA Theatre	Drama performances	124,630
Transgender Resource Center	Training for volunteers, and production of publications and short videos	44,467
The Society for Truth and Light	Talks	17,325

Name of Applicant	Nature of Project	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops, counselling services and online education	21,892
Down to Earth	Support groups, workshops and counselling services	133,897
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops and counselling services	100,720
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	6,930
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Workshops and screening	26,176
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Support groups, workshops and drama performance	33,920
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performance	138,780
Community Health Organisation for Intervention, Care and Empowerment Limited	Publication production	26,565
Sexuality Education and Counselling Association	Workshops and exhibitions	60,312
Justice Centre Hong Kong	Volunteer training, support groups and counselling services	37,348
Hong Kong Pride Parade	Volunteer training and outreach activities	21,546
Midnight Blue	Workshops and publication production	25,410
AIDS Concern	Workshops, publication production, outreach activities and online education	60,400
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Workshops and multimedia production	88,147
Gay Harmony	Workshops, outreach activities and counselling services	57,723
Gay Harmony	Publication and multimedia production	66,255
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Drama performance	123,359
Bravo Theatre	Multimedia production	125,840

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Nature of Project</b>	<b>Approved Sponsorship (\$)</b>
Down to Earth	Workshops, publication production and counselling services	123,557
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops and counselling services	23,257
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Support groups and drama performance	111,168
Hong Kong Women Christian Council	Workshops, drama performance and multimedia production	74,445
The Society of Truth and Light	Publication production	29,442
Sexuality Education and Counselling Association	Workshops, publication production and multimedia production	49,822
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performance	148,240
Hong Kong Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship	Workshops, publication production and counselling services	17,955
AIDS Concern	Workshops, publication production and online services	61,173
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Workshops, publication production, counselling services and online services	29,400
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	15,571
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops and exhibitions	43,102
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association	Workshops, multimedia production and counselling services	58,650
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops and counselling services	77,200
Hong Kong Pride Parade	Outreach activities	18,900
Gay Harmony	Workshops, outreach activities and counselling services	67,798
Gay Harmony	Workshops and exhibitions	57,960
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Publication production, outreach activities and counselling services	43,480
GIA Theatre	Drama performance	106,732
yat1sai3m4bat1yip6: Chow Yiu Fai Lyrics Writing Course Alumni	Music performance and multimedia production	73,767
Bravo Theatre	Multimedia production	116,800

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Nature of Project</b>	<b>Approved Sponsorship (\$)</b>
AIDS Concern	Sharing sessions/seminars, and production of leaflets/publications	60,228
Down to Earth	Support groups, sharing sessions/seminars, and counselling/support services	123,558
Pride Lab	Video production and broadcast	50,505
Pride Lab	Video production and broadcast, and sharing sessions/seminars	32,897
Gay Harmony	Counselling/support services, workshops, and outreach activities/services	63,258
Gay Harmony	Publication production, outreach activities/services, and video production and broadcast	67,463
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Support groups, support services, and production of leaflets/publications	47,565
Midnight Blue	Workshops/seminars, and production of leaflets/publications	18,900
Bravo Theatre	Drama performance/educational theatre performance	146,550
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Exhibitions and production of leaflets/publications	20,738
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	19,320
Add Oil Workshop	Drama performance	57,593
yat1sai3m4bat1yip6: Chow Yiu Fai Lyrics Writing Course Alumni	Music performance, and video/multimedia production and broadcast	129,465
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	22,418
The Society for Truth and Light	Support groups, and video/multimedia production and broadcast	25,883
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	75,500
Project Touch, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	Support groups and workshops	29,400
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Support groups, workshops and drama performance	111,169
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association	Support groups, counselling/support services, workshops, and video/multimedia production and broadcast	44,205

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Nature of Project</b>	<b>Approved Sponsorship (\$)</b>
Grey and Pride	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, and sharing sessions/seminars	16,275
Freedom of Love Project	Support groups	9,083
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performance/educational theatre performance, and exhibitions	130,914

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Nature of Project</b>	<b>Approved Sponsorship (\$)</b>
Pride Lab	Video production and broadcast, and outreach activities/services	82,372
Gay Harmony	Production of leaflets/publications, video production and broadcast, and outreach activities/services	51,765
Gay Harmony	Counselling/support services, workshops, and outreach activities/services	49,192
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Video production and broadcast	25,515
Midnight Blue	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, and sharing sessions	81,847
Bravo Theatre	Drama performance/educational theatre performance	149,950
Add Oil Workshop	Drama performance	85,890
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops, sharing sessions/seminars, and counselling/support services	149,462
E-Life Education Limited	Workshops and counselling/support services	21,630
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	58,400
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Workshops/sharing sessions and drama performance	110,275
Hong Kong Psychosexual Education Association Limited	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	38,955
Transgender Equality Hong Kong	Video/multimedia production and broadcast, and publication production	30,450
FREEDOM OF LOVE PROJECT	Sharing sessions and drama performance	47,775
New Creation Association Limited	Support groups, workshops, and counselling/support services	29,935
Quarks	Workshops/sharing sessions, and video/documentary production and broadcast	24,990
GIA theatre	Workshops/sharing sessions, and drama performance	86,940
GIA theatre	Drama performance	138,600
AIDS Concern	Sharing sessions/seminars, and production of leaflets/publications	63,997

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB077**

**(Question Serial No. 3148)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditure and staff establishment for studying the enactment of legislation on sexual orientation discrimination in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness, mutual respect and non-discrimination, and promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. At present, we have commenced a study on the experience of other jurisdictions in tackling discrimination against sexual minorities through administrative and legislative measures. The manpower and resources required for the study are subsumed under the existing staff establishment and recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB078**

**(Question Serial No. 3178)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the promotional efforts of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit to eliminate discrimination against sexual minorities in the past 5 years, please set out the expenditure on posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio as well as mobile publicity; the promotion platforms (such as television, radio, light boxes at MTR stations and bus stops, newspaper advertisements, etc.), time slots (the months when the promotional messages were broadcast or published) and frequencies; and the manpower and resources involved in the promotional work?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

In the past 5 years, Announcements in the Public Interest which promote the message "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion" were broadcast for over 5 100 times on television and radio. Meanwhile, the promotional video was broadcast for more than 22 million times in over 200 government premises, public transport network (including the display platforms in railway stations, bus stops, train compartments and ferries), and lift lobbies of commercial buildings, and over 14 million click-throughs were made on the Internet. Furthermore, promotional posters on "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion" were displayed at places such as government premises, public transport network, lobbies of residential buildings, footbridges and subways, etc. In the past 5 years, the resources allocated to the publicity efforts mentioned above are \$2.39 million, \$2.46 million, \$2.52 million, \$2.42 million and \$2.45 million respectively. As for the enquiries on other breakdown figures, the Government does not maintain such relevant information.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB079**

**(Question Serial No. 3179)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide the number of enquiries and complaints received in the past 5 years by the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit through the hotline which is set up for handling enquiries and complaints on issues relating to gender identity and sexual orientation, and among which, the number of cases being processed, being followed up or with investigation completed, the number of confirmed cases of discrimination on the ground of gender identity or sexual orientation, and the domains that the discrimination is said to have occurred (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; religious sites; etc.) (please provide information in tabular form); as well as the manpower and resources involved in manning of the hotline.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

In the past 5 years, the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) received a total of 49 enquiries and 2 complaints. The relevant numbers are as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of enquiries</b>	<b>Number of complaints</b>
2018-19	24	0
2019-20	8	0
2020-21	4	2
2021-22	6	0
2022-23 (as at February 2023)	7	0

The 2 complaint cases above were related to the services of government departments/public bodies. Upon investigations, the 2 complaints cases concerning discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation were not substantiated. Responses were made to the complainants on the findings, including the follow-up actions taken by the organisations under complaint. As handling enquiries and complaints is part of the GISOU's daily work, there is no further breakdown on manpower resources in this respect.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB080**

**(Question Serial No. 3180)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide or advise the number of public and private organisations to which the Government successfully promoted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code) in the past 5 years; a list of organisations which have pledged to adopt the Code, and the number of organisations which have newly adopted the Code; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the Code to public and private organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations; the follow-up actions taken by the Government in case where a participating organisation is found to be in breach of the Code, or an employee of a participating organisation has lodged a complaint, and whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish the organisation in breach of the Code; and the number of government agencies and departments which have adopted and followed the Code and the work to promote the Code among government agencies and departments.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

On the promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code), at present, over 380 public and private organisations employing nearly 570 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code. The list of organisations which agreed to be listed in the public domain has been uploaded to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)'s webpage (at [https://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual\\_List\\_of\\_Organisations.pdf](https://www.cmab.gov.hk/doc/issues/Bilingual_List_of_Organisations.pdf)). The adoption of the Code is of a voluntary nature; and the objective is to facilitate self-regulation of employers and employees in eliminating discriminatory practices in employment. As the largest employer in Hong Kong, the Government is committed to following the practices set out in the Code. In the future, we will continue to encourage public and private organisations to adopt the Code through various channels including talks, seminars and online publicity. The manpower and resources for promoting the Code are subsumed under the existing staff establishment and recurrent expenditure for the work related to sexual minorities in CMAB and a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB081**

**(Question Serial No. 3181)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What specific fields of personnel were provided with training and resources in the past 5 years? Please set out in table form the dates of and manpower involved in the training, the participating departments or organisations, the number of participants and the effectiveness. In respect of providing training resources for medical and healthcare professionals to enhance their knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities as mentioned in the Policy Address, what are the details of such training and what are the target groups of promotion in the future?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)

Reply:

Details on training arranged by the Government in the past 5 years for enhancing the knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities of personnel in specific fields are as follows:

<b>Field</b>	<b>Details</b>
Medical and healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training materials for medical and healthcare professionals were launched in December 2018 to enhance their sensitivity towards sexual minorities. A briefing session was held in January 2019 for representatives of different medical and healthcare professional bodies (including the Department of Health, Hospital Authority, boards and councils of relevant medical and healthcare professions, and relevant faculties of tertiary institutions), and the number of participants was about 80, and</li><li>• Two train-the-trainer sessions were held in March and July 2019 for personnel responsible for training in the relevant medical and healthcare professional bodies, and the number of participants was about 50.</li></ul>

Disciplined services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training materials for the disciplined services were launched in November 2020 to enhance their sensitivity towards sexual minorities. A briefing session was held for representatives of the Hong Kong Police Force, Fire Services Department, Immigration Department, Correctional Services Department, Customs and Excise Department, Government Flying Service, Auxiliary Medical Service and Civil Aid Service, and the number of participants was about 30, and</li> <li>• A train-the-trainer session was held in July 2021 for personnel responsible for training in the disciplined services, and the number of participants was about 30.</li> </ul>
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The training materials are developed by clinical psychologists of the Social Welfare Department (SWD). At the briefing and training sessions, the clinical psychologists provided specific recommendations on how to properly interact with sexual minorities in different scenarios, thereby enabling personnel in specific fields to enhance the knowledge of and sensitivity towards sexual minorities when interacting with them in daily work. Our next step is to develop training materials tailor-made for the social services sector, and we are now working with SWD's clinical psychologists to develop relevant training materials.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB082**

**(Question Serial No. 3182)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please advise the progress of work on implementing a charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities in the past 5 years; the details of the charter, including the domains (including workplace; education; provision of services and goods; premises; public services; and religions sites) brought under its regulation; whether a mechanism will be put in place to punish those who contravene the charter, and if so, of the time the mechanism will be introduced; the estimated manpower and resources as well as expenditure for promoting the charter to public and private sector organisations in the coming year and the target number of organisations; and whether the organisations which have adopted the code of practice will automatically become the participating organisations of the charter.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

The charter on non-discrimination of sexual minorities being drawn up is for voluntary adoption by service providers in various domains (including provision of goods, facilities and services, disposal and management of premises, employment, and education). The purpose is to enhance their acceptance towards sexual minorities and encourage them to pursue policies on non-discrimination of sexual minorities, including educating employees about the basic principle that people of different sexual orientations and gender identities have equal access to services, establishing the values of inclusion and mutual respect, reminding employees of the adverse consequences of discriminatory acts, and the need to protect service users' confidentiality in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity, etc. We plan to invite organisations which have adopted the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to pledge to adopt the charter. The manpower and resources for drawing up the charter are subsumed under the existing staff establishment and recurrent expenditure of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and a separate breakdown is not available.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB083**

**(Question Serial No. 3183)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

With regard to the specific needs of sexual minorities, the Government has pledged to enhance its support services and conduct a service review. What was the progress of the review in the past 5 years? What are the service areas where support to sexual minorities is found to require reinforcement (such as services for victims of domestic violence, services of refuge centres, psychological support, and support from front-line social workers)? What are the government departments with which communication relating to the provision of support services to sexual minorities has been conducted with a view to enhancing and improving the quality of the services?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

On strengthening the support services for sexual minorities, a 24-hour hotline for sexual minorities, PRIDE Line, operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) and subsidised by the Government has been launched in early 2018 to provide prompt support, counselling and referral services for sexual minorities and their families. The hotline has received over 16 000 calls as at end-February 2023. Support groups cum interest classes are also being regularly organised for sexual minorities, and nearly 200 sessions have been organised as at end-February 2023. In addition, starting from January 2021, we have allocated additional resources for the TWGHs to strengthen its support services for sexual minorities. A counselling service centre, PRIDE Land, has been established in Yau Ma Tei to provide face-to-face counselling services for sexual minorities and their families in need.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB084**

**(Question Serial No. 3257)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

What are the manpower and costs involved in the production of television advertisements on promoting elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities? Has the Government evaluated the effectiveness of such promotional efforts? Regarding the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit's promotional work on elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities, what is the estimated expenditure for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

In 2022-23, the Announcement in the Public Interest which promotes the message "Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion" was broadcast for over 180 times on television, and more than 5.6 million times in over 200 government premises, public transport network and lift lobbies of commercial buildings, delivering the message of equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders to the public. The production cost of the promotional video is \$1.16 million, and the manpower involved is subsumed under the existing staff establishment of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit, Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau. As regards the unit's publicity work on elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities, the estimated expenditure for 2023-24 is \$2.25 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB085**

**(Question Serial No. 1263)**

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government has been encouraging Hong Kong people to go north to the Mainland to start up businesses, work and study, and has set up designated bodies such as the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong to provide assistance. Some non-governmental organisations or political groups have also set up service centres for Hong Kong people going north. Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the Government's expenditure on directly subsidising agencies appointed by the HKSAR Government to serve Hong Kong people in the Mainland in the past 3 years?
2. What is the Government's expenditure on subsidising non-governmental organisations in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

One of the core functions of the Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is to provide information and other appropriate assistance to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. As providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland is an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

2. In the past 3 years, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need through a telephone hotline or by arranging Mainland duty lawyers to meet the assistance seekers to provide preliminary advice on Mainland-related legal matters. In the past 3 financial years, the expenditure of the Guangdong ETO on the provision of free legal advisory service was about RMB¥1.12 million, RMB¥1.13 million and RMB¥1.16 million respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1264)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On the estimated provision of \$353.2 million for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in 2023-24, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Regarding requests for assistance from Hong Kong people, what were the annual figures in the past 5 years in relation to such cases received by each of the Mainland Offices, received in the Greater Bay Area, and received by the Taiwan Office respectively? Please set out the total with a breakdown by nature of cases such as birth, death, marriage or others.
2. At present, Hong Kong residents may apply for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) travel documents in the Mainland, but only for HKSAR Passport, Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and Re-entry Permit. How many applications for such documents were received by each of the Mainland Offices in the past 5 years and what were the operating costs involved?
3. Further to the preceding question, will the Government consider expanding the above scope to cover documents issued by other government departments, e.g. vehicle licences and driving licences, to enable Hong Kong people residing in the Mainland on a long-term basis to apply for/renew/collect such documents in the Mainland? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Will the Government consider setting up GovHK service points or online system in the Mainland to facilitate the processing of documents in order to promote the deep integration and development of the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and details? If no, what are the reasons?
5. Documents issued by government authorities of Hong Kong and the Mainland, including birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates and certificates of absence of marriage record, are currently not reciprocally recognised by the two sides. Such documents have to be notarised to become legally or officially accepted

documents. Will the Government promote the mutual recognition of documents between the two places, or assist in handling the mutual recognition of documents between the two places through its Mainland Offices or new service points in the Mainland? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

In the past 5 years, the number of requests for assistance received by the Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Assistance cases related to immigration and personal safety matters</b>	<b>Other assistance cases</b>
<b>Beijing Office</b>	2018	88	54
	2019	111	34
	2020	54	44
	2021	32	22
	2022	32	21
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong</b>	2018	165	124
	2019	225	129
	2020	410	90
	2021	468	87
	2022	595	134
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai</b>	2018	50	23
	2019	45	25
	2020	63	17
	2021	34	5
	2022	268	3
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu</b>	2018	52	10
	2019	53	4
	2020	70	20
	2021	24	6
	2022	185	2

<b>Office</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Assistance cases related to immigration and personal safety matters</b>	<b>Other assistance cases</b>
<b>Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan</b>	2018	20	7
	2019	22	5
	2020	2 622	6
	2021	23	13
	2022	20	17

The Mainland Offices had followed up and handled the above assistance cases having regard to the actual circumstances. We do not have breakdown figures on requests for assistance from Hong Kong people in the Mainland municipalities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (HKETCO) in Taiwan has temporarily suspended operation with effect from May 2021. According to relevant records, the HKETCO received about 1 100 requests for assistance and enquiries related to immigration and personal safety matters between 2018 and 2021, most of which were enquiries about the epidemic received in 2020.

2. In the past 5 years, the numbers of applications for HKSAR travel documents received by the Mainland Offices are set out in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>HKSAR Passport</b>	<b>Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and Re-entry Permit</b>
2018	2 667	-
2019	2 681	-
2020	3 644	-
2021	9 168	308
2022	5 367	5 821

Note: The Mainland Offices' replacement services for Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and Re-entry Permit commenced on 29 September 2021 and 29 November 2021 respectively.

The service of applying and collecting SAR travel documents provided for Hong Kong residents in the Mainland is an integral part of the work of the Mainland Offices, and thus the provision required has not been singled out and itemised.

3. The HKSAR Government will review the scope and quality of service of the Mainland Offices from time to time, and strive to improve and enhance different kinds of arrangements and the quality of services having regard to the actual circumstances and needs, so as to fulfil the needs of the society and residents.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1609)**

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  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the public generally expects that business and trade exchange activities with the Mainland will substantially increase this year, and the Government has to grasp the favourable opportunity to actively expand trade, promote Hong Kong's strengths and arrange for more investment promotion activities. However, various indicators under this Programme show that there is just a moderate increase in the anticipated number of activities, and the provision for the Mainland Offices in this year's estimate is 1.8% lower than the revised estimate for the previous year.

In this regard, please advise if the quantity of and provision for relevant activities are adequate in the current year, and whether the year-on-year decrease in estimated expenditure could meet the actual operational needs.

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

Serving as our goal to further strengthen co-operation with the Mainland, we have set key performance indicators in the 2022 Policy Address where the items related to the work of the Mainland Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on telling good stories of Hong Kong will increase by 15% in 2024 as compared to 2022. With the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, we would put more effort to strive for greater achievements.

2. In 2022-23, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Mainland Offices stepped up their efforts in organising more celebratory events including exhibitions, cultural performances, gala dinners or receptions, youth or student programmes, film festivals, etc. These events were organised for celebrating the anniversary of the HKSAR with the Mainland residents as well as to promote Hong Kong by telling good stories of Hong Kong, hence contributing to the increase in the estimate for 2022-23. Following

the successful conclusion of the celebratory events, there are corresponding adjustments to the 2023-24 estimate. Nevertheless, the extent of adjustment is minor which indicates the Mainland Offices have retained sufficient resources to effectively perform the work for promoting Hong Kong's advantages.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB088**

**(Question Serial No. 2344)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Please provide information disaggregated by language on the (1) number of interpretation services arranged, (2) number of translation services arranged, and (3) interpretation and translation service providers used by public authorities between 2020 and 2023 in accordance with the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

Please advise what public platforms are used by the Government to release the above figures.

Please set out the expenditure on promoting the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality from 2020 to 2023.

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) improved the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality (the Guidelines) in April 2020 and extended its application to all government bureaux, departments and related organisations (collectively referred to as public authorities), making a total of over 110, thereby facilitating residents, regardless of their race, to enjoy equal access to public services.

2. As required by the Guidelines, public authorities would proactively provide appropriate language services to people in need, so as to enable service users' equal access to public services. In the past 3 years, the numbers of interpretation and translation services arranged by public authorities, with a breakdown by 8 common languages, are set out at **Annex**. Relevant figures for 2021-22 are available on the website of the CMAB: [https://www.cmab.gov.hk/en/issues/aggregate\\_statistics\\_2021.htm](https://www.cmab.gov.hk/en/issues/aggregate_statistics_2021.htm).

3. Having regard to the actual circumstances and needs, public authorities will engage suitable service providers for interpretation and translation services. The Centre for

Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER Centre), which is operated by the Hong Kong Christian Service and commissioned by the Home Affairs Department, offers free and instant telephone interpretation and enquiry services of general nature between English and 8 other common languages. As regards interpretation and translation services in specialised and professional areas, public authorities may approach companies, organisations or individuals providing interpretation and translation services in the market in accordance with the relevant procurement regulations to meet their respective service needs, or obtain such services through in-house interpreters and translators. The CMAB does not maintain relevant figures, disaggregated by language, on the services provided by interpretation and translation service providers.

4. The relevant public authorities are responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines in areas under their purview. The expenditure incurred is borne by the respective public authorities. The CMAB is responsible for co-ordinating and maintaining an overview of the overall implementation of the Guidelines by the Government. The relevant work is an integral part of the work of the CMAB, and the expenditure incurred cannot be singled out and itemised.

**Numbers of interpretation and translation services arranged by public authorities  
between 2020-21 and 2022-23**

Language	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (as at 30 September 2022)	
	Interpretation service (Number)	Translation service (Number)	Interpretation service (Number)	Translation service (Number)	Interpretation service (Number)	Translation service (Number)
1. Bahasa Indonesia	4 567	894	7 617	654	3 830	668
2. Hindi	4 010	714	5 876	494	3 016	276
3. Nepali	3 414	760	6 816	531	2 465	276
4. Punjabi	2 534	403	4 418	337	1 248	114
5. Tagalog	2 151	595	3 397	301	1 544	320
6. Thai	1 201	755	1 389	278	602	288
7. Urdu	9 180	898	11 452	1 199	4 989	451
8. Vietnamese	6 219	1 678	8 116	1 539	2 889	865
9. Others*	6 465	1 568	7 191	1 456	2 824	550
<b>Total:</b>	<b>39 741</b>	<b>8 265</b>	<b>56 272</b>	<b>6 789</b>	<b>23 407</b>	<b>3 808</b>

\*Other languages mainly refer to Spanish and Bengali.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB089**

**(Question Serial No. 0291)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1) Please provide the expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office on publicising the Voter Registration Campaign in the past 5 years:

Year	Newspapers and magazines	Radio and television broadcast	Outdoor media	Online platforms and new media	Total
2017-2018					
2018-2019					
2019-2020					
2020-2021					
2021-2022					

2) Regarding the 69.0% increase in the estimate for 2023-24 mainly due to increased election expenses, please set out the specific items involved.

3) Is the increase in election expenses mentioned above related to any additional expenses arising from the delay in network installation by the network service contractor on the polling day of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election?

4) In the 2023-24 estimate, what are the resources allocated for further enhancing the use of information technology?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The publicity expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the Voter Registration (VR) Campaign from 2018 to 2021 are tabulated below.

<b>Expenditure Item</b>	<b>Newspapers, printed materials and magazines (\$'000)</b>	<b>Publicity on television and radio (\$'000)</b>	<b>Online platforms and new media (\$'000)</b>	<b>Public transport system, community promotion and miscellaneous (\$'000)</b>	<b>Total (\$'000)</b>
<b>Year</b>					
2018	800	1,170	820	4,330	7,120
2019	310	2,800	790	11,800	15,690
2020	260	3,420	1,030	8,790	13,490
2021	360	2,640	1,780	9,560	14,340

Note: Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

With the prevalence of cross-platform publicity services provided by publicity platform operators in recent years, the above categorisation of publicity expenses could no longer be relied on from 2022 onwards. In 2022, the total publicity expenses of the REO for the VR Campaign amounted to \$5.16 million.

2. The provision for the REO in 2023-24 is higher than that in 2022-23. This is mainly due to the provision reserved for the conduct of the possible 2023 District Council Ordinary Election and Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election.

3. The higher provision for 2023-24 is not related to the delay in the installation of network services at polling stations for the 2021 LegCo General Election. The incident did not incur any additional expenditure ultimately. Since the service provider concerned failed to provide the required service under the terms of the contract, the REO has deducted the relevant fees payable to the service provider pursuant to the contract.

4. To enhance the use of information technology, the REO has earmarked some \$3.35 million to take forward the use of “iAM Smart” in applications for geographical constituency VR and to enhance the Central Platform for Election Advertisements. Besides, the resources required for some projects (e.g. improvement of the Electronic Poll Register system) are included in the recurrent expenditure of the REO and cannot be itemised separately. The REO will, having regard to the actual circumstances and need, apply for additional funding in accordance with the established procedures and mechanism.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB090**

**(Question Serial No. 1332)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding “the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses/registration eligibilities”, what are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved? Also, what were the respective manpower and expenditures in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the establishment and expenditure of the Voter Registration Division responsible for voter registration matters under the Registration and Electoral Office are tabulated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Establishment*</b>	<b>Expenditure#</b>
2020-21	127	\$184 million
2021-22	131	\$168 million
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	128	\$125 million

\* Inclusive of time-limited civil service posts

# Inclusive of staff remuneration and operational expenses

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB091**

**(Question Serial No. 2110)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The manual mode of vote counting after polling has long been considered as out of date by the public. Apart from raising a lot of queries about the count of votes, it also involves enormous manpower resources and the protracted process is among the issues of much concern. The Government has mentioned in the Estimates that it will review the electoral arrangements with a view to further enhancing the use of information technology and introducing more efficient and user-friendly measures in various stages of future elections. In this regard, please advise this Committee of the following: the reasons for not having fully implemented electronic voting so far; the difficulties in implementing electronic voting; and the savings in resources that the Government expects to achieve after the implementation of electronic voting, such as the overtime expenditure on employing staff to count ballot papers.

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Government has examined the wider application of information technology at various workflows and processes of a public election, such as at voter registration, polling and counting in the past. In fact, a number of information technology initiatives were introduced in the 4 elections conducted after improving the electoral system in 2021 (including the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, 2021 Legislative Council General Election, 2022 Chief Executive Election and 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election), involving the extensive application of the electronic poll register system for issuing ballot papers, the use of an optical mark recognition system to facilitate vote counting, etc.

2. In respect of electronic voting, although electronic voting can, in theory, enhance efficiency, reduce the manpower required and mitigate the risk of human error, a lot of complicated issues are also involved at the same time, such as how to effectively verify electors' identity, monitor the autonomy and secrecy of voting, and ensure system security and stability, etc. To ensure that public elections are conducted safely and efficiently in a

fair, just and open manner, the Government will continue examining various proposals, so as to improve electoral related arrangements constantly.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB092**

**(Question Serial No. 1517)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election (the By-election) held last year, will the Government inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure and its breakdown for the preparation and conduct of the By-election?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The 2022 Legislative Council (LegCo) Election Committee Constituency By-election was conducted smoothly on 18 December 2022 and the related expenses would be paid in 2022-23 and 2023-24. The revised estimate for 2022-23 and the provision for 2023-24 under the Registration and Electoral Office for the preparation and conduct of the relevant election are about \$85 million and \$5 million respectively, with breakdown as follows:

	<b>Estimated expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the 2022 LegCo By-election</b>	<b>2022-23 (Revised estimate) \$ million</b>	<b>2023-24 (Provision) \$ million</b>
(1)	Staff cost	32	4
(2)	Publicity	1	0
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs of hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, financial assistance scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, and printing, etc.)	52	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>5</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1011)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Provision for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for 2023-24 is \$577.7 million (69%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, mainly due to the increased requirements for election expenses. The REO has budgeted an overall expenditure of about \$1,410 million, of which about \$1,150 million is for election expenses. Besides, there will be a net decrease of 6 posts in 2023-24.

In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Details of the 6 deducted posts and the estimated savings in expenditure.
2. The REO assisted the Electoral Affairs Commission in carrying out a number of important tasks in 2022-23, including those for the implementation of “patriots administering Hong Kong”. However, the revised estimate for 2022-23 is reduced by \$367.5 million (30.5%). What are the reasons for the successful savings?
3. The REO has stated that whether the District Council (DC) Ordinary Election will be held in 2023-24 is “subject to the outcome of the review on district administration”, yet it has also budgeted that both the overall expenditure and election expenses will be higher than the respective figures in the financial year in which the 2019 DC Election was held (about \$800 million in overall expenditure and about \$600 million in election expenses). What are the reasons? If the DC Ordinary Election is to be held, what is the estimated manpower?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2022-23 of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is about \$368 million (30.5%) less than its original estimate. The main reasons are that the expenses earmarked for the possible multiple rounds of voting in the 2022 Chief Executive (CE) Election as well as for the preparation and conduct of possible by-elections for the year are lower than the budgeted provision.

2. The provision for the REO in 2023-24 is higher than that in 2022-23. This is mainly due to the provision reserved for the conduct of the possible 2023 District Council (DC) Ordinary Election and Legislative Council (LegCo) by-election. Although the review on district administration is still in progress, the REO has earmarked funding in 2023-24 to ensure that sufficient resources will be available for taking forward the work relating to the DC Ordinary Election should the election be held in that financial year. The REO has made reference to the arrangements for the 2019 DC Ordinary Election and the enhancement measures implemented for the 4 elections held after improving the electoral system in 2021 (i.e. the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, 2021 LegCo General Election, 2022 CE Election and 2022 LegCo Election Committee Constituency By-election) when preparing the above estimates, including the application of the Electronic Poll Register system for issuing ballot papers, etc.

3. Regarding the establishment in 2023-24, the REO plans to create 22 additional civil service posts (including 1 Principal Executive Officer, 3 Senior Executive Officer, 6 Executive Officer I, 2 Executive Officer II, 1 Chief Systems Manager, 1 Senior Systems Manager, 1 Analyst/Programmer I, 1 Analyst/Programmer II, 4 Assistant Clerical Officer and 2 Personal Secretary II posts). After discounting 28 posts to be deleted in 2023-24 (including 4 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 9 Executive Officer I, 3 Executive Officer II and 11 Assistant Clerical Officer posts), the net reduction of posts in the REO in 2023-24 is 6. After the change in the number of posts, there will be a net increase of \$197,520 in the notional annual mid-point salary value.

4. In addition to the staff in its establishment, the REO will also employ about 1 000 non-civil service contract staff (the highest number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) to meet the needs arising from elections. The manpower required for the work relating to the DC Ordinary Election has been absorbed in the above establishment.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB094**

**(Question Serial No. 1012)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In respect of electoral services, one of the matters requiring special attention in 2023-2024 is to review electoral arrangements with a view to further enhancing the use of information technology and introducing more efficient and user-friendly measures in various stages of future elections. Meanwhile, the Subcommittee on Improving the Practical Arrangements for Elections was established by the Legislative Council in February to improve the electoral system in a dynamic manner after the full implementation of “patriots administering Hong Kong”.

In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the details of the manpower and expenditure for the review of electoral arrangements?
2. What are the details and timetable for enhancing the use of technology and introducing more efficient and user-friendly measures?
3. Will the Government put in place any measures to further facilitate voting by Hong Kong electors in the Mainland and improve the arrangements for appointing election agents and their functions? If yes, what are the details and implementation timetable?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The resources and manpower required for the work relating to the review of electoral arrangements are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure and establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO); a separate breakdown of expenditure and manpower is not available.

2. In the 4 elections conducted after improving the electoral system in 2021 (including the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, 2022 Chief Executive (CE) Election and 2022 LegCo Election

Committee Constituency By-election), a series of enhancement measures were implemented to enhance the application of information technology and put in place more efficient and user-friendly electoral arrangements whilst ensuring a fair, open and honest election. The enhancement measures include: (a) adopting the Electronic Poll Register (EPR) system in ballot paper issuance to enable a smooth, flexible and accurate ballot paper issuance process; (b) arranging a special queue for electors with special needs (including persons aged 70 or above, pregnant women and persons who are unable to stand or queue for a long time due to illness, injury, disability or dependence on mobility aids); (c) increasing the number of ballot paper issuing desks to reduce the waiting time for electors casting votes; (d) making use of an Optical Mark Recognition system (except for the 2022 CE Election) to assist in vote counting with a view to completing the count as soon as practicable; (e) enhancing the training for polling and counting staff to ensure they have a thorough understanding of their duties assigned; and (f) setting up a polling station at the Penny's Bay isolation/quarantine facility during the epidemic to facilitate affected electors to exercise their right to vote, etc.

3. To further enhance the application of information technology in future elections, the REO will implement the following initiatives in 2023-24:

- (a) **Enhancing the EPR system:** This includes upgrading the system's statistical functions so that polling staff could use these functions to retrieve the data collected for compilation of different electoral forms after the close of poll, thus replacing some of the electoral forms which are still being filled in by polling staff manually, so as to streamline procedures and avoid mistakes associated with filling in the forms manually; and improving the user interface to make the system easier to use and operate;
- (b) **Enhancing the Central Platform for Election Advertisements:** This includes updating the software and upgrading the hardware of the Central Platform to ensure its operational stability; and improving the user interface and functions, introducing webpage design that is compatible for use on various mobile devices (i.e. automatic adjustment of webpage layout), so that the users concerned could submit or check election advertisements on the Central Platform using mobile phones. Besides, we will continue enhancing the design of the webpage for candidates' submission of election advertisements to remind the candidates to observe relevant requirements on publishing election advertisements;
- (c) **Enhancing the Mobile Input System for Electoral Statistics:** This enables polling staff to input, record and upload various electoral data to the Statistical Information Centre of the REO through tablet computers, thus replacing the previous work procedures involving fax transmission and inputting data manually, so as to make the data collection process more efficient and accurate; and
- (d) **Using "iAM Smart" for new registration by geographical constituency electors:** With the assistance of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, the REO is actively extending the use of "iAM Smart" to the voter registration (VR) service, i.e. enabling "iAM Smart" users to use the authentication, "e-Me" form filling and digital signing functions to submit online applications for new registration/report on change of particulars by an elector in a geographical constituency, so as to offer greater convenience to the public.

Subject to the progress in system development , the REO plans to conduct a trial at some of the VR counters/roving registration counters during this year's VR campaign to gain operational experience for improving the system and processes, with a view to formally launching the service in the VR campaign in the following year.

4. The Government will proactively study the wider application of information technology with a view to improving election procedures and work efficiency, and facilitating various stakeholders. Before introducing any specific arrangements, we will strike a proper balance among the application of information technology, efficiency enhancement, security risks, privacy protection and public trust, etc. We will consult the LegCo on any specific proposals and implementation timeframe at an appropriate juncture.

5. Some suggest that polling stations should be set up in the Mainland to facilitate voting by Hong Kong electors in the Mainland. As the Government has reiterated, it involves complex legal and actual operational issues. The Government needs to consider various relevant factors holistically, including whether there is a need and how to make pre-registration arrangements for voting outside Hong Kong, how to effectively and safely transport ballot papers and ballot boxes to and from polling stations outside Hong Kong, arrangements during the poll and count, how to apply the relevant electoral legislation and regulations of Hong Kong when arranging poll and count outside Hong Kong, the risks involved in the process and how to handle unexpected situations at polling stations outside Hong Kong, how to effectively maintain order at polling stations outside Hong Kong and how to enforce the relevant electoral legislation, how to devise an appropriate monitoring mechanism to ensure that the credibility of the election will not be undermined as a result, etc. Before final consideration, the Government has to study in great detail from the policy, legal and actual operational perspectives, and there should be thorough discussion in society. Therefore, the Government has no plan to set up polling stations in the Mainland for the time being.

6. In respect of improving election agents' appointment arrangements and their functions, the subsisting electoral legislation has provided for flexibility in the appointment of election agents. A candidate may appoint an election agent to assist him/her in the election by submitting a completed "Notice of Appointment of Election Agent" to the relevant Returning Officer at any time after he/she has submitted his/her nomination form. Regarding election agents' functions, notwithstanding the acts specified by the law which an election agent is not allowed to perform for a candidate, such as withdrawing the candidate's candidature or authorising any person to incur election expenses, election agents are already conferred with a rather extensive scope of functions. The Government has no plan to change the appointment arrangements and functions of election agents.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB095**

**(Question Serial No. 0942)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As mentioned in the Programme, the expenditure of the Registration and Electoral Office will amount to \$1,415 million in the new financial year, which is \$578 million more than that of the previous financial year. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) There are media reports that the format of the District Council (DC) Ordinary Election at the end of the year will be changed, probably with the number of directly elected seats substantially cut to one-third and the election expenses scaled down. Are the media reports true? If yes, as the reduced number of directly elected seats should incur less election expenses, what are the reasons behind the Government's estimation that election expenses would increase rather than decrease?
- (2) What are the detailed uses of the additional expenditure of \$578 million?
- (3) What is the staffing earmarked for matters relating to the DC Election?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau are conducting a review on district administration to ensure that future arrangements will be in conformity with the Basic Law, in adherence to the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", and conducive to enhancing governance efficacy at the district level. The review covers functions, composition, method of formation, electoral arrangements, etc. of the future district organisation which is not an organ of political power. The review is being actively undertaken, with details of the proposal to be further ironed out and hence not yet ready for public announcement. The Government will strive to complete the review as soon as possible and announce the details at a suitable juncture.

2. Although the review on district administration is still in progress, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has earmarked provision in 2023-24 to ensure that sufficient resources

will be available for taking forward the work relating to the District Council (DC) Ordinary Election should the election be held in that financial year. The REO has made reference to the arrangements for the 2019 DC Ordinary Election and the enhancement measures implemented for the 4 elections held after improving the electoral system in 2021 (i.e. the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, 2021 Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election, 2022 Chief Executive Election and 2022 LegCo Election Committee Constituency By-election) when preparing the above estimates, including the application of the Electronic Poll Register system to issue ballot papers, etc.

3. The increase in the provision for the REO in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23 is mainly due to the need to earmark provision to conduct the possible 2023 DC Ordinary Election and LegCo by-election.

4. As at 31 March 2023, the REO's establishment consists of 310 posts and is expected to decrease gradually to 304 posts in 2023-24. The REO will also employ about 1 000 non-civil service contract staff (the number of contract staff to be employed during the peak period) to cope with the needs arising from elections. The manpower required for the work relating to the DC Ordinary Election has been included in the above establishment.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CMAB096**

**(Question Serial No. 0943)**

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (WANG Man-chiu, Raymond)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the new financial year, the budgeted provision of the Registration and Electoral Office for election expenses is \$1.15 billion. Given that there are almost 400 000 Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, will the Government consider setting up polling stations in the Mainland again for the poll of the District Council Ordinary Election in late 2023? If yes, what are the details and the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau are conducting a review on district administration to ensure that future arrangements will be in conformity with the Basic Law, in adherence to the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, and conducive to enhancing governance efficacy at the district level. The review covers functions, composition, method of formation, electoral arrangements, etc., of the future district organisation which is not an organ of political power. The review is being actively undertaken, with details of the proposal to be further ironed out and hence not yet ready for public announcement. The Government will strive to complete the review as soon as possible and announce the details at a suitable juncture.

2. During the epidemic, many electors who were in the Mainland were unable to return to Hong Kong in time to cast their votes due to the relevant preventive and anti-epidemic measures. Therefore, the Government adopted a special one-off arrangement for the 2021 Legislative Council General Election to allow electors to cast their votes at the polling stations set up at the designated boundary control points on the Hong Kong side. However, with the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Government currently has no plan to continue to adopt the above special arrangement in future public elections.

3. With regard to the suggestion of setting up polling stations in the Mainland, as the Government has reiterated, it involves complex legal and actual operational issues. The Government needs to consider various relevant factors holistically, including whether there is a need and how to make pre-registration arrangements for voting outside Hong Kong, how to effectively and safely transport ballot papers and ballot boxes to and from polling stations outside Hong Kong, arrangements during the poll and count, how to apply the relevant electoral legislation and regulations of Hong Kong when arranging poll and count outside Hong Kong, the risks involved in the process and how to handle unexpected situations at polling stations outside Hong Kong, how to effectively maintain order at polling stations outside Hong Kong and how to enforce the relevant electoral legislation, how to devise an appropriate monitoring mechanism to ensure that the credibility of the election will not be undermined as a result, etc. Before final consideration, the Government has to study in great detail from the policy, legal and actual operational perspectives, and there should be thorough discussion in society. Therefore, the Government has no plan to set up polling stations in the Mainland for the time being.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3531)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
(Ms Gracie FOO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

How many new Political Assistant positions have been created? What is the expenditure on their remuneration? How is the pay level determined? Has/Will an open recruitment exercise been/be conducted?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the proposal for re-organisation of the Government structure on 10 June 2022. With effect from 1 July 2022, a total of 6 Political Assistant (PA) positions have been created for the Secretary for Justice, Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Deputy Financial Secretary, Deputy Secretary for Justice, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, and Secretary for Housing. The HKSAR Government has reserved about \$6.53 million (excluding Mandatory Provident Fund contribution) in 2023-24 for remuneration for these 6 new PA positions.

2. The cash remuneration for politically appointed officials of the sixth-term HKSAR Government was recommended by the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Executive Council and the Legislature, and Officials under the Political Appointment System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Independent Commission), and accepted by the Chief Executive in Council in May 2022. Based on the Independent Commission's recommendation, the cash remuneration for a PA continues to be capped at 35% of that for a Director of Bureau.

3. The current-term Chief Executive upholds the principle of meritocracy and casts his net wide in scouting for talents for forming the governing team. The individuals concerned must be Hong Kong permanent residents, sharing the governing philosophy of the Chief Executive and the respective Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux, and with good communication abilities, love for both the country and Hong Kong, and enthusiasm and

passion in serving the community. The appointed PAs are recommended by the respective Principal Officials, and they meet the criteria mentioned above.

- End -