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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 8

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S-CMAB01	S051	KAN Wai-mun, Carmen	144	(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CMAB01

(Question Serial No. S051)

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. As indicated in the written reply, there were 87 applications for the 2024-25 Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme, higher than that in 2023-24. This suggests that the promotional efforts have been effective, thus attracting more applications. However, the number of approved applications remained the same at 24 in both years. In this connection, please advise whether the increase in applications but unchanged number of approved applications is due to budget constraints or other reasons.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau provides sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional activities and research work on the Constitution and the Basic Law, in order to further strengthen relevant promotion and publicity work. A Vetting Committee (VC) of the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme”, comprising representatives from the Government and non-official members with rich experience in relevant fields, assists in assessing relevant applications and gives advice on related matters. In assessing each application, the VC will consider various factors, including the proposed project’s objectives, content and feasibility, and the applicant’s experience, management capability and previous performance in the Sponsorship Scheme etc. The number of approved projects in each round depends on the specific circumstances of each application received in that round, and has no direct correlation with the number of applications. While the number of applications in 2024-25 was higher than that in 2023-24, the VC only recommended sponsorship for 24 applications after considering the specific circumstances of each application according to the above assessment criteria, and this is not due to budget constraints.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-CMAB01

(Question Serial No. SV022)

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:

According to the information provided by the Government, while the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” received 37 and 87 applications in the past 2 years (2023-24 and 2024-25) respectively, only 24 applications were approved each year. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen

Reply:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau provides sponsorship to non-governmental organisations and community organisations through the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional activities and research work on the Constitution and the Basic Law, in order to further strengthen relevant promotion and publicity work. A Vetting Committee (VC) of the “Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Activity and Research Sponsorship Scheme”, comprising representatives from the Government and non-official members with rich experience in relevant fields, assists in assessing relevant applications and gives advice on related matters. In assessing each application, the VC will consider various factors, including the proposed project’s objectives, content and feasibility, and the applicant’s experience, management capability and previous performance in the Sponsorship Scheme etc. The number of approved projects in each round depends on the specific circumstances of each application received in that round, and has no direct correlation with the number of applications. While the number of applications in 2024-25 was higher than that in 2023-24, the VC only recommended sponsorship for 24 applications after considering the specific circumstances of each application according to the above assessment criteria, and this is not due to budget constraints.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-CMAB02

(Question Serial No. SV020)

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:

The Government mentioned in the written reply that the co-operation between the two parks will be enhanced and start-up enterprises will be recommended to land in each other's park. Please provide the total number of start-up beneficiaries that landed in Qianhai and the total amount of grants received in the past year.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

According to the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, Cyberport and the Qianhai Authority signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2021 to strengthen the collaboration between Hong Kong and Qianhai. Subsequently, the two parties announced a deeper collaboration and signed another MoU in August 2024 to enhance the cooperation between the two parks and to recommend start-up enterprises to land in each other's park, providing support to Hong Kong enterprises interested in setting up operations in Qianhai and Qianhai enterprises interested in pursuing development in Hong Kong.

In the past year, some ten Cyberport enterprises, covering different digital fields such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce and health technology, explored setting up their operations in Qianhai, among which two Cyberport enterprises on artificial intelligence and e-commerce have formally started business in Qianhai. Qianhai has offered a series of support measures, such as preferential venue spaces, to support Cyberport enterprises in expanding their businesses and investment opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and the Mainland. Furthermore, Qianhai has set up investment funds to make early-stage investments in its priority and strategic industries, including artificial intelligence and life technology. Eligible Cyberport enterprises can also benefit from these funds.

On supporting Qianhai enterprises' development in Hong Kong, two enterprises on artificial intelligence and digital entertainment from Qianhai joined the Cyberport community as a tenant and an incubatee respectively in the past year. In addition to receiving financial

assistance of \$500,000 by phases, Qianhai enterprises joining the Cyberport's incubation programme have been matched with entrepreneurship mentors who offer advice on their business plans and development directions, etc. Qianhai enterprises that have become part of the Cyberport community can also benefit from a series of enterprise support services offered by Cyberport, as well as its publicity and promotion initiatives, and investment networks.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-CMAB03

(Question Serial No. SV021)

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:

How can affected individuals file complaints when social media platforms (such as Xiaohongshu) fraudulently use their social media posts for commercial publicity purposes?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) regulates the collection, holding, processing and use of personal data in Hong Kong, including instances where data users scrape personal data of the public from social media platforms for publicity purposes. If members of the public suspect their personal data from social media posts were being subject to fraudulent use, they may file complaints with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. For incidents involving Mainland social media platforms, members of the public may also consider directly lodging complaints with the relevant platforms or Mainland law enforcement agencies.

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