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Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-23

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 3

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB001

(Question Serial No. 0570)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The responsibilities of Hong Kong's Mainland Offices are to enhance liaison, communication, trade and commercial relations as well as investment promotion in the Mainland, and to provide support and practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In this connection, please advise of the following:

- (1) In the past 2 years, did the Mainland Offices deploy additional resources and manpower to roll out measures to assist Hong Kong residents stranded in the Mainland due to the anti-epidemic measures on boundary control, including but not limited to delivering medications and providing transportation? If yes, what are the details of the measures?
- (2) In the past 3 years, did the Mainland Offices allocate resources and manpower to discuss with the relevant Mainland authorities how to enhance facilitation measures for Hong Kong people living in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

Immigration Divisions have been set up under 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. In 2020 and 2021, a total of 3 219 and 581 requests for assistance were respectively received from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Among them, 2 980 and 146 were related to the COVID-19 epidemic, including cases in which assistance seekers were stranded due to transport conditions or needed medication provided in Hong Kong etc. The Immigration Divisions had rendered practicable assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances.

2. In respect of the COVID-19 epidemic, the assistance and support rendered by the Mainland Offices to Hong Kong people in the Mainland include disseminating information on the Mainland's latest anti-epidemic measures (e.g. vaccination for Hong Kong people in the Mainland), handling related enquiries, and conveying concerns about compulsory quarantine measures to the relevant Mainland authorities, and so forth.

3. The Mainland Offices have, through various channels, disseminated information on facilitation measures to Hong Kong people in the Mainland, and relayed their appeals to the relevant Mainland authorities. Also, the Mainland Offices have strived for more facilitation measures that help Hong Kong people study, work and live in the Mainland and promoted the smooth implementation of the measures at the local level, with a view to enabling Hong Kong people to seize the opportunities brought about by the national development.

4. As the work above is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the provision and manpower required cannot be singled out and itemised.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB002

(Question Serial No. 0623)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has been making efforts to promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- a) 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, and legal professionals in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure on promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law in 2022-23?
- b) 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?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Constitution and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to enable the general public to have a comprehensive and correct 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 to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the “one country, two systems” principle. In the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22), the actual expenditures of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law are about \$15 million, \$12 million and \$17 million respectively. Under the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotion activities were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations. In the 2022-23 financial year, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$26 million.

2. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects 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 BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) have been set up under the BLPSC to plan and organise various types of activities for the public and the related sectors to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity 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.

3. As regards training for civil servants, the Civil Service Bureau, through the former Civil Service Training and Development Institute (CSTDI), 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 (2019 to 2021), about 33 100 civil servants at different levels received training organised by CSTDI with contents covering the Constitution, the Basic Law, the constitutional order of the HKSAR, the Hong Kong 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 Hong Kong National Security Law, and have helped them acquire a better understanding of the relationship between the Basic Law and the discharge of official duties. The Civil Service College, established in December 2021, will further enhance training for civil servants on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law. Since such training constitutes part and parcel of the day-to-day operation of the former CSTDI and the Civil Service College (starting from December 2021), it would be difficult to account for the expenses for training in this area separately.

4. As for promotion work in the education sector, the Education Bureau (EDB) has all along been organising different training to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to teachers. Starting from the 2020/21 school year, the EDB has incorporated contents pertinent to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law in the core training programmes for newly-joined teachers, serving teachers and teachers aspiring for promotion. The EDB has also strengthened the relevant elements in the training programmes for school managers and principals of primary and secondary schools. Besides, the EDB has collaborated with expert organisations to organise more in-depth thematic programmes for which legal experts and academics are invited as speakers. In addition, the EDB continues to organise the Constitution and the Basic Law Knowledge Enrichment/Advanced Online Courses, etc. for teachers, so as to enhance teachers' understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law in a holistic and systematic manner.

5. 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, and continuously enhance and strengthen relevant training contents.

The estimated expenditure and budget of relevant training are subsumed under the EDB's recurrent expenditure, and no breakdown of figures is available.

6. On promotion work in the legal sector, following the successful organisation of the Basic Law Legal Summit "Back to Basics" in 2020, the Department of Justice (DoJ) will organise another Basic Law Legal Conference this year. This Legal Conference seeks to clearly explain the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law to various sectors of the community (including legal professionals), and enable the public to correctly understand that "one country" is the premise of "two systems". A sourcebook entitled "Basic Law: Selected Drafting Materials and Significant Cases" will be 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 will be conducive in fostering a correct understanding of the relationship between the Constitution and the Basic Law among different sectors of the community.

7. Under the "Vision 2030 for Rule of Law" initiative, the DoJ has organised and co-organised a number of rule of law promotion and education activities for teachers and students, including law talks under the "Rule of Law Enlightenment" Programme, the teachers' training course entitled "Respecting the Law, Reinforcing the Rule of Law", and the Teacher Symposium. The DoJ has also supported the launch of "e-Resources for Rule of Law and the Basic Law", which covers the relevant knowledge of the Constitution and the Basic Law etc. The platform has recorded over 3 000 page views since its launch, and the activities above have cumulatively reached more than 2 200 teachers and 4 000 students. The DoJ reviews the effectiveness of the platform and various activities from time to time by collecting participants' feedback and comments etc. Besides, the DoJ co-organised with Tsinghua University 3 courses on "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 counsel and private lawyers. The participants had positive feedback about the courses, and engaged in lively interaction and discussion with the scholars.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB003

(Question Serial No. 0627)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

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

- a) Are policies, measures and activities in place to further encourage and co-ordinate young people in Hong Kong to integrate 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?
- b) 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 and estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The objectives of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) are to, through further deepening co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, promote co-ordinated regional economic development, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) attaches great importance to the work relating to the development of the Greater Bay Area, and has, according to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, all along taken forward various policy measures in different areas to support Hong Kong residents (including young people) who wish to study, work, live and start their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. The Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which is chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, and attended by the Chief Executive as a member, announced 24 policy measures after the two meetings in 2019. The vast majority of these measures have been implemented by now. They include tax concessions; facilitation of property purchase; support for young entrepreneurs; cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding; liberalisation of legal, insurance and construction-related professional services; the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the Greater Bay Area; and Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect. These measures can facilitate Hong Kong residents (including young people) in making good use of the Greater Bay Area's opportunities and seeking development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

3. On support for young people starting their businesses in Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, the Youth Development Commission has launched 2 funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund (YDF), namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Experiential Scheme), providing entrepreneurial support and incubation services to young people. The list of funded organisations under the 2 schemes was announced in end-February 2021. About \$130 million has been granted under the Entrepreneurship Scheme to support 16 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which are expected to provide capital subsidy to about 230 youth start-ups (involving more than 800 Hong Kong young entrepreneurs) and render entrepreneurial support and incubation services to about 4 000 young people. As announced in the 2020 Policy Address, an additional fund of about \$7 million has been provided under the Entrepreneurship Scheme to support more youth start-ups to strengthen their corporate governance, adaptability and digital competence. The funded NGOs have started rolling out their youth entrepreneurship projects. Subject to the latest situation of the COVID-19 epidemic, the funded NGOs will gradually assist young entrepreneurs in settling in innovative and entrepreneurial bases in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. Meanwhile, about \$5 million has been granted under the Experiential Scheme to support 15 NGOs to organise short-term experiential projects at innovative and entrepreneurial bases in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. It is estimated that initially about 700 young people will benefit from the Experiential Scheme. Subject to the epidemic situation, the Home Affairs Bureau of the HKSAR Government will, through the related funding schemes under the YDF, provide subsidies for Hong Kong young people to start their businesses in Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

4. On employment, the HKSAR Government launched the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme (Employment Scheme) in January 2021 to encourage and support Hong Kong university graduates to work in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area and to grasp career development opportunities there. Enterprises participating in the Employment Scheme should offer eligible graduates a monthly salary of not less than HK\$18,000, and station them to work and receive on-the-job training in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government will grant a monthly allowance of HK\$10,000 to the enterprises for each graduate engaged up to 18 months. The Employment Scheme has received staunch support from the business sector, with 417 enterprises offering 3 494 job vacancies for eligible graduates to apply. About half of

the vacancies are innovation and technology posts and over 20 000 job applications have been received. As at February 2022, enterprises participating in the Employment Scheme advised that nearly 1 100 graduates had reported duty. The HKSAR Government allocated about \$370 million under the Anti-epidemic Fund in end-2020 to take forward the Employment Scheme. The Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Labour Department of the HKSAR Government are conducting an evaluation study on the Employment Scheme, which is expected to be completed within this year.

5. On education, local youth who aspire to pursue further studies in the Mainland (including the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area) may participate in the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions (Admission Scheme) implemented by the Ministry of Education since the 2012/13 academic year. Mainland institutions participating in the Admission Scheme admit Hong Kong students based on their results in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, hence obviating the need for them to take the Joint Entrance Examination for Mainland Institutions. The Education Bureau (EDB) of the HKSAR Government assists the Ministry of Education in implementing the Admission Scheme in Hong Kong to provide local secondary school graduates with multiple study pathways and opportunities to connect with the country's development. A total of 129 Mainland institutions will be participating in the Admission Scheme in the 2022/23 academic year, including 18 institutions from 4 Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. In addition, the EDB of the HKSAR Government supports local secondary school graduates who intend to pursue further studies in the Mainland through the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme (MUSSS) introduced in the 2014/15 academic year. The MUSSS comprises 2 components: a "means-tested subsidy" (whereby eligible students who have passed a means test will receive either a full-rate subsidy or a half-rate subsidy, depending on their needs) and a "non-means-tested subsidy". For the 2021/22 academic year, the full-rate and half-rate "means-tested subsidy" are \$16,800 and \$8,400 per annum respectively; and the "non-means-tested subsidy" offers a flat rate subsidy of \$5,600 per annum. The estimated total expenditure for the MUSSS is about \$58 million.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB004

(Question Serial No. 0628)

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 (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On discrimination and equal opportunities, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has been implementing public education and publicity activities to promote equal opportunities and anti-discrimination. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- a) 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 2022-23?
- b) As the public have greater concern about discrimination on grounds of citizenship/residency status and age, has the Government considered taking forward legislative exercises on these 2 areas? If no, will a study on legislation be carried out in the coming year? If yes, what are the details of the measures and the expenditure for the coming year? If no, what are the reasons?
- c) The estimate for the Equal Opportunities Commission will decrease by 2.6% in 2022-23. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) implemented various public education and publicity activities to promote anti-discrimination and equal opportunities, including the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities, the Equal Opportunity Employer Recognition Scheme, advertisements (including those on television, radio, MTR and buses), multimedia promotion programmes, newspaper articles, radio programmes, roving drama performances in schools, and different competitions.

2. As the public education and publicity efforts mentioned above are an integral part of the EOC's daily work, the related manpower and expenditure incurred cannot be singled out and itemised, except for individual projects that come with an estimate of expenditure. In the past 3 financial years, the total expenditure (including staff costs) involved was \$26.59 million, \$27.73 million and \$33.18 million respectively, and the estimated expenditure for 2022-23 is \$30.51 million.

3. The Government is committed to promoting equal opportunities and eliminating all forms of discrimination. Regarding discrimination on grounds of citizenship/residency status, the Government is actively working with the EOC to study how the anti-discrimination legislation should be enhanced to provide protection from discrimination or vilification that may be encountered by persons arriving in Hong Kong from the Mainland. Our goal is to strive for determination of the way forward within this term of the Government. As regards age discrimination, the EOC will conduct internal study on how to address the issue. The Government will continue to maintain communication with the EOC in this regard.

4. The provision for the EOC in 2022-23 is 2.6% (i.e. around \$3.5 million) lower than the original estimate for 2021-22. The main reasons are as follows:

- (a) the recurrent expenditure has been cut by 1% under the Government's expenditure reduction programme announced in the 2021-22 Budget;
- (b) since 2019-20, the Government provided a time-limited funding of \$2 million to the EOC each year for 3 years for organising publicity activities to promote racial integration and equal opportunities for ethnic minorities. Such funding is not recurrent from 2022-23; and
- (c) the Government disbursed a one-off funding of around \$270,000 to the EOC in 2021-22 for enhancement of information technology infrastructure and conference facilities. This sum will not be provided in 2022-23.

5. In March 2022, the Government provided one-off additional provision of \$5 million to the EOC for promotion of equal opportunities for ethnic minorities and for meeting other operational needs in the next 2 financial years. We will maintain communication with the EOC to ensure that it has adequate resources to discharge its statutory functions and duties.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB005

(Question Serial No. 0343)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Many Hong Kong people who intend to start businesses or work or who have already started businesses or worked in the Greater Bay Area find the support inadequate, e.g. they have nowhere to turn to for assistance in respect of housing, legal matters, employment, healthcare or emergencies. Will the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region consider setting up additional liaison units or establishing dedicated departments in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area to provide support services for Hong Kong people living in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The service area of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) set up by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in 2002, and its Shenzhen Liaison Unit covers the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. To support Hong Kong residents in Guangdong (including the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area), the Guangdong ETO has collected practical information on medical care, business, employment, education and legal services etc. and disseminated such information through production of information booklets on its website to assist Hong Kong residents to better adapt to living in the area. The Guangdong ETO also makes use of the WeChat official account and electronic newsletters, such as the Newsletter on Trade and Business, to disseminate information that is useful and of concern to Hong Kong people and enterprises at an opportune time. Trade seminars are organised for Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland from time to time to share with them the latest information and policies on business, social security and taxation etc. in the Mainland. Activities and talks about living, internship and employment in the Mainland are conducted for Hong Kong students in the Mainland. In respect of the COVID-19 epidemic, the assistance and support rendered by the Guangdong ETO to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland include

disseminating information on the Mainland's latest anti-epidemic measures (e.g. vaccination for Hong Kong people in the Mainland), handling related enquiries, and conveying concerns about quarantine measures to the relevant departments in the Mainland and Hong Kong, and so forth.

3. The Immigration Division under the Guangdong ETO handles matters relating to eligible Hong Kong residents' application for HKSAR Passport and replacement of HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and HKSAR Re-entry Permit, and provides assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The Guangdong ETO also relays the views or requests of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to the relevant departments of the HKSAR Government or the Mainland authorities for follow-up. The 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.

4. Furthermore, to help Hong Kong enterprises tap into the domestic market of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) launched the GoGBA One-stop Platform in June 2021 to provide multi-faceted support for Hong Kong enterprises, including market information on the Greater Bay Area and related government policies, group-based enquiry service and training, as well as online and offline business promotion, development and matching services. The HKTDC Greater Bay Area Centre has also been set up in Shenzhen to provide on-site support for Hong Kong enterprises.

5. The HKSAR Government is reviewing the roles and work effectiveness of the Mainland Offices (including the Guangdong ETO), as well as the geographical distribution of the Mainland Offices and Liaison Units. We will strive to improve the policy measures that facilitate Hong Kong people to pursue development and live in the Mainland.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB006

(Question Serial No. 0299)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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 Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in November 2020, please set out the estimated staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and operating expenses of the Office for this year.

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?

Will the Bureau consider introducing specific 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?

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?

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 CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The objectives of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) are to, through further deepening co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, promote co-ordinated regional economic development, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) attaches great importance to the work relating to

the development of the Greater Bay Area, and has, according to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, all along taken forward various policy measures in different areas to support Hong Kong residents and professionals who wish to live, work and start their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and also support Hong Kong enterprises and industries with clear advantages to make good use of the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. The Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which is chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, and attended by the Chief Executive as a member, announced 24 policy measures after the two meetings in 2019. The vast majority of these measures have been implemented by now. They include tax concessions; facilitation of property purchase; support for young entrepreneurs; cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding; liberalisation of legal, insurance and construction-related professional services; the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the Greater Bay Area; and Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect. These measures can facilitate Hong Kong residents in making good use of the Greater Bay Area's opportunities and seeking development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

3. Formally established in November 2020, 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 Office is also responsible for strengthening internal co-ordination within the HKSAR Government, including providing support for the high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which is personally chaired by the Chief Executive, as well as fostering exchanges with local and overseas stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce and professional organisations. At the same time, the Office disseminates information about the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors of the community more frequently and comprehensively through strategic publicity and promotion efforts, including maintaining close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders; promoting the Greater Bay Area through a dedicated website, social media, and radio and television broadcasts; as well as organising exhibitions. The Office also encourages different sectors of society to actively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area to reap the benefits it brings about. Furthermore, to help Hong Kong enterprises tap into the domestic market of the Greater Bay Area, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) launched the GoGBA One-stop Platform in June 2021 to provide multi-faceted support for Hong Kong enterprises, including market information on the Greater Bay Area and related government policies, group-based enquiry service and training, as well as online and offline business promotion, development and matching services. The HKTDC Greater Bay Area Centre has also been set up in Shenzhen to provide on-site support for Hong Kong enterprises.

4. In 2022-23, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$75.65 million (including staff cost of about \$34 million on civil service posts and other expenses of about \$41.65 million), of which the estimated expenditure on publicity and promotion for the development of the Greater Bay Area has increased by \$13 million as compared with that in 2021-22. 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 operating costs in accordance with the established procedures and mechanism if necessary.

5. As regards the provision of on the ground support for Hong Kong enterprises and residents in the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, the service scope of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO), which was set up by the HKSAR Government in 2002, and the Shenzhen Liaison Unit established thereunder also covers this area of work. For example, the Guangdong ETO has produced booklets which contain practical information about living in Guangdong, and is rolling out short videos providing information on the opening of bank accounts, application for residence permits, participation in social insurance, as well as information on employment, education and property purchase etc. in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The Guangdong ETO also 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 and Thematic Seminar on Tax Policy in January 2022. On supporting and encouraging Hong Kong young people to start their businesses in the Greater Bay Area, the Guangdong ETO has been engaging in exchanges with operators and young entrepreneurs of youth entrepreneurial bases in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The Online Exchange Session on Youth Entrepreneurship in the Greater Bay Area organised by the Guangdong ETO in August 2021 also received overwhelming response.

6. The development of the Greater Bay Area has a very extensive scope that involves different policy areas. As the nature, policy intent, expected benefits, target groups and implementation details of different policy measures vary, it is difficult to set specific and quantifiable key performance indicators. The Office will, in light of the actual circumstances of different policy measures, continue to co-ordinate with relevant parties to proactively take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will promote and publicise relevant policy measures of Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area through the HKSAR Government's dedicated website (bayarea.gov.hk), the official WeChat account ([hkcmab](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va81111111111111111111)), as well as the dedicated platforms of the HKTDC and InvestHK.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB007

(Question Serial No. 0486)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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 financial years.
2. Please set out the numbers and types of requests for assistance received by the 5 Mainland Offices in the past 3 financial years.
3. Due to the epidemic, some cross-boundary students in Hong Kong schools need to receive education in the Mainland. What support has been rendered by the 5 Mainland Offices in this regard? Please provide details on the expenditure and manpower deployment involved.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The staff establishment of the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the past 3 years is set out in the table below:

Office	Staff establishment in 2019-20	Staff establishment in 2020-21	Staff establishment in 2021-22
Beijing Office	23	23	23
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	18	18
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	15	15

Office	Staff establishment in 2019-20	Staff establishment in 2020-21	Staff establishment in 2021-22
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, with a breakdown by nature, are set out in the table below:

Year	Assistance cases which were related to immigration and personal safety matters	Other assistance cases
2019	456	197
2020	3 219	177
2021	581	133

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

3. The Mainland Offices are committed to providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland. On the one hand, the Mainland Offices strive to better understand the situations of Hong Kong residents working, studying and living in the Mainland; and on the other hand, the Offices provide appropriate and practical assistance to Hong Kong residents where needed. As for some cross-boundary students who choose to continue their education in the Mainland due to the epidemic, they may approach the Mainland Offices for assistance if needed, and the Mainland Offices will provide appropriate and practical assistance based on the circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB008

(Question Serial No. 0487)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide the actual expenditure on promoting the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 financial years, and the estimated expenditure on promoting the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law in 2022-23.
2. How many district-level publicity activities on the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law (e.g. organising roving exhibitions and arranging the mobile resource centre to different districts and schools) were conducted in each of the past 3 financial years?
3. Foreign politicians have been smearing the “one country, two systems” principle, the Constitution and the Basic Law. In the past year, what actions were taken by the Government to refute their accusations, including holding press conferences, issuing press releases and writing to consuls in Hong Kong? Please set out details in tabular form.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Constitution and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to enable the general public to have a comprehensive and correct 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 to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the “one country, two systems” principle. In the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22), the actual expenditures of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law are about \$15 million, \$12 million and \$17 million respectively. Under the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotion activities were not held

as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations. In the 2022-23 financial year, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$26 million.

2. In the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22), the CMAB organised a total of 172 publicity and promotion activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, which were conducted in physical form in various districts. The activities included roving exhibitions and parent-child workshops in different shopping centres, visits of mobile resource centre to housing estates and schools, and interactive mobile game booths in different venues (including sports centres with children's play rooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, schools, community halls, and the Civic Education Resource Centre). These activities aimed to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to the public and students in a lively, interesting and interactive manner.

3. The HKSAR Government has been keeping in view the opinions of individuals or organisations of different sectors and welcomes any constructive suggestions in relation to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the "one country, two systems" principle. However, if there are any misinformation, misleading messages, intentional smearing or even attacks, the HKSAR Government will, via different channels such as press releases, newspaper articles and media interviews, make immediate clarification or response as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB009

(Question Serial No. 0489)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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. Also, to implement the Decision of the National People's Congress on Improving the Electoral System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the amended Annexes I and II to the Basic Law, the Government gazetted the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Improving Electoral System Ordinance), which was passed by the Legislative Council and came into effect on 31 May 2021. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of 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, 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 Improving Electoral System Ordinance on social media platforms, so as to enhance young people's understanding of the above measures? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Foreign politicians have been smearing the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Improving Electoral System Ordinance. In the past year, what measures were taken by the Government to refute their unfounded accusations, including holding press conferences, issuing press releases and writing to consuls in Hong Kong? Please provide details in tabular form, and set out the staff establishment and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

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 (“Hong Kong National Security Law”) on 30 June 2020, stability has been restored in 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 applied in the political system of Hong Kong.

Improving the Electoral System

3. The Government has spared no effort to explain to the public the necessity and urgency of improving the electoral system as well as the solid constitutional basis of the Decision. In regard to staff establishment, the relevant work is undertaken by a team led by 2 Principal Assistant Secretaries and supported by 7 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, convey the message to different sectors of the community that improving the electoral system not only enables Hong Kong to stay true to the original aspiration in implementing the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” and get back on the right track, but also contributes to the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. The Government has produced more than 100 000 copies of a pamphlet, which explains in detail the background and justifications of improving the 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, 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 Legislative Council, the candidate eligibility review mechanism, the registration arrangements for voters and ex-officio members, etc. Besides, we have used different means to enhance public understanding of the improvements to the electoral system, including placing advertisements at the exterior of government buildings and prominent locations in different districts, and on television screens of commercial and residential buildings, public transport, television, newspapers, online platforms and publications. The publicity expenditure for the Ordinance on Improving the Electoral System is set out in the following table:

Item	Expenditure
Television and radio announcements/other videos	\$2,750,000
Newspaper advertisements	\$2,797,500
Advertisements on public transport	\$3,358,900
Giant outdoor advertisements	\$2,071,000
Posters, pamphlets and leaflets	\$2,719,000
Advertisements on television screens of commercial and residential buildings	\$860,000
Thematic website and online advertisements	\$1,600,000

The Hong Kong National Security Law

5. Since the promulgation for implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has been introducing the Hong Kong National Security Law to various sectors and responding to concerns raised 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.
6. Among others, from 1 April 2021 to 28 February 2022, the HKSAR Government issued 28 press releases and wrote to overseas media on 8 occasions, promptly refuting smearing against the Hong Kong National Security Law made by individuals with ulterior motives.
7. On 15 April 2021, the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region organised the National Security Education Day, the theme of which was “Uphold National Security, Safeguard Our Home – Improve Electoral System, Ensure Patriots Administering Hong Kong”. The objectives include raising Hong Kong residents’ awareness on national security; creating a positive atmosphere of safeguarding national security; enhancing the capacity to fend off national security risks; at the same time deepening the understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security and fostering national identity. A series of activities were conducted, including the Opening Ceremony cum Seminar, large-scale mosaic wall activities, public exhibitions, multimedia creative competition, and open days at the training institutes of the disciplined forces under the SB.
8. At the same time, on 2 July 2021, the HKSAR Government launched the Virtual Exhibition of the First Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Hong Kong National Security Law to enhance public understanding of the legislative background, importance and significance of the Hong Kong National Security Law, and to increase awareness of safeguarding national security. Small gifts were also given to primary and secondary school students as well as members of youth cadets, encouraging them to visit the website to learn more about national security and the Hong Kong National Security Law.
9. In addition, the HKSAR Government has produced Announcements in the Public Interest (“APIs”), which were broadcast on television, radio, government buildings, online platforms and webinars. The APIs highlight the effectiveness of the Hong Kong National Security Law in stopping chaos and restoring order in Hong Kong, and 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.
10. 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, 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.

11. Besides, the Hong Kong 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 make good use of the platform of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (“BLPSC”) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate and formulate with the BLPSC members strategies and plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law.

12. The HKSAR Government’s promotional work on the Hong Kong 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.

Way Forward

13. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to allocate resources to publicise and promote the Hong Kong National Security Law and the improved electoral system to the public via different channels (including online channels). The HKSAR Government will also continue to strengthen publicity and education, so as to enhance Hong Kong people’s understanding of national security and law-abiding awareness, and deepen the understanding of the international community on the Hong Kong National Security Law and its positive messages. In respect of foreign politicians’ and media’ smearing, false statements and reports, the Chief Executive, Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux will continue to make prompt refutations and clarifications, attending different events, and posting articles via blogs and other means, so as to reiterate that with the support of the Central Government and the safeguards of the Hong Kong National Security Law and the improved electoral system, Hong Kong’s democratic development will continue to progress in accordance with the law in an orderly manner in accordance with the Constitution and Basic Law, to achieve a high quality democratic system that is consistent with the actual situation of Hong Kong, 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 Hong Kong National Security Law and the improved electoral system overseas, the overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices closely monitor commentary from foreign politicians and media, and will continue to refute smears and falsehoods. 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 Basic Law will not succeed.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB010

(Question Serial No. 0240)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The revised estimate for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in 2021-22 is \$315.7 million, representing a decrease of 13.8% over the original estimate of \$366.3 million. Please explain why and provide a breakdown of expenditure for major items under this Subhead in the current financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Mainland and Taiwan Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (HKETCO) in Taiwan) proactively serve as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; 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 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and assisting in enhancing arts and cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland/Taiwan. Meanwhile, the Offices provide information and other appropriate support for Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and Taiwan.

2. With effect from 18 May 2021, the HKETCO in Taiwan has temporarily suspended operation. Therefore, the 2021-22 revised estimate for the expenditure on emoluments and other operational expenses needs to be adjusted accordingly. Besides, under the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, some activities of individual Offices could not be conducted as scheduled. As such, there is a decrease in the overall revised estimated expenditure for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices.

3. The estimated expenditure for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in 2022-23 is \$392.7 million, of which around 40% is the salary-related cost. Other operational

expenses cover the daily operation of the Offices, enhancement of trade opportunities, promotion of Hong Kong, and the organisation of activities to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB011

(Question Serial No. 0125)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On promoting and co-ordinating the work of bureaux in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, please advise of the following:

- (a) The work currently undertaken by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office or the Bureau in facilitating the local agriculture and fisheries industries to integrate into the country's development and seek development in the Greater Bay Area;
- (b) Further to the question above, the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (c) The support and assistance to be provided by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office or the Bureau for members of the local agriculture and fisheries industries who mostly wish to develop the industries in the Greater Bay Area, given the possible serious impact of large-scale development plans such as the Northern Metropolis and the Lantau Tomorrow Vision on the local agriculture and fisheries industries.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The objectives of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) are to, through further deepening co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, promote co-ordinated regional economic development, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) attaches great importance to the work relating to the development of the Greater Bay Area, and has, according to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, all along taken forward various policy measures in different areas to support Hong Kong residents and professionals who wish to live, work and start their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay

Area, and also support Hong Kong enterprises and industries with clear advantages to make good use of the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. Formally established in November 2020, 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 Office is also responsible for strengthening internal co-ordination within the HKSAR Government, including providing support for the high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which is personally chaired by the Chief Executive, as well as fostering exchanges with local and overseas stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce and professional organisations. At the same time, the Office disseminates information about the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors of the community more frequently and comprehensively through strategic publicity and promotion efforts, including maintaining close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders; promoting the Greater Bay Area through a dedicated website, social media, and radio and television broadcasts; as well as organising exhibitions. The Office also encourages different sectors of society to actively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area to reap the benefits it brings about.

3. In 2022-23, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$75.65 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts. 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 industries is not available. The Office will, in light of the actual circumstances of different policy measures, continue to co-ordinate with relevant parties to proactively take forward the overall development of the Greater Bay Area.

4. On facilitating the agriculture and fisheries industries to grasp the opportunities of the Greater Bay Area, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area supports enhancing co-operation in the safety of edible agricultural products and raising the standard of food safety protection in the region. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) of the HKSAR Government signed a framework agreement on the co-operation in agricultural matters with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Guangdong Province in late 2019 to strengthen the exchanges and co-operation between the agricultural sectors of the two places, which include promoting the implementation plan for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area “Cailanzi”, the development of accredited farms, as well as the initiation of Guangdong/Hong Kong co-operation in deep sea mariculture. So far, 24 accredited farms started by Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland under the AFCD’s Accredited Farm Scheme have become production bases for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area “Cailanzi”. In addition, about \$15 million of funding was approved by the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) in 2021 to support the local fishermen’s trial operations of deep sea mariculture in Huizhou waters of the Greater Bay Area. The HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities will continue to explore opportunities for exchanges and collaboration in the development of local agriculture and fisheries in the Greater Bay Area, organise and participate in agricultural and fisheries expos as well as jointly organise exchange events so as to facilitate co-operation between agricultural and fisheries enterprises and agencies.

5. The AFCD has been actively supporting the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture and fisheries as well as enhancing their competitiveness through the SFDF and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund. The Financial Secretary has proposed in the 2022-23 Budget to make 2 injections of \$500 million each into the 2 funds, as well as to expand the coverage of the funds and streamline the application procedures as appropriate to further support the agriculture and fisheries industries to develop and grasp the opportunities of the Greater Bay Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB012

(Question Serial No. 0739)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is a key development strategy of the country, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (Office) was formally established on 23 November 2020. Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- Please set out in the following table the liaison activities, including meetings, visits, forums, seminars and other exchange programmes, conducted with the Central Authorities, the Guangdong Province and other cities and districts of the Greater Bay Area since the establishment of the Office.

	Government departments	Business enterprises	Community groups	Others
Central Ministries and Commissions				
Guangdong Province				
Guangzhou Municipality				
Shenzhen Municipality				
Zhuhai Municipality				
Foshan Municipality				
Huizhou Municipality				
Dongguan Municipality				

Zhongshan Municipality				
Jiangmen Municipality				
Zhaoqing Municipality				
Macao Special Administrative Region				

2. Please set out the number of meetings convened by the Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) and the policy measures that required follow-up actions after each meeting in the past 3 years.
3. The Commissioner for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area co-ordinates the overall policies and oversees the strategies and initiatives in relation to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area. Please provide, in tabular form, details of the initiatives already implemented, being formulated or to be followed up by each policy bureau.
4. It has been 3 years since the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. As pointed out in the Opinions of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China and the People's Government of Guangdong Province on the Implementation of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the first step is to "establish a co-ordinated, efficient mechanism for the development of the Greater Bay Area and achieve major breakthroughs in regulatory interface and the efficient and orderly flow of resource factors", and the next step is about "the framework for an international first-class bay area and a world-class city cluster". What are the milestone targets set by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government? What efforts are made for the alignment with the Guangdong Province? What indicators are used by the Office to evaluate the Greater Bay Area development work in Hong Kong? Please list the specific work targets and timetables set by each policy bureau.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The objectives of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) are to, through further deepening co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, promote co-ordinated regional economic development, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) attaches great importance to the work relating to the development of the Greater Bay Area, and has, according to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, all along taken forward various policy measures in different areas to support Hong Kong residents and professionals

who wish to live, work and start their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and also support Hong Kong enterprises and industries with clear advantages to make good use of the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. Such policy measures also help Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area tap into international markets, leveraging Hong Kong's roles in "attracting foreign investment" and "going global".

2. The Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group), which is chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, is a top-level institution of the Central Authorities for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. As a member of the Leading Group, the Chief Executive has all along reflected, at the national level, the aspirations of the residents and enterprises of Hong Kong for the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. The vast majority of the 24 policy measures announced after the two meetings of the Leading Group in 2019 have been implemented by now. They include tax concessions; facilitation of property purchase; support for young entrepreneurs; cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding; liberalisation of legal, insurance and construction-related professional services; the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the Greater Bay Area; and Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect. These measures can facilitate Hong Kong residents and professional sectors in making good use of the Greater Bay Area's opportunities and seeking development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

3. As early as 2018, the Chief Executive announced the establishment of the high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee), which is personally chaired by her and comprises all Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux as members, to holistically co-ordinate efforts relating to the HKSAR's participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area, including requesting policy bureaux and relevant departments of the HKSAR Government to devise strategic objectives, policy measures and work plans, so as to proactively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area and the country's high-quality development. Since its establishment, the Steering Committee has convened a number of meetings, and work on various fronts has been smoothly taken forward.

4. Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government has been maintaining close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, with a view to seeking policy innovation and breakthroughs in different areas, and strengthening connectivity between Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area under the unique advantages of "One Country, Two Systems". The HKSAR Government will also proactively take forward the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area based on the principles of complementarity and mutual benefits. On 14 May 2021, the Chief Executive led the HKSAR delegation to convene, through video conferencing, the 22nd Plenary of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, together with the Guangdong delegation led by the then Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr Ma Xingrui. The Hong Kong-Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference was established in 1998 and is the closest co-operation platform between the HKSAR and the Mainland. At the conference, both sides held discussions on various co-operation areas, including the development of the Greater Bay Area; support for Hong Kong enterprises to tap into the Mainland domestic market; finance; legal and dispute resolution services; innovation and technology; Safe

Greater Bay Area; medicine and healthcare; youth development; education; cross-boundary infrastructure; equine industry; and investment promotion. After the conference, both sides signed 3 co-operation agreements covering economic and trade areas, investment promotion and sports projects, as well as 2 agreements on equine industry co-operation.

5. Formally established in November 2020, 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 Office is also responsible for strengthening internal co-ordination within the HKSAR Government, including providing support for the Steering Committee, as well as fostering exchanges with local and overseas stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce and professional organisations. At the same time, the Office disseminates information about the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors of the community more frequently and comprehensively through strategic publicity and promotion efforts, including maintaining close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders; promoting the Greater Bay Area through a dedicated website, social media, and radio and television broadcasts; as well as organising exhibitions. The HKSAR Government also encourages different sectors of society to actively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area to reap the benefits it brings about.

6. The development of the Greater Bay Area has a very extensive scope that involves different policy areas. As the nature, policy intent, expected benefits, target groups and implementation details of different policy measures vary, it is difficult to set specific and quantifiable key performance indicators. The Office will, in light of the actual circumstances of different policy measures, continue to co-ordinate with relevant parties to proactively take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will promote and publicise relevant policy measures of Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area through the HKSAR Government's dedicated website (bayarea.gov.hk), the official WeChat account ([hkcmab](https://www.hkcmab.com)), as well as the dedicated platforms of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and InvestHK.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB013

(Question Serial No. 0740)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is responsible for, among others, promoting public awareness of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and holding elections in accordance with the Basic Law and the decisions made by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Would the Government advise on the following:

1. 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?
2. What are the specific targets and details of the work? Apart from preparing publications, displaying publicity banners and broadcasting Announcements of Public Interests 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)? How many target groups are identified by the Government for its publicity work, e.g. members of the public, civil servants, secondary school students, university 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?
3. In addition to the CMAB, other bureaux, including the Department of Justice, Education Bureau and Civil Service Bureau, also undertake work on the promotion and education of the Constitution and the Basic Law. What is the division of work among the bureaux? As a policy bureau on constitutional affairs, how does the CMAB co-ordinate the work of different departments to achieve efficiency in division of work and collaboration?
4. How does the Government enhance public understanding of the improved electoral system as well as its legal basis and institutional strengths?

5. From time to time, public figures, online social media and foreign organisations etc. make untrue and misleading remarks on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration. Unclear information has also been found in media reports. How does the Government monitor such remarks and make response and clarification? On how many occasions did the Government make response and clarification with regard to the Constitution and the Basic Law in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (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, the Basic Law and the “one country, two systems” principle. The relevant work has been undertaken by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 officers of other ranks in the CMAB. The expenditure involved is absorbed by the overall provision for the CMAB, and therefore cannot be singled out.

2. The CMAB’s publicity strategies for the promotion of 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. online games, Basic Law Court Case Database and video series, and Announcement of Public Interests on television, etc. The Basic Law website was revamped in April 2021 with a redesigned interface, which facilitates the public in browsing the relevant information on the Constitution and the Basic Law (including e-books and publicity videos) and is compatible with different electronic devices, thereby enhancing user experience. Besides, a new mobile application on the Constitution and the Basic Law was launched in November 2021. We are making preparations for the launch of online workshops and videos, with a view to reaching a wider audience through internet activities for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law;
- (c) 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
- (d) providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations through the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” for staging various promotional and research activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as seminars, quiz games and debate competitions, in order to reach a wider audience.

3. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy

and key aspects 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 BLPSC. 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) have been set up under the BLPSC and are assisted by the Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department and Information Services Department respectively to plan and organise various types of activities for the public and the related sectors to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts. The BLPSC and its working groups will review the format, content and effectiveness of promotional activities in relation to the Constitution and the Basic Law from time to time through evaluating their popularity 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.

4. In regard to publicity on the improved electoral system, the CMAB has allocated over \$16 million since March 2021 to, via various channels, convey the message to different sectors of the community that improving the electoral system not only enables Hong Kong to stay true to the original aspiration in implementing the “one country, two systems” principle and get back on the right track, but also contributes to the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

5. The Government has produced more than 100 000 copies of a pamphlet, which explains in detail the background and justifications of improving the 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 easy-to-understand 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, the main content of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021, the methods for the election or formation of the Chief Executive, the Election Committee and the Legislative Council, the candidate eligibility review mechanism, and the registration arrangements for voters and ex-officio members, etc. Besides, we have used different means to enhance public understanding of the improvements to the electoral system, including placing advertisements at the exterior of government buildings and prominent locations in different districts, and on television screens of commercial and residential buildings, public transport, television, newspapers, online platforms and publications. To further explain to the public the necessity, urgency and legal basis of improving the electoral system, and how improving the electoral system could implement the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” and enhance the effectiveness of governance of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Chief Executive, Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux joined over 100 briefings and seminars, gave a number of media interviews, attended different events, and posted articles via blogs and other means to elucidate the salient points and principles involved. In addition, the Chief Executive personally hosted the “Get to Know the Election Committee Subsectors” television programme of the Radio Television Hong Kong to have discussion with 40 guests from the subsectors, with a view to fully explaining the improved electoral system to the public.

6. The HKSAR Government has been keeping in view the opinions of individuals or organisations of different sectors and welcomes any constructive suggestions in relation to

the Constitution, the Basic Law and the “one country, two systems” principle. However, if there are any misinformation, misleading messages, intentional smearing or even attacks, the HKSAR Government will, via different channels such as press releases, newspaper articles and media interviews as appropriate, make immediate clarification or response.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB014

(Question Serial No. 0084)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-23 that the Government will collate practical and useful information and disseminate it to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Whether the Government set aside resources in the past 3 years to conduct surveys and studies for collecting statistics on Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland, such as their number and age group; if yes, the details; if no, the ways to render assistance to Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland;
2. The assistance or practical and useful information platforms provided for Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years;
3. Other information or means of contact to be made available for Hong Kong residents living in the Mainland and the estimated expenditure involved in the coming year; and
4. For the next 3 years, whether other methods will be employed or expenditure will be increased (e.g. electronic ports or electronic data platforms) to strengthen liaison with Hong Kong people living in the Mainland and grasp more accurate information so that more tailor-made assistance could be offered to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Census and Statistics Department has been making use of the movement records of Hong Kong permanent residents to compile and release the estimation of "Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province" (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 2016. The relevant statistics of 2019 and 2020 disaggregated by sex and age group are set out at Annex. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will, having regard to operational needs, consider in a timely manner collecting and producing other pertinent statistics on particular subjects.

2. To support Hong Kong people in the Mainland, the 5 Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan) collect practical information on medical care, business, employment, education and legal services etc. and disseminate such information through production of information booklets on the Offices' websites to assist Hong Kong people to better adapt to living in the area. The Mainland Offices have published booklets on living in Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hefei, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Jinan, Qingdao, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Changsha and Zhengzhou etc. Furthermore, the Mainland Offices make use of the WeChat official account and electronic newsletters, such as the Newsletter on Trade and Business produced by the Guangdong ETO, to disseminate information that is useful and of concern to Hong Kong people and enterprises at an opportune time. When the 2021 Legislative Council Election was conducted, the Mainland Offices, via email and different electronic platforms (e.g. Weibo, TikTok and Kuaishou), informed Hong Kong people of the latest arrangements for electors to return from Mainland to Hong Kong to vote, and what they should note when travelling from their city of residence to boundary control points to vote during the epidemic.

3. In addition, the Mainland Offices organise trade seminars for Hong Kong people and businessmen in the Mainland from time to time, sharing with them the latest information and policies on business, social security and taxation etc. in the Mainland. Meanwhile, activities about living and pursuing study in the Mainland, as well as internship programmes and career talks are conducted for Hong Kong students in the Mainland. In respect of the COVID-19 epidemic, the assistance and support rendered by the Mainland Offices to Hong Kong people in the Mainland include disseminating information on the Mainland's latest anti-epidemic measures (e.g. vaccination for Hong Kong people in the Mainland), handling related enquiries, and conveying concerns about compulsory quarantine measures to the relevant Mainland authorities, and so forth.

4. Immigration Divisions have been set up under the Mainland Offices to handle matters relating to eligible Hong Kong residents' application for HKSAR Passport and replacement of HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes and HKSAR Re-entry Permit, and provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. The Mainland Offices also relay the views or requests of Hong Kong people in the Mainland to the relevant departments of the HKSAR Government or the Mainland authorities for follow-up. The 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.

5. As the above work is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the provision required cannot be singled out and itemised. The Mainland Offices will continue to make use of existing resources to take forward the above work.

**Statistics on Hong Kong residents usually staying in the Guangdong Province
from 2019 to 2020 disaggregated by sex and age group**

Reference time-point	Sex	Age group					Total
		0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
End-2019	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
End-2020	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

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 2021 are still under compilation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB015

(Question Serial No. 0552)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
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. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the operational expenses, staff establishment and expenditure on emoluments of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in 2022-23?
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 2022-23?
3. What is the amount of operating fund earmarked for the Office for 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 objectives of the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) are to, through further deepening co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, promote co-ordinated regional economic development, leverage the complementary advantages of the three places, and develop an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) attaches great importance to the work relating to the development of the Greater Bay Area, and has, according to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, all along taken forward various policy measures in different areas to support Hong Kong residents and professionals

who wish to live, work and start their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and also support Hong Kong enterprises and industries with clear advantages to make good use of the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area.

2. The Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group), which is chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, is a top-level institution of the Central Authorities for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. As a member of the Leading Group, the Chief Executive has all along reflected, at the national level, the aspirations of the residents and enterprises of Hong Kong for the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. The vast majority of the 24 policy measures announced after the two meetings of the Leading Group in 2019 have been implemented by now. They include tax concessions; facilitation of property purchase; support for young entrepreneurs; cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding; liberalisation of legal, insurance and construction-related professional services; the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the Greater Bay Area; and Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect. These measures can facilitate Hong Kong residents and professional sectors in making good use of the Greater Bay Area's opportunities and seeking development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

3. As regards the support for Hong Kong's professional services sectors in grasping the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area, the work of the HKSAR Government can be manifested in the following professional services areas. Firstly, on the financial services sector, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area confirms and supports Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, a global offshore Renminbi business hub, and an international asset and risk management centre. It also supports the development of Hong Kong into a green finance centre in the Greater Bay Area and a platform for investment and financing serving the Belt and Road initiative. The HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen financial co-operation with the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area and Hong Kong's advantage as a bridge to the world. This will not just promote the development of the local financial services sector, and open up a broader market for the sector, but also contribute to the deepening of reform and opening up of the financial market of the country. For example, Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect was formally launched in September 2021, enabling residents in Hong Kong, Macao and nine cities in the Guangdong Province to carry out cross-boundary investment in wealth management products distributed by banks in the Greater Bay Area. In light of actual operational experience and market feedback, we will continue to liaise closely with the relevant authorities and stakeholders with a view to enhancing the scheme in an incremental manner, such as increasing the number of participating financial institutions, raising investment quota, expanding product scope, and improving sales arrangements, etc. As for the mutual access of insurance markets, the HKSAR Government is discussing the implementation arrangement with the relevant Mainland authorities and striving for the early establishment of after-sales service centres by the Hong Kong insurance sector in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, with a view to providing residents in the Greater Bay Area who are holders of Hong Kong policies with comprehensive support including enquiries, claims and policy renewal. Besides, on the basis of the Plan for Comprehensive Deepening Reform and Opening Up of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone (Qianhai Plan) promulgated by the Central People's Government in September 2021, the HKSAR

Government is exploring with the Qianhai Authority measures that would further facilitate Hong Kong certified public accountants (practising) (CPA(practising)) to provide services in the Qianhai Cooperation Zone, and pursuing to include Hong Kong CPA(practising) in Qianhai's policies for high-end talents outside of the Mainland.

4. As regards legal services, both the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area support Hong Kong to make the best use of its advantages and establish itself as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. The Department of Justice of the HKSAR Government has been maintaining close co-operation with the Mainland counterparts and striving for various policy breakthroughs to enhance the competitiveness of the local legal professionals in grasping the opportunities brought by the development of the Greater Bay Area. The policy breakthroughs include actively exploring the feasibility of allowing Wholly Owned Hong Kong Enterprises (WOKEs) in Shenzhen and the whole of the Greater Bay Area to adopt Hong Kong law and choose for arbitration to be seated in Hong Kong with the benefit of the expansion of the Qianhai Cooperation Zone under the Qianhai Plan, actively complementing the holding of the second Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination and subsequent training, making good use of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Legal Departments Joint Conference infrastructure as well as the Working Group on the Greater Bay Area Mediation Platform thereunder to facilitate the harmonisation of the legal and dispute resolution systems in the Greater Bay Area, and following up closely the formulation of the Greater Bay Area Mediation Rules.

5. On construction-related professional services, the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities formulated and implemented new measures in 2021 to allow consultant firms on the HKSAR Government's approved lists and the related professionals to provide services in the nine Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area directly through a simple registration system. These measures cover 5 professional disciplines in architecture, engineering, surveying, planning and landscape architecture. At present, 58 enterprises and 263 professionals have completed their registrations.

6. Formally established in November 2020, 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 Office is also responsible for strengthening internal co-ordination within the HKSAR Government, including providing support for the high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which is personally chaired by the Chief Executive, as well as fostering exchanges with local and overseas stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce and professional organisations. At the same time, the Office disseminates information about the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors of the community more frequently and comprehensively through strategic publicity and promotion efforts, including maintaining close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders; promoting the Greater Bay Area through a dedicated website, social media, and radio and television broadcasts; as well as organising exhibitions. The HKSAR Government also encourages different sectors of society to actively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area to reap the benefits it brings about.

7. In 2022-23, the number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$75.65 million, of which about \$34 million is the staff cost on civil service posts. The development of the Greater Bay Area has a very extensive scope that involves different policy areas. As the nature, policy intent, expected benefits, target groups and implementation details of different policy measures vary, it is difficult to set specific and quantifiable key performance indicators. The Office will, in light of the actual circumstances of different policy measures, continue to co-ordinate with relevant parties to proactively take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will promote and publicise relevant policy measures of Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area through the HKSAR Government's dedicated website (bayarea.gov.hk), the official WeChat account (hkcmab), as well as the dedicated platforms of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and InvestHK.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CMAB016****(Question Serial No. 0553)**

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Plases set out the staff establishment and operational expenses of the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan in the past 3 years.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, how many requests for assistance have been received from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland and how many cases have been given support by the Government?

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

Reply:

The staff establishment and expenses of the 5 Mainland Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Office	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Beijing Office	23	80.03	23	80.43	23	85.93
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong	18	63.77	18	59.22	18	64.17
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai	15	59.50	15	66.11	15	63.92

Office	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Actual expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment	Revised estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu	13	40.32	13	43.49	13	46.49
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan	13	34.13	13	46.53	13	47.33

2. Between January 2020 and February 2022, respective Mainland Offices received a total of 3 909 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland. Among them, 3 178 were related to the COVID-19 epidemic, including cases in which assistance seekers were stranded due to the epidemic or needed medication etc. Mainland Offices had rendered practical assistance to the assistance seekers having regard to the actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB017

(Question Serial No. 0117)

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 (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

On strengthening the protection of personal data privacy, please advise this Committee of the following:

What are the numbers of notifications received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) since the *Guidance on Data Breach Handling and the Giving of Breach Notifications* was first issued in 2010 and later updated in 2019 respectively? What are the breakdown figures by government departments and private organisations?

What are the numbers of complaints on suspected personal data leakage received by the PCPD and of cases substantiated after investigation during the same period? What are the breakdown figures by government departments and private organisations?

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2022-23 is to “exercise its new enforcement powers under the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 to combat doxxing acts”. In this regard, what are the work progress, plan and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

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 404 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	653
January 2019 to February 2022	200	204	404
Total:	536	521	1 057

2. During the respective periods mentioned above, the PCPD had received 1 879 and 941 complaints of suspected leakages of personal data by organisations, among which 138 and 75 complaints were found substantiated after investigation. The number and breakdown of complaints involving government departments (including public organisations) and private organisations are as follows:

Number of complaints relating to suspected leakages of personal data by organisations			
	Government departments	Private organisations	Total
June 2010 to December 2018	334	1 545	1 879
January 2019 to February 2022	272 [#]	669 [*]	941^{**}
Total:	606 [#]	2 214 [*]	2 820^{**}

including 89 complaints concerning two incidents and these complaints were found unsubstantiated after investigation.

* including 162 complaints concerning a single incident and these complaints were found unsubstantiated after investigation.

Number of complaints substantiated after investigation			
	Government departments	Private organisations	Total
June 2010 to December 2018	16	122	138
January 2019 to February 2022	11	64	75
Total:	27	186	213

3. In recent years, doxxing acts, which are intrusive to personal data privacy and which tantamount to weaponisation of personal data, have caused great harm to the victims. The Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (Amendment Ordinance) was published in the Gazette and came into effect on 8 October 2021. The scope of amendments mainly encompass:

- (a) criminalising doxxing acts as an offence under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance;
- (b) empowering the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (Commissioner) to carry out criminal investigations and initiate prosecutions in respect of doxxing cases; and
- (c) conferring on the Commissioner statutory powers to serve cessation notices to request social media platforms, websites or internet service providers to cease or restrict disclosure of doxxing contents.

4. From 8 October 2021 to 28 February 2022, the PCPD received a total of 287 complaints relating to the offence of doxxing, and carried out criminal investigations into 43 cases. On 13 December 2021, the PCPD made the first arrest for a suspected contravention of the new section 64(3A) introduced by the Amendment Ordinance relating to “the disclosure of personal data without consent”. The case is still under investigation. During the same period, the PCPD issued a total of 466 cessation notices to 12 online platforms, requesting them to remove 2 448 doxxing messages.

5. To enhance the public awareness of and compliance with the Amendment Ordinance, the PCPD has launched a series of publicity and educational campaigns, including broadcasting short videos, TV and radio announcements, distributing promotional leaflets and posters, organising seminars and promoting the new provisions on social media platforms. The PCPD will continue with the publicity and educational campaigns and step up enforcement actions, including conducting joint operations with the Police when necessary, to further combat doxxing offences. The expenditure on the above work is absorbed by the overall provision of the PCPD, and the PCPD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB018

(Question Serial No. 0530)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

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 financial years and the estimated expenditure for the coming financial year? Under the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, has the Government conducted some of the promotional activities in virtual or non-physical form? If yes, what are the details and effectiveness?
2. In regard to the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme”, please set out the organisations under sponsorship, names of projects, amounts of funds, and numbers of participants in sponsored projects (only applicable to the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme”) in the past 3 financial years. What are the estimated amounts of sponsorship for the coming year? Under the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, have sponsored projects under the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” been conducted in virtual or non-physical form? If yes, what are the details and effectiveness?
3. In each of the past 3 years, how many meetings were convened by the 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 financial years and for the coming financial year?
4. What role does the CMAB serve in promoting the Hong Kong National Security Law and national security education? What promotional work has been undertaken by the CMAB since the promulgation and implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, and what promotional work will be undertaken in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Constitution and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to enable the general public to have a comprehensive and correct 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 to enable the public to have a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22), the actual expenditures of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law are about \$15 million, \$12 million and \$17 million respectively. Under the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, some publicity and promotion activities were not held as scheduled, resulting in a lower actual expenditure than the estimations. In the 2022-23 financial year, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$26 million.

2. To reduce the impact of the epidemic on the organisation of physical activities for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law, we have actively made use of online platforms to carry out promotion and publicity work, so that the general public could continuously get to know about the Constitution and the Basic Law via different channels. The Basic Law website was revamped in April 2021 with a redesigned interface, which facilitates the public in browsing the relevant information on the Constitution and the Basic Law (including e-books and publicity videos) and is compatible with different electronic devices, thereby enhancing user experience. Besides, a new mobile application on the Constitution and the Basic Law was launched in November 2021.

3. To optimise the use of online platforms, we are planning to roll out an online parent-child workshop on the Constitution and the Basic Law, and to arrange for the roving exhibitions and parent-child workshops on the Constitution and the Basic Law to be conducted online, so that the public could partake in activities related to the Constitution and the Basic Law anytime and anywhere. Besides, animation videos will be produced with a view to introducing the key concepts of the Constitution and the Basic Law in a lively and interesting manner. Promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law on social media will also be strengthened.

4. The “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” and “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, quiz games and debate competitions. Under the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, some sponsored organisations proposed to carry out their projects in non-physical form. The secretariat of the Sponsorship Schemes will consider the applications having regard to such factors as the development of the epidemic, the progress of the projects and the anticipated outcome, etc.

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

Year	Total amount of sponsorship (\$)	Total number of participants of sponsored projects
2019-20	Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme: \$5,016,820 Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme: \$2,155,600	About 73 500
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

6. Details of the sponsored projects are at Annex.

7. The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) convened 1 to 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 BLPSC is provided by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 officers of other ranks in the CMAB. The expenditure involved is absorbed by the overall provision for the CMAB, and therefore cannot be singled out.

8. Since the promulgation for implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law in the HKSAR on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has been introducing the Hong Kong National Security Law to various sectors and responding to concerns raised 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. The Hong Kong 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 make good use of the platform of the BLPSC chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, to co-ordinate and formulate with the BLPSC members strategies and plans for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law. In this connection, we have appropriately incorporated the content of the Hong Kong National Security Law into the promotional activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law. For example, the theme of the 2020 Constitution Day was “the Constitution and National Security”, and a Mainland scholar and local experts were invited to discuss and exchange views on the subject, so as to enhance public understanding of Hong Kong’s constitutional order and the Hong Kong National Security Law.

Details of the sponsored projects under the “Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 3 years are set out below:

2019-20

Name of organisation	Title of project
Ma On Shan Youth Association	基本法推廣巡迴嘉年華 — 時空解迷*
Hong Kong Industrial & Commercial Association Limited Kwai Tsing Branch	Treasure – Navigating Basic Law in Kwai Tsing
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 19 th Basic Law Debating Competition (Basic Law Cup)
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	Basic Law Promotion in Community and Schools 2019-2020
Hong Kong Life Extension Association	「一國兩制」及《基本法》推廣嘉年華 2019*
Kowloon West Community Harmony and Solidarity Service Centre Limited	基本法推廣小先鋒*
Wofoo Leaders’ Network Limited	Exploring around the Basic Law
Wan Chai District Arts, Cultural, Recreational & Sports Association Ltd	遊學基本法暨基本法填色比賽頒獎禮*
Infinite Joy Limited	笑玩基本法・基本法知多點 巡迴嘉年華*
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	The 17 th Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme
Joint Committee for The Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong	紀念《基本法》頒布 30 周年活動系列： 《基本法》多面體 — 全港學生 辯論賽系列2020*
Hong Kong KOL Project LTD	基本法短片創作比賽2019*
Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association	「一國兩制」與《基本法》標語創作比賽*
Hongkong Shine Tak Foundation Association Limited	善德基金會認識憲法、《基本法》— 與法治同行系列比賽2020*

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

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 — 時空解迷*
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 th 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

Name of organisation	Title of project
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”
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.

Details of the sponsored projects under the “Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme” in the past 3 years are set out below:

2019-20

Research organisation	Subject of research
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	Strengthening Teaching Qualifications, Venue and Curriculum Design of Constitution and Basic Law Education – Experiences and Insights from the Mainland (Part 2)
Tsinghua Law Association (Hong Kong) Limited	憲法和基本法參考書目書籍*
One Country Two Systems Youth Forum Limited	Short Video as a means to Promote One Country Two Systems and Basic Law: Analyses and Recommendations
Basic Law Foundation	Research on the Compilation of Historical Materials for the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law

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

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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB019

(Question Serial No. 0531)

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

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office, the 5 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland as well as the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, China, please advise of the following:

1. What are the staff establishment, expenditure on emoluments and total expenditure of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the past 2 financial years and for the coming financial year? What work has been undertaken by the Office in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area, and what has been achieved? What projects will be implemented in the coming year, and what are the concrete details and timetable?
2. As regards promoting Hong Kong in the Mainland, what work was undertaken by the 5 Mainland Offices in the past 3 financial years, and what were the achievements and expenditure involved? What projects will be implemented in the coming year, and what are the specific targets and details? With closer exchanges between the Mainland and Hong Kong in economy, trade and culture as well as the continuous advancing and deepening of the development of the Greater Bay Area, are there plans to set up offices or liaison units in more Mainland cities, including the 8 Mainland cities (not counting Guangzhou) of the Greater Bay Area?
3. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong has commissioned an organisation to provide free legal advisory service to Hong Kong residents in need. In the past 3 financial years, how many calls and visits were made to the lawyers, how many people met with the lawyers, and what was the amount of grant for the service provider? What is the amount of grant earmarked for the coming financial year?
4. In the past 3 financial years, on how many occasions did the Government make response and clarification regarding false reports and accusations by organisations or

media in Taiwan, China? As the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office has temporarily suspended operation from 18 May 2021, how will the Government present the actual circumstances of Hong Kong to the Taiwan society?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

Formally established in November 2020, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (Office) is the main unit of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The Office is also responsible for strengthening internal co-ordination within the HKSAR Government, including providing support for the high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which is personally chaired by the Chief Executive, and co-ordinating the implementation of the 24 policy measures announced after the two meetings of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, and attended by the Chief Executive as a member in 2019. The vast majority of these measures have been implemented by now. They include tax concessions; facilitation of property purchase; support for young entrepreneurs; cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding; liberalisation of legal, insurance and construction-related professional services; the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions in the Greater Bay Area; and Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect. These measures can support Hong Kong residents and professionals who wish to live, work and start their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and also support Hong Kong enterprises and industries with clear advantages to make good use of the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. At the same time, the Office disseminates information about the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors of the community more frequently and comprehensively through strategic publicity and promotion efforts, including maintaining close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders; promoting the Greater Bay Area through a dedicated website, social media, and radio and television broadcasts; as well as organising exhibitions. The Office also encourages different sectors of society to actively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area to reap the benefits it brings about. The development of the Greater Bay Area has a very extensive scope that involves different policy areas. The Office will, in light of the actual circumstances of different policy measures, continue to co-ordinate with relevant parties to proactively take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will promote and publicise relevant policy measures of Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area through the HKSAR Government's dedicated website (bayarea.gov.hk), the official WeChat account ([hkcmab](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va811111111111111111)), as well as the dedicated platforms of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and InvestHK.

2. In 2020-21 and 2021-22, the revised estimated expenditure for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area is about \$66.22 million (including the staff cost of about \$31 million on civil service posts) and \$59.50 million (including the staff cost of about \$32 million on civil service posts) respectively. In 2022-23, the number of staff in

the establishment of the Office is 33; and the estimated expenditure of the Office is about \$75.65 million, of which about \$34 million is staff cost on civil service posts.

3. In the past 3 years, the respective Mainland Offices (namely the Beijing Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan) proactively served as important bridges between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including enhancing liaison and communication with counterparts in the areas under their coverage; 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 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development; promoting Hong Kong's many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia; and assisting in enhancing arts and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The above areas of work complement each other in showcasing and promoting the strengths and positive image of Hong Kong in the Mainland. The Mainland Offices review the effectiveness of such work from time to time, and participants of these promotional initiatives in general have positive feedback about the initiatives. As promoting Hong Kong is an integral part of the duties and functions of the Mainland Offices, the expenditure involved cannot be singled out and itemised.

4. In 2022-23, the Mainland Offices will continue to collaborate with relevant departments and organisations to launch publicity programmes through diversified platforms in various places in the Mainland, organise and participate in business, commercial, arts and cultural activities, etc. in the Mainland, foster closer ties with different Mainland stakeholders, and arrange visits and exchanges between the two places in due course. The promotion initiatives will enable various sectors in the Mainland to have a more comprehensive understanding of the latest situation in Hong Kong, and promote Hong Kong's unique advantages and opportunities under the Greater Bay Area development. In order to better carry forward economic, trade and cultural exchanges between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government is reviewing the roles and work of the Mainland Offices, as well as the geographical distribution of the Mainland Offices and Liaison Units.

5. The 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. In 2019, 2020 and 2021, 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:

	Number of calls and visits*	Number of people who met with lawyers
2019	3 403	1 132
2020	2 081	638
2021	2 775	1 154

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

6. In the past 3 financial years, the expenditure on the free legal advisory service of the Guangdong ETO was about RMB¥1.08 million, RMB¥1.12 million and RMB¥1.13 million respectively. In 2022-23, an amount of about RMB¥1.16 million has been earmarked for commissioning the provider of the free legal advisory service.

7. Prior to the temporary suspension on 18 May last year, the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (HKETCO) had closely monitored news reports, commentaries and other information relating to Hong Kong in Taiwan. If any remark is found to be untruthful, misleading, or even wantonly smear and attack the HKSAR, the HKSAR Government will make prompt response or clarification. The HKSAR Government however does not have the number of occasions of making such response or clarification. In future, the HKSAR Government will continue to keep in view the related news reports and commentaries, and continue to make clarification or response when necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB020

(Question Serial No. 0207)

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 (TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the number of complaint cases in relation to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance received by the EOC in the past year?
2. What is the number of cases where legal assistance was granted by the EOC in the past year? Among these cases, how many involved the engagement of external lawyers and what was the expenditure involved?
3. It is mentioned under Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision for Programme (5) that the provision for 2022-23 is \$1.6 million lower than the revised estimate for 2021-22, and this is mainly due to the cessation of some time-limited subvention to the EOC. What are the details of such time-limited subvention? Has assessment been made on whether the cessation of such subvention would affect the services of the EOC? If yes, what are the details?
4. As regards the performance indicator of “concluding a complaint case within 6 months” for the EOC, the percentages in 2020 and 2021 are 86% and 85% respectively but the indicator set for 2022 is lowered to 80%. What are the reasons? Is it related to the provision of resources?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The number of complaints for investigation 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 by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) from January to December 2021 are as follows:

Sex Discrimination Ordinance	Disability Discrimination Ordinance	Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	Race Discrimination Ordinance	Total
353	489	39	100	981

2. In 2021, there were 11 cases in which applicants were granted legal assistance by the EOC. None of these cases involved the engagement of external lawyers to appear in courts or provide legal advice, and thus no relevant expenditure was incurred.

3. Since 2019-20, the Government provided a time-limited funding of \$2 million to the EOC each year for 3 years for organising publicity activities to promote racial integration and equal opportunities for ethnic minorities. Despite the cessation of such provision, the Government has not reduced its support for ethnic minorities. In March 2022, an additional provision of \$4 million was allocated to the EOC for promotion of equal opportunities for ethnic minorities from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

4. As regards the performance indicator of “concluding a complaint case within 6 months” for the EOC, the indicator planned for 2022 is 80%, which is lower than that in 2020 and 2021. This is mainly because of the more severe epidemic situation, it is envisaged that it would take more time to handle the cases. That said, the indicator planned for 2022 is still higher than the basic performance target (i.e. 75%).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB021

(Question Serial No. 0901)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

As mentioned in paragraph 26 of the Budget Speech, the Government will allocate an additional funding of \$47.5 billion to fight the epidemic in the new financial year, including \$22 billion for strengthening testing services, procuring rapid antigen test kits and providing support for the Hospital Authority; \$6 billion for procuring vaccines; \$7 billion for procuring anti-epidemic items and services; \$500 million for enhancing environmental hygiene services; and \$12 billion for injection into the Anti-epidemic Fund. It is also mentioned in paragraph 27 that \$20 billion has been earmarked for other potential anti-epidemic needs. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- a) Has the Government worked out an estimate of expenditure for compulsory universal testing? If yes, please itemise the expenditure involved.
- b) With the full support of the Central Government, the Mainland authorities are rendering assistance in various aspects to help Hong Kong fight the epidemic. As far as the estimates for anti-epidemic efforts are concerned, what is the amount of provision earmarked for Mainland assistance? Please itemise the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The fifth wave of the epidemic has placed the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in an extremely critical situation. The Central Government is very concerned about the situation, and has given the HKSAR full support in various aspects, including sending to Hong Kong an expert delegation as well as testing personnel and vehicles; arranging medical teams to assist the Hospital Authority in providing proper treatment for the confirmed patients; providing medical supplies and assisting in related procurement; supporting the construction of community isolation and treatment facilities; and stabilising the supply of food and daily necessities, etc. The HKSAR Government is

deeply grateful to the Central Government for ceaselessly supporting us in the fight against the epidemic.

2. The inter-departmental Steering Committee cum Command Centre led by the Chief Executive has made a detailed assessment of the compulsory universal testing programme. Taking into account the views of the Mainland and local experts, the Government considered that compulsory universal testing should be conducted either at the outset or towards the end of the outbreak. At present, the number of confirmed cases remains on the high side and Hong Kong's ability of community organisation is relatively weak, rendering it difficult to achieve territory-wide screening albeit with legal backing. Therefore, the HKSAR Government does not consider it appropriate to devote limited resources to compulsory universal testing at this stage, and announced the suspension of the compulsory universal testing programme on 21 March. The HKSAR Government will continue to review the epidemic development with local and Mainland experts and listen to the views of different sectors in society, with a view to achieving the greatest epidemic prevention and control, and minimising the impact of the epidemic on the economic and social development, while upholding the principles of safeguarding lives as a priority and basing discussions on science. If the timing is right and with the necessary conditions, the Government will consider whether to conduct a compulsory universal testing exercise.

3. The HKSAR Government will continue to make all-out efforts to fight the epidemic, including making the best use of support provided by the Mainland. The work related to Mainland assistance is inseparable from anti-epidemic efforts, and therefore the estimated expenditure involved cannot be singled out.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB022

(Question Serial No. 0309)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under this Programme, one of the matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau was to continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and such work will continue to be strengthened through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office in the current financial year. Please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower allocated to the relevant work as well as the work progress and effectiveness in the past year. What are the expenditure, specific work plan and timetable for the relevant work in 2022-23? What are the expected outcomes?

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

Formally established in November 2020, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office (Office) is the main unit of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government responsible for liaison with the Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). The Office is also responsible for strengthening internal co-ordination within the HKSAR Government, including providing support for the high-level Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area which is personally chaired by the Chief Executive, and co-ordinating related policy measures for the development of the Greater Bay Area, which includes the implementation progress of the 24 policy measures announced after the two meetings of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council, Mr Han Zheng, and attended by the Chief Executive as a member in 2019 (e.g. tax concessions; facilitation of property purchase; support for young entrepreneurs; cross-boundary remittance of science and technology funding; liberalisation of legal, insurance and construction-related professional services; the use of Hong Kong-registered drugs and common medical devices in designated Hong Kong-owned healthcare institutions

in the Greater Bay Area; and Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Connect). These measures can support Hong Kong residents and professionals who wish to live, work and start their businesses in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and also support Hong Kong enterprises and industries with clear advantages to make good use of the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. At the same time, the Office disseminates information about the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors of the community more frequently and comprehensively through strategic publicity and promotion efforts, including maintaining close liaison with business associations, professional bodies and relevant stakeholders; promoting the Greater Bay Area through a dedicated website, social media, radio and television broadcasts, as well as organising exhibitions. The HKSAR Government also encourages different sectors of society to actively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area to reap the benefits it brings about.

2. The development of the Greater Bay Area has a very extensive scope that involves different policy areas. The Office will, in light of the actual circumstances of various policy measures, continue to co-ordinate with relevant parties to proactively take forward the development of the Greater Bay Area. The Office will promote and publicise relevant policy measures of Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area through the HKSAR Government's dedicated website (bayarea.gov.hk), the official WeChat account ([hkcmab](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va81111111111111111111)), as well as the dedicated platforms of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and InvestHK.

3. The number of staff in the establishment of the Office is 33. In 2021-22, the revised estimated expenditure for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area is about \$59.50 million, and the estimated expenditure for 2022-23 is about \$75.65 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB023

(Question Serial No. 0422)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's main responsibilities under this Programme are to 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; and to promote and co-ordinate co-operation with the Mainland, the Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan, and advise bureaux and departments on related matters as necessary.

In fact, President Xi Jinping delivered an important address at the Celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland and the Inaugural Ceremony of the Fifth Term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, encouraging Hong Kong to adhere to "4 imperatives". The second imperative is "always acting in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law". In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Will new policies be implemented to enhance civil servants' correct understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the "one country, two systems" principle? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Bureau study with the Department of Justice, the Education Bureau, and the Radio Television Hong Kong under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, etc. to introduce new policies and methods that enhance the correct understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the "one country, two systems" principle among the general public and students? If yes, what are the details as well as manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
3. With the growing complexity of the international landscape, foreign forces always distort the Constitution, the Basic Law and the "one country, two systems" principle to make false accusations about Hong Kong's affairs and attempt to meddle in the country's internal affairs through interference in Hong Kong's affairs. Will additional resources be allocated to step up monitoring so that advice could be offered to the bureaux and departments concerned in an accurate and timely manner

for taking countermeasures? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

4. Will new policies be introduced to promote and co-ordinate co-operation with the Mainland, the Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

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, the Basic Law and the “one country, two systems” principle. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) provides advice and steer on the overall strategy and key aspects for promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, and monitors, evaluates and reviews promotional programmes undertaken by government departments and non-governmental organisations. The BLPSC and its 5 working groups (namely Working Groups on Local Community; Teachers and Students; Civil Servants; Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors; and Community Outside Hong Kong) plan and organise various types of activities for the public to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law on various fronts.

2. The BLPSC and its 5 working groups will continue to carry out public education and publicity work in a diversified manner to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law. The BLPSC secretariat has been closely liaising and collaborating with the relevant bureaux and departments (including the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)) and keeping in view the development and trend of promotional media and information technology to discuss how to take forward promotion and publicity work effectively, with a view to fostering the atmosphere of learning and studying the Constitution and the Basic Law among the general public and students. As for promotion work in the education sector, the Education Bureau (EDB) has all along been organising different training to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to teachers, and continuously enriching the learning and teaching resources. Starting from the 2020/21 school year, the EDB has incorporated contents pertinent to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law in the core training programmes for newly-joined teachers, serving teachers and teachers aspiring for promotion. On promotion work in the legal sector, following the successful organisation of the Basic Law Legal Summit “Back to Basics” in 2020, the Department of Justice (DoJ) is making preparation for another Basic Law Legal Conference this year. The DoJ has also organised and co-organised a number of rule of law promotion and education activities for teachers and students. In addition, the RTHK has produced and broadcast the television programme “Root & Origin: The Constitution”, which provides a succinct yet important introduction of the nature, status, implementation and education etc. of the Constitution.

3. In the 2022-23 financial year, the estimated expenditure of the CMAB for the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law is about \$26 million. The work includes conducting publicity activities via electronic media and online platforms (e.g. organising thematic webinars and launching online workshops and videos), implementing promotional activities at district and school levels on an ongoing basis, and providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations for staging various

promotional activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law or carrying out research on the promotion of the Basic Law, etc. The relevant work is provided by a team including a Principal Assistant Secretary and 5 officers at other ranks in the CMAB. The expenditure involved is absorbed by the overall provision for the CMAB, and therefore cannot be singled out.

4. As regards promotional work among civil servants, enhancing the understanding of the civil service on the constitutional order of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), which includes understanding of the country's Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law, is the top priority of civil service training. The Civil Service Bureau, through the former Civil Service Training and Development Institute, 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 Civil Service College, established in December 2021, will further enhance training for civil servants on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law. The College will establish a more systematic training framework and designate training programmes for mandatory attendance. The College will also substantially enhance training for new recruits. All new recruits shall complete the foundation training within a specified period to enhance their understanding of the HKSAR's constitutional order, the country's development and national security. The College will also increase the number of training places and arrange for more middle and senior-level civil servants to take part in national studies programmes in the Mainland as they advance in their career. The programmes include talks on the country's Constitution and the Basic Law and safeguarding national security delivered by authoritative experts in the Mainland, in addition to coverage on the country's latest policies and development. Furthermore, the College will actively enhance the provision of e-learning resources to encourage civil servants' continuous learning of relevant topics.

5. While making efforts to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to different sectors of the community, the HKSAR Government continues to keep a close watch on commentaries made by foreign political or public figures, organisations or the media on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the "one country, two systems" principle. If there are any misinformation, misleading messages, intentional smearing or even attacks, the HKSAR Government will promptly make clarification or response via different channels as appropriate.

6. The HKSAR Government will continue to, through the co-operation mechanisms established with provinces and municipalities in the Mainland (including Guangdong, Fujian, Sichuan, Hubei, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, the Pan-Pearl River Delta region and the Macao Special Administrative Region), enhance co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland and Macao in different areas (including economic and trade investment, finance, innovation and technology, tourism, services, air logistics, culture and youth exchange etc.). Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government will efficiently perform its roles as "facilitator" and "promoter" in actively strengthening co-operation with Mainland provinces and municipalities and exploring more business and development opportunities for Hong Kong people and enterprises, so as to enable Hong Kong to better integrate into the overall development of the country and make contributions to the overall development of the country. As for Taiwan, since their establishment in 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) and the

Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC) have agreed to pursue co-operation on different public policy matters. We will continue to promote the relevant exchange and co-operation through the ECCPC and THEC in a pragmatic manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB024

(Question Serial No. 0408)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Under the 14th Five-Year Plan, our country progresses according to the strategy of domestic and international dual circulation. The Financial Secretary clearly points out in the Budget that the Government will make good use of national policies and our own advantages and take the Greater Bay Area as an entry point, participating in the domestic circulation of the national economy. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many Hong Kong businessmen and associations of Hong Kong residents are now running businesses and providing services in the Mainland, particularly the Greater Bay Area? Where do they establish their presence? What are the scale of enterprises and the nature of industries?
- (2) Has the Government provided sponsorship for associations of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland to conduct exchange activities? For example, what support has been provided by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland cities for associations of Hong Kong residents there?
- (3) At the policy level, how does the Government strengthen the role of Hong Kong businessmen and associations of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland, particularly in helping Hong Kong young people to gain an understanding of the country and integrate into the overall development of the country?

Asked by: Hon TANG Fei (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

At present, Hong Kong residents running businesses or associations in the Mainland are not required to report to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. Hence, the HKSAR Government does not have the information requested in question (1).

2. The Mainland Offices of the HKSAR Government (Mainland Offices) attach 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 to relevant Mainland authorities and take necessary follow-up actions. 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 those activities (such as annual dinners, seminars and orientation activities for universities) as appropriate.

3. The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to the roles played by Hong Kong businessmen and associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland. Proposed by the HKSAR Government and approved by the Central Government, under the improved electoral system, representatives of associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland have been added as one of the new subsectors of the Election Committee with 27 seats. It is mentioned in the National 14th Five-Year Plan that exchange and co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong and Macao in various areas should be strengthened, and the policy measures to facilitate Hong Kong and Macao residents to pursue development and live in the Mainland should be improved. In this regard, the HKSAR Government will continue to make efforts in different aspects, including strengthening liaison with Hong Kong businessmen and associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland; carrying out publicity work to deepen Hong Kong people's (particularly young people's) understanding of the national development; organising youth exchange activities in collaboration with chambers and associations of Hong Kong people in the Mainland; striving for more measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents to study, work and start up businesses in the Mainland; and implementing relevant measures, such as the Greater Bay Area Youth Employment Scheme. All these enable Hong Kong people to integrate into the national development and grasp the important development opportunities it provides.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB025

(Question Serial No. 0409)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

To develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as an international bay area, it is more important to participate in international circulation. The advantages and responsibilities of Hong Kong are to facilitate the Greater Bay Area in going global and resisting Western containment. What plans have been drawn up by the Government in this regard?

Asked by: Hon TANG Fei (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) is a key development strategy in the country's reform and opening up in the new era, as well as a further step in enriching the practice of "One Country, Two Systems". "One Country, Two Systems" is not only a unique characteristic of the Greater Bay Area, but also the key foundation for the internationalisation of the Greater Bay Area. With the advantages of "One Country, Two Systems" and a highly market-oriented and internationalised business environment underpinned by the rule of law, Hong Kong serves as the best gateway for international enterprises to enter the Greater Bay Area, and an ideal platform for Mainland enterprises to go global. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has been leveraging Hong Kong's international connection and networks to promote the Greater Bay Area overseas and attract capital and talent to the Greater Bay Area through Hong Kong. We also facilitate businesses and enterprises in the Greater Bay Area in making good use of Hong Kong's capital markets and professional services to explore overseas opportunities, thereby making Hong Kong a bi-directional development base for "attracting foreign investment" and "going global".

2. For example, to help Hong Kong enterprises tap into the domestic market of the Mainland, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) set up the HKTDC Greater Bay Area Centre in Shenzhen and also launched the bilingual GoGBA One-stop Platform in June 2021 to provide enterprises which aspire to explore the Greater Bay Area market with business information via website and WeChat mini-programme. InvestHK

also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Deepening Investment Promotion Co-operation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area with the Guangdong Province to take forward co-operation in investment promotion and establish the Pan-Greater Bay Area Inward Investment Liaison Group. In November 2021, the HKSAR Government and other cities of the Greater Bay Area organised a joint conference during the China International Import Expo in Shanghai, with both physical attendance in Shanghai and online broadcasting worldwide in order to attract overseas enterprises to explore the Greater Bay Area market.

3. In addition, the HKSAR Government has been fostering exchanges with local and overseas stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce and professional organisations, on the development of the Greater Bay Area, in order to gauge and collect their views on the development of the Greater Bay Area and related policy measures. The HKSAR Government also disseminates information about the development of the Greater Bay Area to local and overseas sectors more frequently and comprehensively through strategic publicity and promotion efforts, including using both online and offline platforms. Before the epidemic, the HKSAR Government organised symposiums and forums in physical form to encourage overseas business leaders and industry representatives to grasp the enormous opportunities brought about by the development of the Greater Bay Area. These events, which aroused overwhelming response, include the Symposium on the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area co-organised with the governments of Guangdong and Macao in Hong Kong on 21 February 2019; the Symposium on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area co-organised with the governments of Guangdong and Macao in Tokyo, Japan on 9 April 2019; and the International Forum on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area co-organised with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR in Hong Kong on 24 October 2019. During the epidemic, as publicity channels in physical form have been affected to a certain extent, the HKSAR Government has made good use of online platforms to promote worldwide the development opportunities of the Greater Bay Area. Examples include the hybrid symposium entitled “Hong Kong: Your Greater Bay Area Partner in Expanding Your Global Business” hosted by InvestHK in Sydney, Australia on 1 March 2021; and the Virtual Tour to the Greater Bay Area for Foreign Businesses in Hong Kong co-organised by the HKSAR Government, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR and the government of Guangdong on 26 November 2021. These events continuously stepped up the promotion and kept overseas stakeholders abreast of the latest development of the Greater Bay Area.

4. Looking forward, the development of the Greater Bay Area can provide crucial support for Hong Kong’s economic recovery after the epidemic. Under the country’s development pattern of domestic and international dual circulation and with the support of the 14th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong will proactively become a “participant” in domestic circulation and a “facilitator” in international circulation, and make good use of the Greater Bay Area as the best entry point for better integration into the overall development of the country.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB026

(Question Serial No. 0855)

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
(TANG Yun-kwong)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government established the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) in May 2005 to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations or transgenders, or provide support services for the sexual minorities. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- the total amount of sponsorship granted to community organisations under the relevant 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;
- whether the Government has 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 the reasons for granting sponsorship to these organisations;
- the GISOU's expenses on posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio as well as mobile publicity in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities in the past 5 years, including the promotion platforms (such as television, radio, light boxes at MTR stations and bus stops, and newspaper advertisements, etc.), time slots (the months when the promotional messages were broadcast or published) and frequencies; and the manpower and resources involved in promotional work;
- the manpower and production cost involved in the production of APIs on television in relation to elimination of discrimination against sexual minorities; and whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of the relevant promotional items;
- the number of enquiries and complaints received in the past 5 years by the GISOU 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;

- 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; and
- the numbers, locations and costs of unisex bathroom facilities newly constructed and refurbished by the Government in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

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. The Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU) promotes elimination of discrimination against people of different sexual orientations and gender identities mainly through the implementation of the relevant education and promotion programmes.

2. In the past 5 years, the total amount of sponsorship approved under the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) is \$0.89 million, \$1.2 million, \$1.24 million, \$1.34 million and \$1.34 million respectively. Details of the sponsored projects are set out at Annex. The objective of the Funding Scheme is to promote equal opportunities on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, or to provide support services for the sexual minorities. In assessing each funding application, the Assessment Committee, which is comprised of non-official members, will ensure that the objectives and content of the projects are in line with the objective of the Funding Scheme.

3. In the past 5 years, Announcements in the Public Interest which promote the message “Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion - Equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders” were broadcast for over 6 000 times on television and radio. Meanwhile, the promotional video was broadcast for more than 18 million times in over 200 government premises, public transport network (including the

display platform in railway stations, bus stops, train compartments and ferries), and lift lobbies of commercial buildings, and over 17 million click-throughs were made on the Internet. Furthermore, promotional posters on “Eliminate Discrimination, Embrace Inclusion” were displayed at places such as footbridges, subways, bus termini, lobbies of residential buildings, government premises and railway stations, etc. in various districts. In the past 5 years, the resources allocated to the publicity efforts mentioned above (including the production of advertisements) are \$4.39 million, \$2.39 million, \$2.46 million, \$2.52 million and \$2.42 million (revised estimate) respectively. As for the enquiries on other breakdown figures, the Government does not maintain such relevant information.

4. In the past 5 years, the GISOU received a total of 65 enquiries and 3 complaints. The relevant numbers are as follows:

Financial year	Number of enquiries	Number of complaints
2017-18	24	1
2018-19	24	0
2019-20	8	0
2020-21	4	2
2021-22 (as at February 2022)	5	0

In the above complaint cases, 2 cases were related to the services of government departments/public bodies, and 1 case was related to recruitment/employment. Upon investigations, situations involving discrimination on grounds of gender identity or sexual orientation were not found to be substantiated by the GISOU. 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.

5. On the promotion of the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code), at present, over 370 public and private organisations employing nearly 560 000 employees locally have pledged to adopt the Code. The list of organisations which agreed to be listed in the public domain has been uploaded on the CMAB’s webpage (at http://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 promote the practices set out in the Code. As the largest employer in Hong Kong, the Government is committed to following the practices set out in the Code. We will continue to encourage public and private organisations to adopt the Code through various channels including talks, seminars and online publicity.

6. As for the enquiry on unisex bathroom facilities newly constructed and refurbished by the Government, the Government does not maintain such relevant information.

2017-18

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
Pride Lab	Production of documentary and screening	43,960
Bravo Theatre	Drama performances	149,890
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Production of publications	33,050
Yuen Long Town Hall Committee Ltd.	Support group and workshops	19,000
Post Gay Alliance	Support group, sharing sessions, production of publications and counselling services	56,915
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, support group, production of leaflets, outreach activities, hotline and counselling services	32,440
Gay Harmony	Training for volunteers, sharing sessions, production of leaflets and outreach activities	29,650
Neighbourhood & Worker's Education Centre Limited	Support group and workshops	24,780
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performances	92,350
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Workshops	4,200
Down to Earth	Support group, workshops, sharing sessions and counselling services	90,125
Gender Empowerment	Support group, production of publications, hotline and counselling services	35,269
AIDS Concern	Talks	35,300
The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club South Kwai Chung Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre	Workshops, drama performances and production of short videos	105,400
Hong Kong Sex Culture Society Limited	Talks	5,700
GIA Theatre	Drama performances	133,060

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
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 Activities	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

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
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, workshop 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

Name of Applicant	Nature of Activities	Approved Sponsorship (\$)
AIDS Concern	Workshops and publication production	60,228
Down to Earth	Support groups, seminars and support services	123,558
Pride Lab	Video production	50,505
Pride Lab	Video production and seminars	32,897
Gay Harmony	Counselling/support services, workshops and outreach activities	63,258
Gay Harmony	Publication production	67,463
Les Corner Empowerment Association	Support groups, support services and publication production	47,565
Midnight Blue	Seminars/talks and publication production	18,900
Bravo Theatre	Drama performance	146,550
Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China	Exhibition and publication production	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 multimedia production	129,465
Gender Empowerment	Support groups, workshops, and counselling and support services	22,418
The Society for Truth and Light	Support groups and video/multimedia production	25,883
Post Gay Alliance	Support groups, workshops, and counselling and 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	44,205
Grey and Pride	Video/multimedia production and seminars	16,275
Freedom of Love Project	Support groups	9,083
Merit Minds Workshop	Drama performance and exhibition	130,914
Community Health Organisation for Intervention, Care and Empowerment Limited	Seminars and exhibition	46,358

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB027

(Question Serial No. 0272)

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:

With the electoral system improved as advised by the Central Government, the Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) Ordinary Elections and the Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election were held in September and December last year respectively and the Chief Executive Election for the new term will be held in May this year. Please provide this Committee with the details of:

- (a) The total expenditure for conducting the ECSS Ordinary Elections, including the staff establishment, newspaper advertisements, outdoor billboards, text messaging, mailing of leaflets, etc.;
- (b) The total expenditure for conducting the LegCo General Election, including the staff establishment, newspaper advertisements, outdoor billboards, text messaging, mailing of leaflets, etc.;
- (c) The estimated expenditure for conducting the Chief Executive Election in May this year, including the staff establishment, newspaper advertisements, outdoor billboards, text messaging, mailing of leaflets, etc.;
- (d) Out of the estimates of about \$1.2 billion of the Registration and Electoral Office for 2022-23, the provision earmarked for promoting and publicising the institutions of various levels of elections in Hong Kong pursuant to the improved electoral system.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) Ordinary Elections, the Legislative Council (LegCo) General Election and the Chief Executive (CE) Election from the preparation to the completion of all winding-up work usually straddle more than 1 financial year.

2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections

2. The actual expenditures incurred in 2019-20 and 2020-21 by the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for the preparation of the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections are about \$3.4 million and \$17 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2021-22 for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections is about \$184 million, with breakdown as follows:

Estimated expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections	2021-22 (Revised estimate) \$ million
(1) Staff cost	81
(2) Publicity	2
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	101
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 184

2021 LegCo General Election

3. The actual expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the REO for the preparation of the 2021 LegCo General Election is about \$310 million. The revised estimate for 2021-22 and the provision for 2022-23 for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election are about \$1,068 million and \$68 million respectively (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign), with breakdown as follows:

Estimated expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LegCo General Election	2021-22 (Revised estimate) \$ million	2022-23 (Provision) \$ million
(1) Staff cost	217	19
(2) Publicity	100	0
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	751	49
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 1,068	<hr/> 68

2022 CE Election

4. The actual expenditure incurred in 2020-21 by the REO for the preparation of the 2022 CE Election is about \$1 million. The revised estimate for 2021-22 and the provision for 2022-23 for the preparation and conduct of the 2022 CE Election are about \$84 million and \$228 million respectively, with breakdown as follows:

	Estimated expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the 2022 CE Election	2021-22 (Revised estimate) \$ million	2022-23^(#) (Provision) \$ million
(1)	Staff cost	40	77
(2)	Publicity	4	0 ^(^)
(3)	Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	40	151
	Total	84	228

(#) As the HKSAR Government had not yet decided to postpone the CE Election to 8 May 2022 at the time when the provision for 2022-23 was earmarked, the figures do not reflect the estimated additional expenditure required for the postponement of election (the preliminary estimate being about \$50 million). The relevant expenditure will be met by the REO through deployment of resources and use of the earmarked provision.

(^) According to the original plan, the publicity expenditure for the 2022 CE Election have been included in the estimate for 2021-22. As the HKSAR Government had not yet decided to postpone the CE Election when the above provision was earmarked, the figure does not reflect the postponement of the CE Election, and the relevant publicity expenditure will be included in the estimate for 2022-23. The estimated expenditure on the publicity for the CE Election is about \$4 million.

Promoting and Publicising the Improved Electoral System

5. To enhance public awareness of the improved electoral system, the Government has been publicising the improved electoral system through various means and channels, such as introducing the background information of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021, the improved electoral system, as well as the electoral arrangements and relevant electoral legislation on the dedicated website of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

6. Regarding the 2022 CE Election to be held in May this year, the REO will continue to promote through election publicity materials to drive home the message of improving the electoral system and the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, with a view to enhancing public awareness of the improved electoral system and the importance of the system in ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of “one country, two

systems” in Hong Kong. The 2022 CE Election, which was originally scheduled on 27 March 2022, entails a publicity expenditure of \$4 million estimated to be paid in 2021-22. As the HKSAR Government had not yet decided to postpone the CE Election to 8 May 2022 at the time when the provision for 2022-23 was earmarked, the publicity expenditure was not reflected in the earmarked provision. The relevant expenditure will be met by the REO through deployment of resources and use of the earmarked provision.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB028

(Question Serial No. 0206)

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:

Improving the electoral system entails institutional and legislative initiatives to fully implement the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”. One of the main duties under this Programme is to ensure that the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2021 Legislative Council General Election and the 2022 Chief Executive Election are conducted openly, fairly and honestly according to the improved electoral system. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The revised financial provision for 2021-22 is 38.6% lower than the original estimate. What are the reasons?
2. The Executive Council has agreed to invoke the Emergency Regulations Ordinance to postpone the sixth-term Chief Executive Election to 8 May this year. The financial provision of this Programme for 2022-23 is \$1,205.3 million. How much of it is to deal with the work relating to the Chief Executive Election? What are the respective details for staffing, publicity and other expenses?
3. Is there any assessment on the awareness of the improved electoral system in the community, especially among the youths? What specific measures are planned to help the general public obtain a correct understanding of the significance of the system?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The revised estimate of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for 2021-22 is \$962 million (38.6%) lower than its original estimate. This is mainly due to the changes in electoral arrangements after the improvement of the electoral system which mainly include: (a) the reconstitution of the Election Committee after the improvement of the electoral system has brought about a change in the composition and registration eligibility of the subsectors. Following the reduction of registered subsector voters from the original number of around 258 000 to about 8 000 at present, the number of polling stations for the

2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections has dropped drastically from the estimated 190 to 5; and (b) certain expenditures in relation to the 2021 Legislative Council General Election have been reduced because of improvement of the electoral system. For example, the abolition of the District Council (Second) functional constituency has resulted in a significant decrease in both the expenditure on, for instance, the postage of election mails and the number of counting staff at the central counting station. In addition, since tablets were made available for use by the Census and Statistics Department, there was no need to rent the tablets from contractors. Therefore, the expenditure incurred for the implementation of the electronic poll register system was also less than the original estimate. Overall speaking, the revision in financial provision does not have any implication on the conduct or preparation of the elections concerned.

2. Regarding the Chief Executive (CE) Election, the whole process from preparation to completion of all follow-up work usually straddles more than 1 financial year. The preparatory work for the 2022 CE Election commenced in 2020-21. The actual expenditure incurred in 2020-21 and the revised estimate for 2021-22 for the preparation of the 2022 CE Election are about \$1 million and \$84 million respectively. A provision of about \$228 million is earmarked in 2022-23 for the REO to prepare and conduct the 2022 CE Election. The breakdown of the provision is as follows:

Estimated expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the 2022 CE Election	2022-23^(#) \$ million
(1) Staff cost	77
(2) Publicity	0 ^(^)
(3) Other expenses (including the costs for hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, and rental of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	151
Total	228

(#) As the HKSAR Government had not yet decided to postpone the CE Election to 8 May 2022 at the time when the provision for 2022-23 was earmarked, the figures do not reflect the estimated additional expenditure required for the postponement of election (the preliminary estimate being about \$50 million). The relevant expenditure will be met by the REO through the deployment of resources and use of the earmarked provision.

(^) According to the original plan, the publicity expenses for the 2022 CE Election have been included in the estimate for 2021-22. As the HKSAR Government had not yet decided to postpone the CE Election when the above provision was earmarked, the figure does not reflect the postponement of the CE Election, and the relevant publicity expenses will be included in the estimate for 2022-23. The estimated expenditure on the publicity for the CE Election is about \$4 million.

3. To enhance public awareness of the improved electoral system, the Government has been publicising the improved electoral system through various means and channels, such as introducing the background information of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021, the improved electoral system, as well as the electoral

arrangements and relevant electoral legislation on the dedicated website of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

4. Regarding the 2022 CE Election to be held in May this year, the REO will continue to promote through election publicity materials to drive home the message of improving the electoral system and the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, with a view to enhancing public awareness of the improved electoral system and the importance of the system in ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of “one country, two systems” in Hong Kong.

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