

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB185**

**(Question Serial No. 0087)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Regarding the introduction of free admission to the permanent exhibitions of designated museums of the Department in relation to the amendment of the Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) Regulation, will the Government inform this Committee of :

- (1) whether the time arising from “filibustering” in the Legislative Council has been taken into account when considering the timeframe for the amendment? If so, what are the arrangements? If not, what are the reasons?
- (2) the estimated increase in attendance for the permanent exhibitions after the implementation of the initiative?
- (3) the specific expenditure and detailed breakdown of the initiative?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

- (1) To give effect to the introduction of free admission to the permanent exhibitions of designated museums of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the Government will submit proposed amendments to the Public Health and Municipal Services (Fees and Charges) (Museums) Regulation (Cap. 132CK) to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for negative vetting in the 2016-17 financial year. The implementation date is subject to the approval of the LegCo.
- (2) It is estimated that the overall attendance of the permanent exhibitions at the seven fee-charging museums will increase by around 30% after the implementation of free admission. It should, however, be noted that the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the permanent exhibition halls of the Hong Kong Space Museum have been closed for renovation and are expected to be re-opened in 2019 and late 2016 respectively.

- (3) An additional funding of \$13.5 million has been allocated to the LCSD in 2016-17 to cover the extra cost of maintaining the quality of museum services and exhibits in anticipation of increased attendance.

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