

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB221**

**(Question Serial No. 0335)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

The revised estimate (\$71,809,000) for artefacts and museum exhibitions is lower than the original estimate (\$82,658,000) by over \$10 million in 2015-2016. Why is the revised estimate significantly lower than the original estimate? Are there any incomplete projects which lead to the significant reduction in the estimate?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 311)

Reply:

In preparing the original estimate for 2015-16 in late 2014, there were uncertainties about the timing of securing funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) for the "Expansion and Renovation of the Hong Kong Museum of Art" project even though it was submitted to the Panel on Home Affairs in May 2014. To ensure that the Museum would stay open pending FC's funding approval, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department had reserved funding for organising exhibitions at the Museum for the full-year of 2015-16. Funding approval was subsequently granted by FC in June 2015 and the Museum was closed for renovation from August 2015 onwards. There was thus no need to use the funding secured for organising exhibitions in the remaining part of 2015-16. In addition, a major exhibition "Fashion + Paper, Scissors and Rock" of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum originally planned for 2015-16 had been rescheduled to 2016-17 due to programme changes.

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