

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HAB203****(Question Serial No. 0930)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (5) Public LibrariesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home AffairsQuestion:

Regarding “planning and developing library facilities”, what is the progress of library facility projects under planning or construction? Regarding the reprovisioning of the Yuen Long Public Library, what is the expenditure and when is it expected to be completed?

At present, major and district libraries are open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sundays and public holidays. Has the Government ever considered extending the opening hours of libraries on holidays so that working parents may go to the libraries with their children? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. 37)Reply:

The reprovisioning of the Yuen Long Public Library is part of the capital works project under 49RG - Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 3, Yuen Long at a total estimated capital cost of \$704.1 million. Interior fitting-out work of the library is underway and the library is expected to be open to the public in mid-2017. In addition, the following 2 library projects are under construction –

<b>Project</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Reconstruction of North Lamma Public Library under the Signature Project Scheme of Islands District – “Yung Shue Wan Library cum Heritage and Cultural Showroom, Lamma Island”	The works are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.
Provision of a new district library in the North West Kowloon Reclamation Area Site 6	The works are expected to be completed in early 2020.

The following 4 library projects are under planning, and funding will be sought in accordance with the established mechanism –

(a) expansion and renovation of Tsuen Wan Public Library;

- (b) provision of a new district library in the proposed Government Joint User Complex at Lei King Wan;
- (c) reprovisioning of Yau Ma Tei Public Library; and
- (d) reprovisioning of Sau Mau Ping Public Library.

In response to the public demand for longer opening hours of libraries, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has, since 1 April 2009, extended and standardised the weekly opening hours of all major and district libraries from 61 or 62 hours to the present 71 hours, providing services to the public 7 days a week. Under the current arrangement, the 36 major and district libraries are open until 8:00 p.m. during weekdays and Saturdays and until 5:00 p.m. on Sundays so that the public may spend longer time at libraries after work and during weekends. The existing arrangement on opening hours has generally catered for the needs of most people. Indeed, the opinion survey conducted by the LCSD from September to November 2014 revealed that 83% of the respondents considered the existing opening hours “very convenient” or “convenient”. In addition, the feedback collected by the LCSD from the annual customer liaison meetings held in public libraries in the past 3 years also showed that over 80% of the respondents were satisfied with the current opening hours. The LCSD has no plans to further extend the opening hours of the static libraries at this stage. In the meantime, the LCSD will continue to enhance the round-the-clock online library services and the electronic library resources such as e-books and digitised materials for public enjoyment at their own time and their own place.

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