

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB145

(Question Serial No. 0416)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

1. There is an increase of 7 posts in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) this year under Programme (2) Horticulture and Amenities. What are the post title, salary band and area of work of these posts? Along with such increase in manpower, is there any corresponding increase in resources, such as tools and machines for tree management? If so, please give a breakdown of these resources by type and quantity. If not, what are the reasons?
2. Typhoon Mangkhut struck Hong Kong in September last year damaging trees in various districts. How many of these trees in each district are still unattended to? What new measures are there to expedite clearance of the fallen trees? Have there been any changes in LCSD's tree management and handling strategy after the incident to prepare for the next typhoon attack?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) plans to create 7 posts under the Programme "Horticulture and Amenities" for (i) the management of the new leisure facilities; and (ii) the enhancement of existing leisure and support services. A breakdown of the new posts by salary band and rank is as follows –

Salary band	Rank	No. of posts
Maximum pay point at or below Master Pay Scale (MPS) 33 (i.e. monthly salary at or below \$70,090)	Amenities Assistant II, Amenities Assistant III, Assistant Leisure Services Manager I and Clerical Assistant	7
	Total	7

In the 2017-18 and 2018-19 (as at 31 December 2018) financial years, LCSD has procured 5 sonic tomograph instruments, 10 resistograph instruments, 11 action / digital cameras and 142 chainsaws for tree management work.

2. The post-Typhoon Mangkhut removal of fallen trees and tree debris under the purview of LCSD has been completed. To prepare for coming typhoons, LCSD will carry out re-inspections and assessment of trees under its purview and implement remedial measures as appropriate. LCSD will also arrange additional training on tree management before wet season, procure more tools and equipment including chainsaws and enhance the relevant horticultural and arboricultural services contracts upon contract renewals. LCSD has also carried out re-inspections and assessment of trees in areas under its purview and implemented prompt mitigation measures to protect public safety. LCSD will continue to work closely with the Tree Management Office of the Development Bureau and other government bureaux and departments to explore measures in enhancing inter-departmental coordination and communication to speed up the tree debris clearance process. On the replanting programme after typhoon attack, the Development Bureau's guidelines on planting the right trees at the right places will be followed with a view to reducing typhoon damage to the trees in future.

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