

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2412)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (Alice PANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the progress of the project and the respective expenditures for its various stages;
2. of the measures taken to monitor the progress of the project and ensure it can be completed on schedule;
3. of the manpower for and expenditure on the management, maintenance and repair of the existing Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works;
4. of the measures taken to ensure the sewage treatment works relocated to caverns can meet the future development needs arising from the population growth in Sha Tin and Ma On Shan;
5. whether there are any studies on the future use of the vacant site after relocation; if so, of the details and the estimated expenditure involved; if not, of the reason?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The construction works for the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns are underway by stages. Stage 1 works (including site formation, construction of access tunnels and retaining structures as well as associated roadworks), the approved project estimate for which is \$2.0775 billion in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, commenced in 2019 and were completed in 2022. Stage 2 works (including excavation of the main cavern complex and construction of upstream sewerage works), the approved project estimate for which is \$14.0765 billion in MOD prices, have commenced progressively since July 2021. Regarding Stage 3 works (including provision of ancillary buildings to the sewage treatment works and installation of a cavern ventilation system), we plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee for commencement of works in 2023. We will continue to press ahead with the works in each stage and seek funding approval from the Finance Committee for the relevant works in a timely and orderly manner, with a view to completing the entire relocation project in 2031.

2. To ensure the project can be completed on schedule, the Drainage Services Department (DSD), together with its resident site staff, will closely monitor works progress through various means such as regular meetings, site inspections and innovative technologies. With the introduction of an early warning mechanism in the New Engineering Contract (NEC) adopted in the project, both the client's representative and the contractor are encouraged to identify and raise potential risks that may affect the project as early as possible, and when construction difficulties and problems are encountered, to negotiate and formulate the optimal solution for the smooth implementation of the project according to the prescribed procedure framework and timeframes in the contract, so as to reduce the risk of project delay.
3. The annual expenditure on the management, operation, maintenance and repair of the existing Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works is about \$150 million (excluding the salary for DSD staff members). As the work mentioned above is part of DSD staff members' overall duties, there is no breakdown of the manpower and salary expenditure involved in this regard.
4. The design sewage treatment capacity of the Sha Tin Cavern Sewage Treatment Works is 340 000 cubic metres per day, with the future development needs of Sha Tin and Ma On Shan being taken into account in design.
5. For the Ma Liu Shui reclamation project, most of the 88 hectares (ha) of land, which is to be provided by the reclamation project and the relocation of the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns, will be reserved for innovation and technology (I&T). While the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation has been commissioned by the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau to conduct the Preliminary Planning Study for Land Development and Preliminary Engineering Feasibility Study, the Civil Engineering and Development Department has also commenced the Ma Liu Shui Reclamation Study. Upon the scheduled completion of the two studies in 2024, more information on the implementation programme and project estimate will be available.

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