

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)035

(Question Serial No. 1563)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Provision for the coming year under Programme (2) Sewage Services will increase by \$95.6 million. As stated in the Controlling Officer's Report, this is due to the filling of vacancies and operating expenses, as well as the increased cash flow requirement for procurement of equipment.

1. What proportion of this additional provision has been set aside for recurrent operational and electricity expenses of newly completed or expanded sewage treatment facilities?
2. What financial indicators or energy-saving measures does the Department have in place to control the substantial and continuously rising costs of sewage treatment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. Provision for 2026-27 under Programme (2) Sewage Services is \$95.6 million higher than the revised estimate for 2025-26, of which approximately 70% has been set aside for recurrent operating expenses (such as electricity and contract maintenance) of newly completed or expanded sewage treatment facilities.
2. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) will continue to implement a number of energy-saving measures to control the costs of sewage treatment, including the use of energy efficient electrical and mechanical equipment such as high-efficiency air blowers and permanent magnet motors to reduce energy consumption. The DSD will also install additional solar photovoltaic systems at sewage treatment plants, and will apply advanced sludge treatment technologies to enhance biogas production, thereby offsetting daily electricity consumption with the renewable energy generated. In addition, the DSD will adopt innovative technologies such as digital twins, artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics to optimise the operation of sewage treatment plants, with an aim to further reducing resource consumption and operating costs.

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