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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2023-24

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Session No. : 13

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-DEVB(W)001	S020	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	194	(3) Customer Services

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S020)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (YAU Kwok-ting)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

1. It has been 2 years and 4 months since the Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (Ex-SSPSR), a century-old historic building, was discovered and preserved in December 2020. According to the latest reply from the Government, a great majority of guided tour participants supported preserving the original features and to be opened as a waterworks history museum, providing a public space for free activities, or transforming into a venue for art and cultural events. Would the Government inform this Committee which revitalisation and conservation plan does it tend to adopt?

2. The Government stated that it will look for a suitable conservation and revitalisation plan for the Ex-SSPSR and consider including the Ex-SSPSR in the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. Would the Government inform this Committee on the specific work schedule and whether visits to the Ex-SSPSR will continue to follow the current booking arrangement in the future?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department has opened the Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (Ex-SSPSR) for public visit upon completion of the required temporary strengthening and improvement works to ensure its structural safety. Guided tours and self-guided tours were launched since December 2021 and 31 October 2022 to enable the public to visit and appreciate this historic building, and to learn about the internal and external design and architectural structures of the building, as well as the development history of the fresh water supply system in Kowloon. We are now collecting the public's views after their visits to the Ex-SSPSR and investigating the feasibility of various long-term conservation and revitalisation plans, suitable new use and public visiting arrangement, including the suitability of including the Ex-SSPSR in the 'Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme'. We will update the public in due course after completion of the relevant study.

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