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Reply to supplementary question raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Session No. : 16

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-DEVB(PL)01	S0043	Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok	138	(2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-DEVB(PL)01

(Question Serial No. S0043)

Head: (138) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
(Michael W L WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

1. Why does the Government “consider it not suitable to open up the Central Military Dock (CMD) area for any public activities before it is handed over to the Hong Kong Garrison”?
2. Please explain specifically the reason for it to be not “suitable”.
3. Which Government department is responsible for the management of the CMD site at present?
4. Please provide the Government expenditure on the management of the CMD site, including expenses on management staff, maintenance and repairs, conservation, etc. in the financial years of 2015-16 and 2016-17.
5. In accordance with which legislation(s) of Hong Kong are the citizens prohibited from enjoying the subject public space?
6. Citizens entering the CMD site are subject to possible contravention of which legislation(s)? What are the penalties?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok

Reply:

As set out in our reply to Question Serial No. 0126, it is the Government's plan to hand over the Central Military Dock (CMD) to the Hong Kong Garrison after completion of all the necessary procedures. The statutory planning procedures for zoning of the CMD site to "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Military Use (1)" are under judicial review proceedings and have yet to be completed. The CMD is a military facility. The Government considers it not suitable to open up the site for any public activities before it is handed over to the Hong Kong Garrison, and will continue to keep in view the progress of the judicial review and take forward the follow-up actions required to complete the handover process as appropriate.

Pending the handing over of the site to the Garrison, Lands Department (Lands D) undertakes the daily management of the site, incurring about \$175,000 per annum mainly for the hiring of security guard service. The expenses on maintenance and repairs are about \$100,000 per annum.

As with all fenced off sites managed by Lands D, if any person enters into the site without permission or authorisation, Lands D will report this to the Police for follow up. Depending on the circumstances and the nature of the conduct on site, the Government may take further action under the relevant ordinances which could, for instance, include the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance which provides for sanctions against unlawful occupation of unleased government land.

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