

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSTB314**

**(Question Serial No. 1497)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums, (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

The Government has mentioned that it will “provide steer on the enhancement of public museum and library services”. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What progress has been made since 2022 with regard to the planning study on the museum to be set up in the Northern Metropolis?
2. What will be the construction costs, theme, location, area and estimated staffing expenses in relation to the museum to be set up in the Northern Metropolis?
3. According to the latest statistics released by the Hong Kong Public Libraries, there are currently 25, 16 and 30 libraries in Kowloon, on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories respectively. On what basis will the Government determine the distribution of libraries when planning and constructing libraries? Will the Government consider building more libraries in the New Territories? If yes, what are the specific plan and estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Will the Government consider setting up an exhibition hall in the Northern Metropolis so as to enable more enterprises and members of the public to understand the future development of the New Territories North? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- 1., 2. & 4. The Government is planning to build a cultural complex in the Northern Metropolis, which will include a major museum. As the project is still at the preliminary planning stage, the project costs, theme and implementation details are yet to be confirmed.

3. In planning and providing library facilities, the Leisure and Culture Services Department (LCSD) makes reference to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines and a host of relevant factors, including the geographical location, transport facilities and demographic characteristics of the district/community concerned; the distribution and utilisation of existing libraries; the development of infrastructural facilities of the district and the changing needs (including demographic changes) of the community; the land supply situation; as well as the availability of long-term resources and the cost-effectiveness of the services. To tie in with the Government's overall social development policies, the LCSD plans to study the construction of a new library in the Northern Metropolis. Details of the new library project currently under construction in the New Territories are tabulated below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Estimated Total Construction Costs of the Capital Works Project <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Progress</b>
Joint-user Complex (JUC) Project at Site G2, Anderson Road Quarry, Sai Kung (Including the construction of a small public library with a students' study room)	\$2.025 billion (in money-of-the-day prices)	Construction of the JUC commenced in the third quarter of 2023. Upon the estimated completion at the end of 2027, the library will be opened in 2028.

Note (1): As the construction of the library is part of the capital works project of the JUC, a separate breakdown on the library costs is not available.

- End -