

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-TLB001

(Question Serial No. SV024)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

- (a) The Highways Department engages four road maintenance contractors to carry out cleansing tasks regularly for all expressways in Hong Kong. How can the Government ensure that the contractors carry out the relevant tasks properly?
- (b) Will the Government consider applying new technologies to enhance its capability to monitor the expressway cleanliness and the working performance of road maintenance contractors? Besides, will the Government release information about the cleansing tasks of expressways on the Internet for public monitoring?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis

Reply:

- (a) The Highways Department (HyD) engages four road maintenance contractors to carry out cleansing tasks regularly for all expressways in Hong Kong currently. To ensure that the contractors carry out the cleansing tasks properly, the HyD has stipulated a strict mechanism in the works contract to monitor the working performance of contractors. The contractors are requested to submit works records in compliance with the contractual requirements after completing the relevant tasks, including information such as site photos before and after the removal of litter etc. The HyD would review the relevant works records or reports to ensure that the cleansing tasks comply with the contractual requirements and are completed within the required time. The HyD would also carry out inspections for the contractors' works. In case their works do not meet the stipulated standard, the HyD will take appropriate follow-up actions according to the contractual requirements and the prevailing mechanism. The HyD would continue to strictly monitor the performance of contractors to maintain the overall tidiness of the expressway network within its ambit.
- (b) Regarding the application of new technologies, the HyD has been striving to make use of innovative technologies and digitalise the work flow on the maintenance of public roads with a view to enhancing efficiency and improving the services provided to the public. The HyD is responsible for the cleansing tasks (including street sweeping and pick up

litter) for all expressways once daily. The tasks include using mechanical suction sweepers to cleanse both sides of the roads and picking up rubbish on the roads within its ambit. Also, the HyD will launch a vehicle-mounted road laser scanning and imaging system from the end of this year to early next year. The system can accurately record the undulations of the road surface, identify potholes and rubbish left on the road surface etc., thereby assisting in enhancing the effectiveness of road inspection, cleansing, maintenance tasks etc. Furthermore, the HyD has implemented a digitalised Road Maintenance Monitoring System since the end of 2022 to digitalise the aforesaid inspection and supervision procedures. The HyD staff can therefore manage road inspection, cleansing, maintenance tasks etc. carried out by its road maintenance contractors more efficiently.

Regarding the release of information related to cleansing tasks of expressways, the HyD currently releases the implementation performance of the targets under the Performance Pledge (including the time for clearing obstructions on expressways) on the departmental website every year. To enable the public to have a better understanding of the details and effectiveness of relevant works, the HyD plans to release photos of cleansing tasks of expressways through the departmental website every quarter starting in the second half of 2024.

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