

Index Page

Replies to questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional & Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 2

Consolidated e-file name : CMAB(REO)-1-e2.docx

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CMAB058	2253	CHAN Kapui, Judy	163	Electoral Services
CMAB059	1735	CHAN Wing-kwong	163	Electoral Services
CMAB060	1736	CHAN Wing-kwong	163	Electoral Services
CMAB061	1623	CHAN Yung	163	Electoral Services
CMAB062	2248	CHAN Yung	163	Electoral Services
CMAB063	0647	LAM Chun-sing	163	Electoral Services
CMAB064	1543	SO Shiu-tsung, Thomas	163	Electoral Services
SV-CMAB001	SV001	CHAN Wing-kwong	163	Electoral Services

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB058

(Question Serial No. 2253)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In 2025-26, the Registration and Electoral Office was responsible for the conduct and supervision of the 2025 Rural By-election, the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. a breakdown of the actual expenditure and staff establishment involved for the 2025 Rural By-election;
2. a breakdown of the actual expenditure and staff establishment involved for the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections; and
3. a breakdown of the actual expenditure and staff establishment involved for the 2025 Legislative Council General Election.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Home Affairs Department is responsible for the preparation and conduct of rural elections (including by-elections), and the provision of the resources and manpower required. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) mainly provides administrative support to the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) and assists the EAC in supervising the relevant elections. The resources and manpower required for the relevant work are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure and establishment of the REO, and there is no related breakdown.

2. The revised estimate for 2025-26 under the REO for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) By-elections is about \$179 million, with breakdown as follows:

**Expenditure on the
preparation and conduct of
the ECSS By-elections**

**2025-26
(Revised estimate)
\$ million**

1)	Staff cost	57
2)	Publicity	6
3)	Other expenses (including the costs of manning polling and counting stations, hiring venues, printing, transportation, postage, free mailing, rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	116
Total		179

3. The revised estimate for 2025-26 under the REO for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Voter Registration Campaign) is about \$1,132 million, with breakdown as follows:

**Expenditure on the
preparation and conduct of the LCGE
(including the Voter Registration Campaign)**

**2025-26
(Revised estimate)
\$ million**

1)	Staff cost	303
2)	Publicity	149
3)	Other expenses (including the costs of manning polling and counting stations, hiring venues, printing, transportation, postage, free mailing, rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	680
Total		1,132

4. The REO recruited about 1 000 and 34 000 government employees as electoral staff for the 2025 ECSS By-elections and the 2025 LCGE respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB059

(Question Serial No. 1735)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) conducts exercise for voter registration every year. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the estimated expenditure for the REO's voter registration exercise in 2026-27;
- (2) the actual annual expenditures on (i) voter registration, (ii) verification of voter registration and (iii) publicity of voter registration in the past 5 financial years;
- (3) the staff establishment and emolument expenses of the Voter Registration Division responsible for voter registration matters under the REO in the past 5 financial years;
- (4) the respective numbers of persons eligible for voter registration and newly registered electors in the past 5 financial years; and
- (5) whether there are any measures by the Government to encourage eligible persons to register as electors.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The provision for the Voter Registration Division responsible for voter registration matters under the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) for 2026-27 is about \$150 million. The Division has been flexibly deploying resources according to operational needs, thus a breakdown by different work objectives is not available. In the past 5 years, the establishment and relevant expenditure of the Division are tabulated below:

Financial year	Establishment	Expenditure#
2021-22	131	\$168 million
2022-23	127	\$130 million
2023-24	124	\$165 million
2024-25	124	\$145 million
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	122	\$170 million

Inclusive of staff remuneration and operating expenses

2. Under the improved electoral system, the REO normally launches the Voter Registration Campaign (VRC) in April every year. The statutory deadline for submitting applications for new registration/change of particulars is set on 2 June every year. The publicity expenses for the campaigns in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Voter Registration Campaign	Expenditure
2021	\$14.34 million
2022	\$5.16 million
2023	\$13.60 million
2024	\$7.06 million
2025	\$11.46 million

3. The actual numbers of newly registered electors and total registered electors in the Final Register of Electors by Geographical Constituencies in the recent 5 years are available on the voter registration dedicated website (vr.gov.hk) of the REO.

4. Each year, the REO collaborates with relevant departments to organise the VRC, making use of various channels to appeal to eligible persons to register as electors and to remind registered electors to check whether their registration particulars requires updating. The REO will continue to disseminate the promotion messages of voter registration through a multi-pronged approach. The various publicity measures and activities of the 2026 VRC are set out in the Paper No. CB(2)307/2026(04) of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs of the Legislative Council for its meeting on 16 March 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1736)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that during 2025-26, the Registration and Electoral Office provided the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support to accomplish a number of major tasks, including: the conduct and supervision of the 2025 Rural By-election, the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE). In this regard, will the Administration inform us of the following:

- (1) the staffing establishment, actual expenses and a breakdown of expenditure for organising the above three elections, including (i) staff costs, (ii) publicity expenses, (iii) other expenses (including the costs of hiring venues, manning polling and counting stations, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.);
- (2) the rate of change in the total actual expenses and breakdown of expenditure between the 2025 LCGE and the 2021 LCGE; and the reasons for the increase/decrease;
- (3) has the Administration utilised information technology to enhance the efficiency of electoral work and reduce the costs of such work; if so, what are the details and the expenses involved; and
- (4) the specific measures to be taken by the Administration in 2026-27 to publicise and promote the improved electoral system so as to enhance public understanding and awareness of the electoral system; and the estimated expenditure involved in the related promotional activities.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Home Affairs Department is responsible for the preparation and conduct of rural elections (including by-elections), and the provision of the resources and manpower required. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) mainly provides administrative support to the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) and assists the EAC in supervising the relevant elections.

The resources and manpower required for the relevant work are absorbed in the recurrent expenditure and establishment of the REO, and there is no related breakdown.

2. The revised estimate for 2025-26 under the REO for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) By-elections is about \$179 million, with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the ECSS By-elections	2025-26 (Revised estimate) \$ million
1) Staff cost	57
2) Publicity	6
3) Other expenses (including the costs of manning polling and counting stations, hiring venues, printing, transportation, postage, free mailing, rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	116
Total	179

3. The revised estimate for 2025-26 under the REO for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) (including the estimate for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Voter Registration Campaign) is about \$1,132 million, with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the LCGE (including the Voter Registration Campaign)	2025-26 (Revised estimate) \$ million
1) Staff cost	303
2) Publicity	149
3) Other expenses (including the costs of manning polling and counting stations, hiring venues, printing, transportation, postage, free mailing, rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	680
Total	1,132

4. The revised estimate for 2025-26 for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 LCGE (including the estimate for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Voter Registration Campaign) is about \$1,132 million. This represents an increase of about 34.6% over the actual expenditure in 2021-22 for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 LCGE (including the expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Voter Registration Campaign) which was about \$841 million. The increase was mainly due to expenditure for information technology (IT) support, publicity expenses, rental cost of venues, as well as staff remuneration, etc.

5. The REO recruited about 1 000 and 34 000 government employees as electoral staff for the 2025 ECSS By-elections and the 2025 LCGE respectively.

6. The REO has been applying IT more extensively in different stages of elections in recent years, with a view to enhancing electoral procedures and increasing work efficiency to facilitate various stakeholders. In the 2025 ECSS By-elections and the 2025 LCGE, besides

continuing the use of the Electronic Poll Register System to issue ballot papers to electors, the REO also digitalised most of the election-related forms to facilitate candidates. Regarding the counting of votes, the REO adopted new electronic counting systems in the ECSS By-elections and the Legislative Council (LegCo) Election Committee constituency election, and adopted the electronic counting system for the first time in the LegCo functional constituency election, thereby significantly enhancing the efficiency of the count. Furthermore, the REO introduced the Election Information Communication System and used the Mobile Input System for Electoral Statistics, the Polling Station Management System, the Counting Information Display System, etc., to strengthen communication and co-ordination between the Central Command Centre (CCC) and the polling stations so as to effectively support the CCC, monitor the progress of the polling and counting work, and facilitate the polling staff to calculate, verify and submit various types of data to the Statistical Information Centre, and thus significantly enhanced the efficiency of the electoral work. The resources required for the relevant work are subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the REO and there is no related breakdown.

7. In addition, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) will continue to promote the improved electoral system, and introduce its superiority and significance to the public, so as to enhance their understanding and awareness. The CMAB has earmarked approximately \$2 million in 2026-27 for setting up publicity counters and organising roving exhibitions in the community, as well as promoting relevant messages such as in schools.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB061

(Question Serial No. 1623)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please advise of the manpower arranged and resources allocated by the Registration and Electoral Office for the extensive application of information technology (IT) in various processes of past elections. Please provide a breakdown of the relevant details by type of election, name or category of IT, as well as applicable target such as candidates' teams, electoral staff and electors.
2. In the estimated expenditure for 2026-27, is there any provision for the development of IT which facilitates electors, such as electronic voting facilities? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has been applying information technology (IT) extensively in different stages of elections in recent years with a view to enhancing electoral procedures, increasing work efficiency, and facilitating various stakeholders. In the 2025 Election Committee Subsector (ECSS) By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE), major IT systems utilised and relevant arrangements implemented are as follows:

IT systems and relevant arrangements	Target user and scope of application
Online Voter Information Enquiry System	Enabling electors to check their registration status and particulars, as well as polling information, including their allocated polling station and its location map, guide on voting procedures and the Introduction to Candidates in respect of the elector's relevant constituency(ies)
Near Boundary Polling Stations (NBPSs) Online Registration System	Enabling geographical constituency and functional constituency electors of the 2025 LCGE to apply online for voting at a NBPS

IT systems and relevant arrangements	Target user and scope of application
Digitalisation of election-related forms	Facilitating candidates to fill out, sign and submit election-related forms and information via an online platform
Electronic Poll Register System	Verifying the identity of electors and issuing ballot papers
Ballot paper checking machine	Providing ballot paper checking machines in polling stations for voters/electors in the 2025 ECSS By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council Election Committee constituency election to assist them to check whether their ballot papers have been marked properly
Electronic counting system	Sorting ballot papers (where applicable), screening out invalid/questionable ballot papers and conducting automated vote counting for elections which adopt electronic counting, thereby supporting the electronic vote counting operations at the Central Counting Station
Integrated System for Recruitment and Management of Electoral Staff	Supporting the work related to the recruitment of electoral staff
Polling Station Management System	Supporting electoral staff in the management of the delivery and replenishment of electoral materials
Election Information Communication System	Supporting communications between the Central Command Centre, the Statistical Information Centre (SIC) and the polling stations
Mobile Input System for Electoral Statistics	Enabling polling and counting staff of the 2025 LCGE to input, calculate, verify and submit various electoral statistical data of polling and counting stations to the SIC on the polling day through tablet computers
Electronic Voter Turnout Compilation System	Supporting electoral staff in collecting and compiling various electoral statistics (such as hourly voter turnout and voter turnout rate), and publishing the relevant statistics through the dedicated election website

2. The Information Technology Management Division of the REO is responsible for the department's IT planning, IT security, network infrastructure, application development and maintenance. The number of staff in the establishment of the division in 2026-27 is 18. Meanwhile, the REO recruits suitable IT contract staff based on actual operational needs through the contract centrally managed by the Digital Policy Office. As the resources required for IT support are subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the REO, no separate breakdown is available.

3. The REO will conduct system enhancement of the Electronic Poll Register System in 2026-27 to enhance the functions, efficiency and security of the system, so as to provide support for the 2026 ECSS Ordinary Elections, the 2027 Chief Executive Election and the 2027 District Council Ordinary Election. The REO will, having regard to the actual circumstances and needs, continue to promote the application of IT to make elections more efficient and user-friendly.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB062

(Question Serial No. 2248)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide a breakdown of estimated expenditure for the preparation and conduct of the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2027 Chief Executive Election and the 2027 District Council Ordinary Election (categorised by publicity, manpower establishment, staff costs and other expenses).
2. The preparation for the above three elections is a very important and pressing task. Yet, the estimated expenditure for 2026-27 has not increased but decreased by more than 23%. In this regard, please tell us the reasons and how to ensure that the preparation and conduct of the relevant elections by the department will not be affected?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

Excluding election expenses which cannot be apportioned to individual elections, the breakdown of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO)'s provision for 2026-27 which is directly related to the preparation and conduct of the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections (ECSSOEs) and the 2027 Chief Executive Election (CEE), as well as the preparation for the 2027 District Council Ordinary Election (DCOE) is as follows:

	2026 ECSSOEs (\$ million)	2027 CEE (\$ million)	2027 DCOE (\$ million)
(1) Staff cost	135	58	71
(2) Publicity	9	1	0
(3) Other expenses (such as the costs of manning polling and counting stations, hiring venues, printing, transportation, postage, free mailing, etc.)	116	22	12
Total	260	81	83

2. The REO's provision for 2026-27 is about \$363 million (23.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025-26. This is mainly because the funding required for the preparation and conduct of the 2026 ECSSOEs and the 2027 CEE, as well as the preparation for the 2027 DCOE is less than the revised estimate for the conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election. When preparing the estimates, the REO has set aside sufficient provision based on the resources required for each election.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB063

(Question Serial No. 0647)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Regarding the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE), will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the respective expenditures involved in the preparation and promotion of the 2025 LCGE by the Government; and
- (2) the staff establishment, the operating expenses involved, and the voter turnout for each "Near Boundary Polling Station", "Designated Polling Station" (i.e. (i) Civil Servant Designated Polling Station, (ii) Hospital Authority Healthcare Staff Designated Polling Station, and (iii) Ethnic Minorities Designated Polling Station), as well as Outreach Polling Station for Residential Care Homes?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2025-26 under the Registration and Electoral Office for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) (including the provision for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Voter Registration Campaign) is about \$1,132 million, with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the LCGE (including the Voter Registration Campaign)	2025-26 (Revised estimate) \$ million
1) Staff cost	303
2) Publicity	149
3) Other expenses (including the costs of manning polling and counting stations, hiring venues, printing, transportation, postage, free mailing, rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	680
Total	1,132

2. In the 2025 LCGE, the voter turnout for each Near Boundary Polling Station, Designated Polling Station and Outreach Polling Station for Residential Care Homes is as follows:

Type of polling station	Name of polling station	Voter turnout
Near Boundary Polling Station	Hong Kong Taoist Association Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School (Covered Playground)	488
	Hong Kong Taoist Association Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School (Hall)	1 221
	TWGHs Kap Yan Directors' College (Covered Playground)	1 317
	TWGHs Kap Yan Directors' College (Hall)	1 581
	Passenger Clearance Building of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port (Arrival Hall)	833
	Hong Kong International Airport Terminal 2 (Coach Hall)	1 713
Civil Servant Designated Polling Station	Hong Kong Police Force Police Headquarters Designated Polling Station	5 078
	Hong Kong Police Force Police Sports and Recreation Club Designated Polling Station	3 605
	Hong Kong Police Force Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force Headquarters Designated Polling Station	3 077
	Hong Kong Police Force New Territories South Regional Headquarters Designated Polling Station	2 824
	Hong Kong Police Force Marine Outer Waters District Headquarters Designated Polling Station	693
	Hong Kong Police Force New Territories North Regional Headquarters Designated Polling Station	2 335
	Hong Kong Police Force Tuen Mun Police Station Designated Polling Station	1 469
	Hong Kong Police Force Tin Shui Wai Police Station Designated Polling Station	1 099
	Correctional Services Department Shek Pik Prison and Sha Tsui Correctional Institution Officers' Mess Designated Polling Station	353
	Correctional Services Department Hei Ling Chau Officers' Mess Designated Polling Station	210
Hospital Authority Healthcare Staff Designated Polling Station	Meng Tak Catholic School Designated Polling Station	133
	Former Caritas Wu Cheng-Chung Secondary School Designated Polling Station	46
	Yaumati Kaifong Association School Designated Polling Station	96
	Kwun Tong Maryknoll College Designated Polling Station	94
	Lai King Community Hall Designated Polling Station	80
	St. Rose of Lima's College Designated Polling Station	86
	Tuen Mun Government Primary School Designated Polling Station	96

Type of polling station	Name of polling station	Voter turnout
Ethnic Minorities Designated Polling Station	Tang Shiu Kin Victoria Government Secondary School Designated Polling Station	2
	Kowloon Park Sports Centre Designated Polling Station	5
Outreach Polling Station for Residential Care Homes	Kwu Tung North Multi-welfare Services Complex Outreach Polling Station	188
	Yan Chai Hospital Chinachem Care and Attention Home Outreach Polling Station	86
	TWGHs Jockey Club Sunshine Complex for the Elderly Outreach Polling Station	45

3. The REO recruited a total of about 34 000 government employees as electoral staff for the 2025 LCGE, including frontline and support staff responsible for the Near Boundary Polling Stations, Designated Polling Stations and Outreach Polling Stations for Residential Care Homes. As some staff provided support services to multiple polling stations, we are unable to provide a breakdown of the manpower involved at individual polling stations. In addition, some of the operating expenses of the polling stations (which cover various expenditures related to frontline and support staff, installation of systems and equipment, procurement, storage and transportation of materials, etc.) involved more than one polling station or items and services procured centrally, the REO is unable to compile the operating expenses for individual polling stations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CMAB064

(Question Serial No. 1543)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

The Government earmarked \$1.28 billion for the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE), including \$177 million for publicity expenses and \$289 million for staff cost, setting a new high for the estimate of election expenses in recent years. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the actual expenditures for the 2025 LCGE, including the breakdown by staff cost, publicity expenses and printing cost, and what were the differences between these expenditures and the original estimates?
2. Regarding the publicity expenses, what were the respective expenditures for TV and radio advertisements, newspaper and outdoor advertisements, social media advertisements, production of promotional videos, printing and distribution of promotional materials, as well as inviting or hiring public figures to participate in publicity events? How did the Government evaluate the effectiveness of various publicity work? Has the Government taken into account the click-through rates, number of views and interaction rates of social media advertisements, and what are the relevant statistics?
3. How many government employees did the Registration and Electoral Office actually recruit to participate in the 2025 LCGE, and what were the relevant staff cost? Regarding the measures implemented to mobilise and facilitate civil servants to vote on the polling day, such as making deployments of additional manpower to be on duty and arranging for reimbursement of travelling expenses between the place of work and the polling stations assigned for civil servants to vote, what were the details of the costs incurred?
4. What electoral work had to be cancelled, postponed, streamlined or rearranged due to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po, and what were the respective amounts involved?

Asked by: Hon SO Shiu-tsung, Thomas (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO)'s revised estimate for 2025-26 for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE) (including the estimate for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 Voter Registration Campaign) was about \$1,132 million, with breakdown as follows:

Expenditure on the preparation and conduct of the LCGE (including the Voter Registration Campaign)	2025-26 (Revised estimate) \$ million
1) Staff cost	303
2) Publicity	149
3) Other expenses (including the costs of manning polling and counting stations, hiring venues, printing, transportation, postage, free mailing, rental cost of temporary offices and stores, etc.)	680
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 1,132

2. The REO's revised estimate for 2025-26 for the preparation and conduct of the 2025 LCGE was about \$148 million lower than the original estimate, mainly because the costs of manning polling and counting stations, publicity and printing, etc. were lower than expected, and the contingency provision was not utilised.

3. As various publicity and promotion service providers provide cross-platform publicity services, it would be difficult to provide a breakdown of expenses by publicity means. All in all, a diversified and creative approach was adopted for the publicity activities of this election, which effectively publicised the importance of Legislative Council election and was widely covered by the media, generating significant public response with satisfactory publicity impact. The Government will review and enhance publicity for elections, so as to continue to raise the public's awareness of and attention to elections, and encourage their participation in elections.

4. The REO recruited about 34 000 government employees as electoral staff for the 2025 LCGE. Also, to facilitate civil servants to cast their votes smoothly, Bureaux/Departments (B/Ds) implemented all feasible measures for civil servants scheduled to work on the polling day, including arranging for civil servants on duty to be released in an orderly manner for a short period of time to vote at polling stations, and reimbursing them the travelling expenses between the office and the polling stations assigned for them to vote in accordance with regulations. The relevant expenses were absorbed by existing resources of respective B/Ds. As for the REO, the relevant expenses were subsumed under its recurrent expenditure and a breakdown is not available.

5. Due to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po, the REO had to reassign electors of the three affected polling stations from their original polling stations to other nearby polling stations for casting their votes. As such, the REO arranged for free feeder transportation services during polling hours on the polling day to facilitate the electors concerned to go to the newly assigned polling stations to cast votes. The related expenditure was about \$180,000. The REO also informed Wang Fuk Court residents temporarily residing at different locations at the time of the new polling station arrangements through social workers

under the “one social worker per household” initiative, and assistance was provided to the electors according to their travel needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-CMAB001

(Question Serial No. SV001)

Head: (163) Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Electoral Services

Controlling Officer: Chief Electoral Officer (Ms Natalie CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

According to the information on the voter registration dedicated website of the Registration and Electoral Office, the number of registered electors of geographical constituencies has decreased by over 330 000 in the past 5 financial years. Does the Government have a grasp of the reasons for such a significant drop in the number of registered electors, and will it adopt more proactive measures to encourage eligible persons to register as electors?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-kwong

Reply:

The number of electors on the final register published each year is affected by the number of electors newly registered, deceased or removed through the statutory inquiry process. Statutory inquiry aims to uphold the accuracy and completeness of the information in the registers. In accordance with relevant electoral laws, the Electoral Registration Officer will include the electors who fail to respond to inquiry by the deadline in the omissions lists of the relevant year. Then, electors without any valid reply will be removed from the final register subsequently published. In the past few years, the number of newly registered electors was less than the number of electors deceased or removed through the statutory inquiry process. Thus, the overall number of registered electors has declined.

2. The Legislative Council General Election was conducted in 2025. The Registration and Electoral Office noticed that the number of newly registered electors last year was over 36 000, representing a 90% year-on-year increase. We will continue to collaborate with relevant departments to actively promote voter registration and disseminate election related messages through a multi-pronged approach. The voter registration campaign, apart from publicising to the general public, will also implement targeted measures for persons who are newly eligible to register such as those who have recently reached the age of 18 or just attained permanent residency. Such measures include setting up registration counters at the Registration of Persons Offices and the Right of Abode Section of the Immigration Department to facilitate registration on the spot; continuing to promote on campuses and collaborating with various bureaux to organise promotion activities targeted at young people; and continuing to work with relevant departments to liaise with support groups for new

immigrants and entrants admitted under talent/quality migrant admission schemes for publicity and appeals, etc.

- End -