

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)167

(Question Serial No. 3168)

Head: (91) Lands Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Land Administration
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 29):

According to the Education Bureau, 49 vacant school premises have been returned to the Planning Department for re-allocation for other uses. Please advise:

- a. How many of these vacant school premises have been re-allocated for other uses, and what are the new uses? If re-allocation for other uses has yet to be made, what are the reasons for it?
- b. What is the condition of the vacant school premises which have been re-allocated for other uses? Does the re-allocation involve reconstruction and renovation works? If yes, please specify the expenditure and timetable involved.
- c. It is mentioned in the Policy Address 2013-14 that suitable vacant school premises will be identified to provide more space for artists. What is the progress of the plan?
- d. Will consideration be given to identifying suitable vacant school premises to provide more space for sports associations? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

- a. According to the Education Bureau (EDB), as at the position in March 2014, a total of 51 vacant school premises (VSP) sites had been found not suitable for further educational uses. EDB has informed the Planning Department and returned these 51 sites to the relevant departments for consideration of alternative uses in accordance with the established arrangement. Among these 51 VSP sites:
 - (i) 39 VSP sites fall under the purview of the Lands Department (Lands D), of which 16 VSP sites are wholly or partly on private lots held by the private land owners, meaning disposal of the sites should have regard to the rights of the land owners under the relevant leases. As at the end of

February 2014, five tenancies had been issued to non-profit making organisations for uses such as community and recreation centre, temporary office and training centre, and three government land allocations had been made to government bureau/departments (B/Ds) for other uses. The remaining VSP sites are under application for various uses, such as vocational training centre, museum, community and welfare activities centre, adventure centre and education resource centre or available for application for greening and community purposes.

- (ii) Eight VSP sites are within the Housing Department's housing estates, of which three VSP sites had been taken up by different organisations for government, institution or community uses and the remaining VSP sites are proposed for public housing development and other government uses.
 - (iii) One VSP site is under the management of the Government Property Agency, the building on which has been fully occupied by various departments.
 - (iv) Three VSP sites remain in possession by EDB, and they will be available for handing over to new users when identified and their applications approved.
- b. The above-mentioned VSP sites were allocated to B/Ds or let to the organisations in their existing conditions. Reconstruction and renovation works, if required, would be undertaken by the respective tenants or allocatees. Lands D does not have information on expenditure and timetable involved in the reconstruction and renovation works, if applicable.
- c. The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) advises that the Hong Kong Arts Development Council has been working in collaboration with the Tai Po District Council to plan for the conversion of a school in Tai Po, which will be closed in 2014, into an arts development centre to provide space and facilities for arts groups and artists and to promote culture and arts in the community.
- d. HAB is prepared to consider suitable available VSP sites for sports purposes where appropriate.