

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3551)

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:

The Office of The Ombudsman published a direct investigation report on the management of permitted burial grounds last year. What are the details of the follow-up actions taken by the Lands Department on the criticisms and recommendations and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 282)

Reply:

Regarding The Ombudsman's recommendation that permitted burial grounds (PBGs) should not be designated within or extended to conservation zones, the Lands Department (Lands D) has incorporated this requirement in the departmental guidelines for drawing up the boundaries of PBGs. As regards the other recommendations, the Home Affairs Department is currently in discussion with relevant departments, including Lands D, to explore, inter alia, the implementation details of a pilot scheme which aims to introduce a number of improvement measures to selected pilot PBGs for better management.

In 2016-17, Lands D has earmarked a provision of about \$3.2 million for outsourced service and associated work supporting the implementation of improvement measures to some selected PBGs such as (i) setting out the PBG boundaries; (ii) conducting record survey within the PBGs; and (iii) identifying and setting out new burial plots inside the PBGs.

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