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Replies to initial and supplementary written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 18

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB127

(Question Serial No. 2856)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

It is mentioned in Programme 2 that in the coming year, Radio Television Hong Kong will continue to strengthen co-production of television programmes with Mainland broadcasters that foster the affection for our country, as well as provide more diversified programmes and present more programmes with national perspectives to strengthen social cohesion and public understanding (especially young people). In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

1. of the estimated expenditure and staffing involved; and
2. of the work plan, roadmap and key performance indicators in the coming 3 years; if available, of the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

As a government department and the public service broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) firmly implements the public purposes and mission in the Charter of RTHK (the Charter), including promoting understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity. The performance of RTHK is evaluated under 8 Programme Production Goals (PPGs), which are drawn up based on the public purposes, mission and programming objectives stipulated in the Charter. RTHK’s performance under respective PPGs is set out in the Controlling Officer’s Report.

To engender a sense of citizenship and national identity, RTHK is committed to strengthening partnership with different Mainland broadcasters and co-producing television programmes that foster the affection for our country. RTHK has established cooperation with the China Media Group, Beijing Radio & Television Station, Shanghai Media Group, Yunnan Television, Guangdong Radio and Television and Guangzhou Broadcasting Network (GZBN), etc.. Besides, the 3 digital terrestrial television channels operated by RTHK relay

programmes of China Central Television and China Global Television Network, enabling the public to watch more programmes with a national perspective.

In addition, RTHK will broadcast important activities and major events of our country and Hong Kong or produce relevant programmes to strengthen public understanding of the relevant subjects and promote social cohesion, such as the promotion, programme production and live broadcast of the 15th National Games (NG), and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games to be held in November and December 2025. RTHK also plans to co-produce with GZBN on a new cultural tourism programme to introduce the preparatory work for the NG in various Greater Bay Area cities and new tourism information in the surrounding areas.

In the coming year, RTHK will also produce and broadcast programmes targeting at young people to nurture their patriotic feelings and promote their understanding of our country. For instance, RTHK is preparing the production of the new series of “Basic Law Quiz Competition” to enhance the understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law among young people; and will co-produce the new series of “Love Our Home, Treasure Our Country” with the Education Bureau. Besides, young people and members of the public from the 18 districts will be invited to participate in the “Basic Law and Patriotic Education Quiz”, so as to deepen their understanding of the Chinese civilisation; “Young Cultural Ambassadors” will enable young people to understand historical stories such as Hong Kong’s resistance against Japanese aggression, inheritance of the Chinese culture, and the establishment of Hong Kong by Chinese in the early days; and the children’s programme “Learning Basic Law with Good Neighbours” introduces the essence of the Basic Law to children in theatrical form. RTHK will conduct school and community tours to promote these programmes.

The expenditure and manpower involved will be covered by existing resources. RTHK does not maintain separate breakdown of expenditure and manpower involved.

RTHK’s production directions and work plans are devised in accordance with the Charter. The Charter stipulates that RTHK should prepare an annual plan. The annual plan for 2025-26 will be published in April this year. To enhance the quality and effectiveness of programmes, RTHK will review and adjust the service performance criteria on an annual basis to assess the effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB128

(Question Serial No. 0414)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Promoting understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity is one of the Programme Production Goals set by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). In this regard, will the Administration inform this Committee of the details and specific achievements of the relevant work last year? What was the amount of expenditure involved? Has there been any review of its effectiveness? In the coming year, what are the work plan of RTHK and the amount of expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

As a government department and the public service broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) firmly implements the public purposes and mission under the Charter of RTHK, including promoting understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity.

In 2024-25, RTHK produced and broadcast various programmes and events on important topics such as the Constitution, the Basic Law, national security education, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, etc. For television, in 2024-25, RTHK produced and broadcast programmes including “Basic Law and Us”, “Basic Law cum Sports Ambassadors 123 School Tours”, the new theme song for the Basic Law “Wings”, and a series of special programmes for “The Third Plenary Session”, such as “Seminar on Promotion of Spirit of Third Plenary Session of 20th CPC Central Committee”, “Chat on 3rd Plenary Session”, “Quick Look at 3rd Plenary Session”, “Deepening Reform in the New Era – 3rd Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC”, etc., and the live broadcast of the flag raising ceremony, opening ceremony cum seminar for the National Security Education Day, as well as the flag raising ceremony and seminar for the Constitution Day. The number of transmission hours for the relevant programmes was 2 974.

For radio, in 2024-25, RTHK produced and broadcast programmes including “More About the National Security Law”, “Young Politician – National Security Education Day Special”, “Our Neighbours”, “National Security Legal Forum”, “50 Years After: Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee Series”, “Heart to Class – National Studies Special Series: Third Plenary Session”, “Macao in My Eyes”, etc. The number of transmission hours for the relevant programmes was 1 130.

Moreover, to efficiently utilise production resources and cater for the need of audience and listeners, related programmes were simulcast on RTHK website and the mobile application “RTHK TV”, and were available in archives. Some of the programmes have been authorised to be broadcast on RTHK’s social media platforms (e.g. RTHK YouTube Channel). Besides, RTHK launched a series of special online learning programmes on its website to introduce national affairs, such as “Our National Anthem”, “Understanding the National Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law”, “Door of Diplomacy”, “The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China”, “The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China”, “Citizenship & Society: Special Webcasts”, and dedicated webpages for Mainland dramas, etc. By making use of the characteristics of internet multimedia, the “Chinese Culture” website channel presents the great Chinese cultural heritage, such as history, culture, arts and beautiful landscape to the public through sound, visual and words.

According to the audience surveys of 2024, over 90% of the respondents agreed that RTHK’s radio and TV programmes had achieved the Programme Production Goal of promoting understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity. To enhance the quality and effectiveness of programmes, RTHK will review and adjust the service performance criteria on an annual basis to assess the effectiveness.

In 2025-26, RTHK will continue producing programmes to engender a sense of citizenship and national identity among the public. For TV programmes, RTHK will launch programmes related to the theme of “80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance”, so as to enhance the sense of identity with our country and the Chinese culture among the public through history, culture and national education. Besides, young people and members of the public from the 18 districts will be invited to participate in the “Basic Law and Patriotic Education Quiz”, so as to deepen their understanding of the Chinese civilization; “New Legacy Keepers” will introduce and explore the preservation and promotion of the Chinese culture and craftsmanship; “Young Cultural Ambassadors” will enable young people to understand historical stories such as Hong Kong’s resistance against Japanese aggression, inheritance of the Chinese culture, and the establishment of Hong Kong by Chinese in the early days; “Learning Basic Law with Good Neighbours” introduces the essence of the Basic Law to children in theatrical form, etc. It is estimated that a total of 3 000 hours of relevant programmes will be broadcast throughout the year.

For radio programmes, RTHK will produce various programmes to promote public understanding on the importance of safeguarding national security, including “The 17th Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest”, which will enhance students’ interest in and awareness of the diplomacy of our country; “NSL Chronicles III”, which will use the latest cases as the entry point, invite young people to share their viewpoints and questions concerning the Hong Kong National Security Law and explain the Law from diverse

perspectives; “Our Neighbours II” which will deepen audience understanding of the countries along the Belt and Road, and our country’s efforts in promoting diplomatic relationship along this modern-day Silk Road through dialogues amongst scholars and guests as well as storytelling. It is estimated that a total of 1 100 hours of relevant programmes will be broadcast throughout the year.

The expenditure of the above items will be covered by existing resources. RTHK does not maintain separate breakdown of expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB129

(Question Serial No. 1892)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Radio, (3) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In regard of the performance of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The estimated expenditure provided by the Administration for radio services has been increasing. However, according to the document, for the 8 Goals, satisfaction with programmes, recognition, and the number of listeners have all dropped by various degrees. What is/are the reason(s)?
2. Given that the multiple indicators mentioned above did not meet the expected targets, does the Administration have any plans to flexibly deploy resources to improve and adjust the service in order to enhance service level and programme quality, as well as bring about innovative reform to radio services? Amongst other initiatives, will the Administration consider relaxing some of the restrictions, such as language requirements, programme hour requirements, as well as advertising restrictions in order to enhance the competitiveness of radio programmes in the future?
3. Regarding the 6 mobile applications provided by RTHK, please provide the average usage, as well as the manpower expenditure involved in the operation and daily maintenance of each application in the past 3 years.
4. Given the impact of the communication power of other online platforms and social media on the usage of RTHK's mobile applications, will the Administration consider, in the light of the actual situation, merging or discontinuing some of the applications, and consolidating information to enhance the overall effectiveness of the New Media services, so as to reduce costs while boosting effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

As a public service broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)'s programme production has to cater for the needs of different groups in the society, including the mass audience as well as the minority groups such as ethnic minorities and non-Chinese speaking group. Besides, programmes produced by RTHK cover various aspects including news, public affairs, government information, national education, sports, culture, lifestyle and education programmes, etc. RTHK reviews and updates the programme line-up of different channels from time to time. In this regard, RTHK launched a new programme arrangement which involved a series of programme changes in the 2nd quarter of last year, including adjusting radio programme schedule, reducing overlap of similar programmes, providing more diversified content, etc. to cater the needs of different audience groups. It may take time for audience to get used to the changes of radio programmes. In the coming year, the programme production teams will conduct focus group surveys and collect audience feedback through various channels. RTHK will further enhance programme content and quality taking into account the feedback and operational experience. RTHK will control its expenditure with caution and utilise its resources to provide quality programmes to the public.

The average monthly usage of the 6 mobile applications of RTHK in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Mobile Application	Usage (based on the average usage of the application on a monthly basis) ^{Note 1}		
	2022	2023	2024
RTHK on the Go	136 000	123 000	105 000
RTHK TV	23 000	20 000	32 000
RTHK Radio	98 000	99 000	103 000
RTHK News	125 000	79 000	61 000
RTHK Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	– ^{Note2}		
RTHK Audio Description	– ^{Note2}		

Note 1: Rounded to the nearest thousand

Note 2: As the 2 mobile applications are not equipped with “usage” trackers, there is no relevant data.

The total annual operating expenditure of the 6 mobile applications is about \$800,000. RTHK does not have a breakdown of the operating expenditure and manpower involved by individual mobile applications.

RTHK regularly reviews the operation of each application, and had consolidated and renamed 6 applications in mid-2023 to better reflect the respective service positioning and functions. RTHK will continue to closely monitor the operation of each mobile application and make adjustment where necessary to provide services to the public more effectively through the applications.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB130

(Question Serial No. 1465)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

As the sole public service broadcaster of Hong Kong, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) currently has 8 radio channels and 5 Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) channels. Regarding the operation of RTHK, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the actual listenerships and viewerships of various radio channels and DTT channels respectively over the past 3 years?
2. Has RTHK set target listenerships and viewerships for various radio channels and DTT channels? If so, have the targets been met? If not, is there any plan to set performance indicators?
3. This year, RTHK has to exert full efforts on the preparation and promotion of the 15th National Games, and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games. What are the estimated expenditures involved and the expected viewerships respectively?
4. There are views that RTHK television channels have a weaker viewership than other free television channels. What are the plans (whether in the short, medium or long term) and relevant estimates to enhance the public reach of various RTHK radio channels and television channels, while striking a balance between supporting government policies, promoting patriotic education, promoting Chinese culture and presenting programme content which caters for the needs and tastes of the public?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

As a public broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)'s programme production has to cater for the needs of different groups in the society, including the mass audience as well

as the minority groups such as ethnic minorities and non-Chinese speaking group. Besides, programmes produced by RTHK cover various aspects including news, public affairs, government information, national education, sports, culture, lifestyle and education programmes, etc. As such, viewership and listening ratings are not appropriate reference indicators for evaluating RTHK's performance in providing public broadcasting services.

The performance of RTHK is evaluated under 8 Programme Production Goals (PPGs), which are drawn up based on the public purposes, mission and programming objectives stipulated in the Charter of RTHK. RTHK's performance under respective PPGs is set out in the Controlling Officer's Report. RTHK will review and adjust the service performance criteria on an annual basis to assess the effectiveness.

RTHK will promote, produce programmes and live broadcast the 15th National Games (NG) and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NGD and NSOG) to be held in November and December 2025. In 2025-26, RTHK estimates that the promotion, programme production and live broadcast of the NG, NGD and NSOG will involve a total spending of around \$153 million. RTHK will cover the competitions of the NG, NGD and NSOG in an all-round manner through its TV channels, RTHK website and mobile applications, and produce relevant programmes. It is expected that the total number of programme transmission hours will be no less than 3 500 hours.

RTHK will continue to produce different types of programmes on various themes, proactively assist in strengthening the dissemination of government information, and promote national education, sports and culture and social inclusion. RTHK will also acquire programmes, such as popular Chinese dramas and drama programmes from different regions, as well as source international films and high quality documentaries, etc., in order to provide diversified programme choices for audience.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB131

(Question Serial No. 3161)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Radio Division of Radio Television Hong Kong operates 8 AM/FM channels. The 2025-26 financial provision is HK\$510.5 million (increase by 4.3%).

The rapid development of internet nowadays has facilitated the free flow of information and provided countless ways of entertainment. The number of people who listen to the radio has decreased compared to the past. Would it be possible to merge the channels to reduce the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

To provide diversified programmes to the public, the Radio Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) operates 8 AM/FM channels and every channel has distinctive positioning. Amongst them, 2 channels relay China National Radio Hong Kong Edition and Radio the Greater Bay of the China Media Group respectively. The other 6 channels provide diversified programmes, with Channel 1 providing news, information and variety programmes; Channel 2 providing entertainment and pop music programmes, and promoting youth, family and community activities; Channel 3 providing English news, information and variety programmes; Channel 4 providing classical music and art programmes; Channel 5 providing elderly, cultural and education programmes, catering to the needs of the broad community and minority interest groups; and Putonghua Channel providing variety programmes, news, financial information and Community Involvement Broadcasting Service programmes. Apart from providing Cantonese, Putonghua and English programmes, RTHK also broadcasts programmes in the languages of ethnic minorities, including Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Nepali and Urdu to serve audience of different ethnicities in Hong Kong. RTHK has no plan to merge the channels at present.

In light of the rapid development of new media, RTHK has, through internal redeployment of resources and utilisation of technology in recent years, produced convergence media

programmes to present programmes in different forms through various means of media, as well as leveraged new media and social platforms to enhance publicity, so that its programmes can reach different communities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB132

(Question Serial No. 3276)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Programme Production Goal 2 of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is to promote understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engender a sense of citizenship and national identity.

Why does RTHK, as the public service broadcaster, plan to reduce the hours for understanding “One Country, Two Systems” in 2025-26 from 1 130 to 1 100 (-2.6%)?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

As a government department and the public service broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) firmly implements the public purposes and mission under the Charter of RTHK, including promoting understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity.

For radio programmes, in 2025-26, RTHK will continue to produce programmes on important topics such as the Constitution, the Basic Law, national security education, etc., including “The 17th Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest”, which will enhance students’ interest in and awareness of the diplomacy of our country; “NSL Chronicles III”, which will use the latest cases as the entry point, invite young people to share their viewpoints and questions concerning the Hong Kong National Security Law and explain the Law from diverse perspectives; “Our Neighbours II” which will deepen audience understanding of the countries along the Belt and Road, and our country’s efforts in promoting diplomatic relationship along this modern-day Silk Road through dialogues amongst scholars and guests as well as storytelling; thematic programmes on the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance; and educational programmes on patriotism, etc. It is estimated that a total of 1 100 hours of radio programmes on engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity will be broadcast throughout the year. Besides, depending on the nature and theme of the programmes, certain programmes which engender a sense of citizenship and national identity

are included under other Programme Production Goals (PPGs). This does not mean that the transmission hours of these programmes are reduced. For instance, educational, arts and cultural programmes which are related to our country will be respectively counted towards the transmission hours of PPG 6 (promoting education and learning) and PPG 7 (promoting arts and cultural activities).

Besides, for TV programmes, in 2025-26, RTHK will launch programmes related to the theme of “80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance”, so as to enhance the sense of identity with our country and the Chinese culture among the public through history, culture and national education; young people and members of the public from the 18 districts will be invited to participate in the “Basic Law and Patriotic Education Quiz”, so as to deepen their understanding of the Chinese civilization; “New Legacy Keepers” will introduce and explore the preservation and promotion of the Chinese culture and craftsmanship; “Young Cultural Ambassadors” will enable young people to understand historical stories such as Hong Kong’s resistance against Japanese aggression, inheritance of the Chinese culture, and the establishment of Hong Kong by Chinese in the early days; “Learning Basic Law with Good Neighbours” introduces the essence of the Basic Law to children in theatrical form, etc. It is estimated that a total of 3 000 hours of the above TV programmes on engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity will be broadcast throughout the year, which has increased by 26 hours when compared to 2024-25.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB133

(Question Serial No. 0750)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Will the Administration inform this Committee of the average viewership of RTHK's television programmes? Besides, to optimise the use of public resources, will the Government consider acquiring programmes to replace the mass production of in-house programmes? Does the Government have any plan to realign RTHK's production direction?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The performance of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is evaluated under 8 Programme Production Goals, which are drawn up based on the public purposes, mission and programming objectives stipulated in the Charter of RTHK. RTHK's performance under respective indicators is set out in the Controlling Officer's Report. As a public broadcaster, RTHK's programme production has to cater for the needs of different groups in the society, including the mass audience as well as the minority groups such as ethnic minorities and non-Chinese speaking group. Besides, programmes produced by RTHK cover various aspects including news, public affairs, government information, national education, sports, culture, lifestyle and education programmes, etc. As such, viewership rating is not an appropriate reference indicator for evaluating RTHK's performance in providing public broadcasting services. RTHK does not conduct any survey on viewership ratings of its television programmes nor maintain such statistics.

RTHK's production directions are set in accordance with its Charter. RTHK will continue to produce different types of programmes on various themes, proactively assist in strengthening the dissemination of government information, and promote national education, sports and culture and social inclusion. RTHK will also acquire programmes, such as popular Chinese dramas and drama programmes from different regions, as well as source international films and high quality documentaries, etc., in order to provide diversified programme choices for audience.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB134

(Question Serial No. 1423)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme,
(3) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Government will increase the provision to Radio Television Hong Kong for the production, promotion and live broadcast of the 15th National Games, and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the amounts to be used for the production, promotion and live broadcast respectively;
- (2) whether additional manpower expenditure is involved; if so, of the details; and
- (3) of the estimated number of programme hours?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will promote, produce programme and live broadcast the 15th National Games (NG), and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NGD and NSOG) to be held in November and December 2025.

In 2025-26, RTHK estimates that the promotion, programme production and live broadcast of the NG, NGD and NSOG will involve a total spending of around \$153 million. The relevant expenses and additional manpower involved for individual item will depend on the actual work arrangement and hence there is no concrete figure at the moment.

RTHK will cover the competitions of the NG, NGD and NSOG in an all-round manner through its TV channels, RTHK website and mobile applications, and produce relevant programmes to raise public awareness and interest in these 2 mega sports events. It is

expected that the total number of programme transmission hours will be no less than 3 500 hours.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB135

(Question Serial No. 1117)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, Vehicles and Equipment

Programme: (-) -

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The commitment approved in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2024 for infrastructure enhancement and upgrading for the coverage and broadcast of the 15th National Games, and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games was \$116 million. The revised expenditure for 2024-25 is \$36.25 million. According to the Government, another new commitment of \$14.50 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025 for infrastructure enhancement and upgrading for supporting the live broadcast and signal relay of the events of the 15th National Games, and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the justification for the proposed new commitment of \$14.50 million?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

In supporting the promotion, programme production and live broadcast of the 15th National Games, and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games to be held in November and December 2025, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was allocated with a provision of \$116 million to upgrade the broadcasting infrastructure and production equipment. The relevant procurement work, conducted in 2 financial years, has been largely completed. The total revised estimated expenditure of the procurement of infrastructure and production equipment for 2024-25 is \$36.25 million, while the estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is \$79.75 million.

In 2025-26, an additional provision of \$14.50 million is required for RTHK to procure equipment for the transmission of 4K live broadcasting signal between Guangdong and Hong Kong, to ensure the signal transmission of RTHK is in line with the Competition Video Standards used in large-scale national sports events.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB136

(Question Serial No. 2013)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (3) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The New Media services of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) provide different online platforms and contents for audiences through the official website (i.e. "rthk.hk"), 6 mobile applications featuring different services (namely "RTHK on the Go", "RTHK TV", "RTHK Radio", "RTHK News", "RTHK Chinese History – the Flourishing Age" and "RTHK Audio Description"), and on social media (such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram). In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- a) of the reason(s) for RTHK to provide online platforms and contents through 6 applications, and whether the Administration can merge the 6 platforms into 1;
- b) whether the expenditure for the merged online platform will reduce significantly;
- c) of the average operating expenditure for each platform.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

In light of the trends of media development, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) disseminates programmes and information through its official website, mobile applications and social media (such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram). RTHK regularly reviews the operation of each application, and had consolidated and renamed 6 applications in mid-2023 to better reflect their respective service positioning and functions.

With the continuous development of the new media services and diversification of RTHK's programmes, the initial "RTHK on the Go" mobile application has evolved into 3 other applications (i.e. "RTHK TV", "RTHK Radio" and "RTHK News") to provide clearer communication functions and contents; the applications "RTHK Chinese History – the Flourishing Age" and "RTHK Audio Description" promotes specific themes and serves people with special needs respectively. RTHK will continue to closely monitor the

operation of each mobile application and make adjustment where necessary to provide services to the public more effectively through the applications.

The annual total operating expenditure of the 6 mobile applications is about \$800,000. RTHK does not have a breakdown of the operating expenditure by individual mobile applications.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB137

(Question Serial No. 1276)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, Vehicles and Equipment

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under capital items 809 and 810, expenditures of \$79.75 million and \$14.50 million will be incurred for the enhancement and upgrading for the coverage and on-site relay of the 15th National Games (NG), and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities (NGD). In this connection, please advise of the following:

- (1) What is the schedule for the enhancement and upgrading works? For item 810, its funding is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025, i.e. in late April which is only 6 months before the NG opening. Can the works be completed as scheduled?
- (2) What are the arrangements for the live broadcast and relay of the NG and NGD? Will all the programmes be provided free of charge to other local, Mainland and overseas media?
- (3) Will the facilities be suitable for use in the development of RTHK after the NG? Will the original plans required for equipment upgrading in Hong Kong be replaced?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

To support the promotion, programme production and live broadcast of the 15th National Games (NG), and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NGD and NSOG), Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has started preparing for the upgrading works of the broadcasting infrastructure and production equipment since last year.

The estimated expenditure of \$79.75 million involved in item 809 under the capital account as approved under the Appropriation Bill 2024 is mainly used for upgrading the broadcasting infrastructure and production equipment. The procurement procedures for the relevant

equipment have been largely completed, with equipment delivered, installed and tested in phases. The overall installation and testing will be completed by September 2025.

As regards the estimated expenditure of \$14.50 million involved in item 810 under the capital account, it is used for the procurement of equipment for the transmission of 4K live broadcasting signal between Guangdong and Hong Kong. RTHK is carrying out preparatory work for the procurement, such as conducting market research and drafting equipment technical specifications, and the preparatory work is close to completion. Once the Appropriation Bill 2025 is passed, RTHK will commence the procurement procedures immediately. It is expected that the equipment for the transmission of live broadcasting signal will be ready by end September 2025.

The National Games Coordination Office (Hong Kong) (NGCO) is liaising with the Organising Committees of the NG, NGD and NSOG on the arrangement for relay of competitions (including competitions to be held in Hong Kong). The NGCO will announce the relevant details in due course. RTHK will promote the competitions through various platforms (including TV channels 31, 32 and popup 36, as well as radio channels, website and mobile applications).

The relevant facilities and equipment procured for the NG, NGD and NSOG will effectively upgrade the production equipment of some studios, signal transmission system and broadcasting infrastructure of RTHK. RTHK will retain all facilities and equipment after the events to optimise the use of public resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB138

(Question Serial No. 1314)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

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

Programme: (-) -

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (1) There will be an overall 23.1% increase in the expenditure of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the 3 Programmes in 2025-26. According to the analysis of financial and staffing provision, the increase in estimates for the 3 Programmes is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses, as well as the increase in capital expenditure for Programme (2). What are the operating expenses to be increased for the 3 Programmes?
- (2) There will be a decrease of 2 posts for both Programmes (1) and (2) this year. What are the posts involved?
- (3) How many vacancies are there in RTHK at present? According to the Financial Secretary, the civil service establishment will be reduced by 2% each in the coming 2 financial years, and about 10 000 posts are expected to be deleted within this term of Government. How many posts will be deleted by RTHK this year?
- (4) RTHK has currently commissioned the production of some programmes. How many permanent posts have been reduced by RTHK as a result of this? Is there any plan for further programme commissioning this year?
- (5) What is the progress of the plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O by RTHK? Will the funding application be submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) this year? What will be the change in the estimated funding required when compared with the amount submitted to LegCo for discussion in the past?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The increase of \$291.3 million (23.1%) in Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)'s estimate for 2025-26 as compared with the revised estimate for 2024-25 is mainly for the promotion, programme production and live broadcast of the 15th National Games, and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games. The estimated expenditure for the 3 programmes are tabulated below:

Programme	2024-25 Revised Estimate (\$m)	2025-26 Estimate (\$m)	Increase (\$m) (Percentage)
Radio	489.4	510.5	21.1 (+4.3%)
Public Affairs and General Television Programme	723.7	990.9	267.2 (+36.9%)
New Media	47.2	50.2	3.0 (+6.4%)

In 2025-26, RTHK, through internal redeployment and streamlining of procedures, will reduce 4 non-directorate civil service posts including 1 Clerical Assistant post and 1 Programme Assistant post under Programme (1) (Radio), and 1 Clerical Assistant post and 1 Artisan post under Programme (2) (Public Affairs and General Television Programme).

As at 1 March 2025, RTHK has 125 civil service vacancies in total. RTHK will comprehensively review its staffing and operation, and introduce appropriate measures including streamlining its structure for more effective use of public resources without affecting the quality of RTHK's programmes and services.

Since 2019, RTHK has ceased programme commissioning and has been focusing on training in-house production staff of RTHK to ensure its programme quality and the availability of sufficient talent within the Department to meet the need of future development. RTHK has no plan to change the existing production arrangement.

RTHK is studying the relocation of the Broadcasting House to meet long-term development needs. There is no concrete plan at the moment. To meet operational needs, RTHK has commenced operation of the offices and programme production facilities located in the AIA Kowloon Building in Kwun Tong under tenancy since 2023, including studios, programme production studios, editing rooms and prop workshops, etc. RTHK will also continue to repair and maintain the Broadcasting House and the Television House, and rent other facilities to meet its production and development needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB160

(Question Serial No. 3339)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Television Division of Radio Television Hong Kong operates 5 Digital Terrestrial Television Channels for presentation of television (TV) programmes:

RTHK TV 31 – general programming

RTHK TV 32 – covering live events including local, Mainland and international news, press conferences and Legislative Council Meetings

RTHK TV 33-35 – relaying Mainland TV programmes

Only some of the programmes on TV 31 are in-house productions, while those on TV 32-35 are mostly relayed but not in-house produced. Why is such a large amount of financial provision of HK\$990.9 million (increased by 36.9%) needed for 2025-26?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

Under Programme (2) (Public Affairs and General Television Programme), the increase of 36.9% in the estimate for 2025-26 as compared with the revised estimate for 2024-25 is mainly for Radio Television Hong Kong to take forward the following key projects in the coming year:

- To promote, produce programmes for and live broadcast the 15th National Games, and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games to be held in November and December 2025 respectively;
- To launch a series of key programmes in alignment with patriotic education to help citizens better understand the history of our country, and engender a sense of national identity, including production of special programmes with the theme of “80th

anniversary of victory in War of Resistance”, as well as “LIN Zexu: Beyond Opium Destruction at Humen”, a documentary filmed in a number of Mainland cities to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the birth of LIN Zexu; and

- To acquire, produce and broadcast more local and international sports events to promote sports culture in the territory, such as “World Table Tennis Championships”, “AFC Asian Cup”, “AFC Asian Qualifiers Road to 2026”, “EAFF E-1 Football Championship Preliminary Competition”, “Hong Kong Premier League”, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB161

(Question Serial No. 3454)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Educational television (ETV) was a type of television programme co-produced by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and the Education Bureau for education from 1971 to 2020. In 2020, the Government announced the termination of ETV production and broadcast on free television channels. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The Government once indicated that the ETV programmes produced would be distributed in the form of CD-ROMs, during RTHK TV timeslots, through the internet or mobile applications. How was the implementation over the past year?
2. ETV is a valuable asset of past RTHK productions. In order to generate fiscal revenue for the Government, does RTHK upload past ETV productions to the internet for paid download at present? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?
3. If schools or members of the general public would like to review or enjoy specific ETV programmes, is there any guide or channel at the moment for them to apply for downloading or viewing?
4. Has RTHK ever handed ETV programmes to the Public Libraries of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for borrowing or viewing by the general public? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

Education television (ETV) programmes were first produced by the then Education Department in 1971 and provided to all schools in Hong Kong free of charge through television broadcast. ETV programmes were then jointly produced by the then Education

Department and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) starting from 1975, with the copyright owned by the Government.

In the past, the Education Bureau (EDB) produced CD-ROMs on selected ETV programmes and distributed to schools and public libraries. Upon cessation of broadcasting of ETV programmes by RTHK, some of the ETV programmes are available as archive for schools and members of the public to review through the EDB Educational Multimedia website and mobile application free of charge.

As a government department and the public service broadcaster, RTHK firmly implements the public purposes and mission under the Charter of RTHK, including promotion of education and learning by providing education information and resources to encourage lifelong learning for people from all walks of life and of all ages. Examples include radio programmes “Elderly Academy”, “Knowledge Platform”, “One Minute Reading” and “5 000 Years of Chinese History”, as well as television programmes “Science: Creating the Future”, “Talking to CEOs”, and “Power Up Your English”, etc. Besides, there is a dedicated “e-Learning” webpage on RTHK website, which is a one-stop portal providing learning resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CEDB03

(Question Serial No. S079)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- 1) Is there any plan to effectively carry out the publicity work of the 15th National Games through Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) at present? What are the amount of resources and number of staff to be allocated for the purpose respectively?
- 2) According to the reply, RTHK will conduct school and community tours to promote various programmes. What is the specific plan for promotion through school and community tours? And what is the amount of resources and manpower to be allocated?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will promote, produce programme and live broadcast the 15th National Games (NG), and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NGD and NSOG) to be held in November and December 2025. RTHK will promote the competitions through various platforms (including TV channels 31, 32 and popup 36, as well as radio channels, website, social media and mobile applications). In 2025-26, RTHK estimates that the promotion, programme production and live broadcast of the NG, NGD and NSOG will involve a total spending of around \$153 million. The relevant expenses and additional manpower involved for individual item will depend on the actual work arrangement and hence there is no concrete figure at the moment.

To foster young people's patriotism and promote their understanding of our country, RTHK will promote its programmes among schools and local communities, such as partnering with primary schools to look for young actors for filming "Learning Basic Law with Good Neighbours" to promote the Basic Law in the form of light-hearted dramas, and conducting school tours during January to February 2025 to promote the Basic Law in different primary schools; inviting youth groups from different sectors and members of the public through the District Youth Development and Civic Education Committees and the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committees in the 18 districts, as well as various local

Chinese history and culture societies to participate in “Basic Law and Patriotic Education Quiz” competitions on Chinese knowledge; and partnering with secondary schools to select junior secondary students for “The Young Cultural Ambassadors” to serve as docents and design local tour itineraries to understand our country’s history and culture. RTHK will carry out the above work with existing resources and manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-CEDB03

(Question Serial No. SV048)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Angelina KWAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please provide information and make a comparison of the production costs of television (TV) programmes between Phoenix Hong Kong Channel (domestic free TV channel 85) and Radio Television Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina

Reply:

As a public broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)'s programme production has to cater for the needs of different groups in the society, including the mass audience as well as the minority groups such as ethnic minorities and non-Chinese speaking group. Besides, programmes produced by RTHK cover various aspects including news, public affairs, government information, national education, sports, culture, lifestyle and education programmes, etc. To engender a sense of citizenship and national identity, RTHK is committed to strengthening partnership with different Mainland broadcasters and co-producing television programmes that foster the affection for our country. RTHK has established cooperation with the China Media Group, Beijing Radio & Television Station, Shanghai Media Group, Yunnan Television, Guangdong Radio and Television and Guangzhou Broadcasting Network, etc. Besides, the 3 digital terrestrial television channels operated by RTHK relay programmes of China Central Television and China Global Television Network, enabling the public to watch more programmes with a national perspective. RTHK also produces different types of programmes on various themes, proactively assists in strengthening the dissemination of government information and telling the good stories of our country and Hong Kong.

RTHK will promote, produce programmes and live broadcast the 15th National Games (NG) and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympics (NGD and NSOG) to be held in November and December 2025; cover the competitions of the NG, NGD and NSOG in an all-round manner through its TV channels, RTHK website and mobile applications, and produce relevant programmes to enhance

public's awareness and interest in these 2 mega sports events. The increase of \$291.3 million (23.1%) in RTHK's estimate for 2025-26 as compared with the revised estimate for 2024-25 is mainly for the programme production, promotion and live broadcast of the NG, NGD and NSOG.

The Annual Report of Phoenix Media Investment (Holdings) Limited does not contain the breakdown of programme production cost of different businesses under its group (including Phoenix Hong Kong Channel).

Given the nature and mode of operation of RTHK and Phoenix Hong Kong Channel are different, it may not be suitable for direct comparison. Nonetheless, RTHK will timely review its programme production direction, comprehensively review its staffing and operation, and introduce appropriate measures including streamlining its structure and utilising technology for more effective use of public resources without affecting the quality of RTHK's programmes and services.

- End -