

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB026

(Question Serial No. 1236)

Head: (100) Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title): /

Programme: (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Mr S.F. WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

Under the influence of the external economic environment, river trade cargo vessel arrivals have dropped from a peak of approximately 50 000 in 2022 to the 40 000-odd arrivals at present. Due to insufficient cargo throughput, river barges are unable to enjoy the buy-five-get-five-free discount on the Multiple Entry Permit offered by the Government, which is valid for 1 month. In this connection, will the Government consider changing the buy-five-get-five-free discount to buy-one-get-one-free, so that the industry can truly enjoy the discount? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? What are the resources involved in conducting port formalities for river trade vessels by the Government?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Transport and Logistics Bureau formulated the Action Plan on Maritime and Port Development Strategy in December 2023 to support the development of the maritime and port industry. Regarding the action measure of conducting a review on the permit fees that are imposed on river trade vessels under the Plan, we have preliminarily completed the review on the recommendation concerned and will announce relevant details in a timely manner upon confirmation.

As the resources involved in the above work have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure, the Marine Department does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant figures.

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