

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**TLB050**

**(Question Serial No. 0927)**

Head: (100) Marine Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Local Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Mr S.F. WONG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

The Chief Executive mentioned in the 2025 Policy Address that the Government would develop the yacht economy. The initiatives include provision of additional berths; relaxation of the requirements for visiting yachts and development of a Dynamic Yacht Monitoring System, allowing visiting yachts to anchor at government designated waters and navigate in a safe and orderly manner, without having to reserve berths at privately-operated yacht clubs or piers; and enhancement of the Electronic Business System to allow one-stop, pre-submission of arrival information from visiting yachts for preliminary vetting by relevant departments. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of non-Hong Kong yachts entering Hong Kong, the number of berths used in Hong Kong, the average length of stay in Hong Kong and the average number of passengers per yacht in the past 3 years, as well as the top 3 regions of origin of non-Hong Kong yachts visiting Hong Kong;
2. the current progress, set-up cost, annual recurrent expenditure and staffing of the Dynamic Yacht Monitoring System, which is scheduled to be set up within this year according to reports; and
3. whether the Marine Department has considered adopting the “user pays” principle in financing the above Monitoring System; if yes, of the details; if not, of the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon CHU Lap-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 101)

Reply:

1. According to the records of the Marine Department (MD), the number of yachts visiting Hong Kong and their average length of stay in Hong Kong in the past 3 years are as follows:

|      | No. of yachts visiting<br>Hong Kong | Average length of stay<br>in Hong Kong |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2023 | 80                                  | 32.7 days                              |
| 2024 | 68                                  | 35.1 days                              |
| 2025 | 84                                  | 48.9 days                              |

The top 3 regions of origin of yachts visiting Hong Kong are the Chinese Mainland, Italy and the Philippines. MD does not maintain records of the number of berths used in Hong Kong or the number of passengers per yacht for yachts visiting Hong Kong.

2. MD is actively developing the Dynamic Yacht Monitoring System (the Monitoring System), which is expected to be launched in 2026. The expenditure involved in this item is around \$2.7 million, which covers the costs of system design, system implementation services and information technology security-related services. The estimated recurrent expenditure of the system is around \$550,000 per year from 2027-28 onwards, which covers the costs of software and system maintenance. The recurrent expenditure will be absorbed by the existing resources of MD. The implementation of the facilitation measures forms part of the normal duties of the staff concerned. There is no separate breakdown on the relevant staff establishment.
3. The Monitoring System is provided as a service under MD's Vessel Traffic Services System. The law does not provide for the collection of fees from vessels for monitoring their movements. However, under the existing marine legislation, in addition to the application fees for Arrival Clearance and Port Clearance, yachts visiting Hong Kong are also required to pay a corresponding fee for permission based on the area of the vessels (in square metres) when applying for permission to navigate in the waters of Hong Kong. With regard to the recovery of service costs associated with the Monitoring System, MD will take this into consideration during the regular fee reviews.

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