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### Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 18

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB151**

**(Question Serial No. 1979)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

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

Programme: (3) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Eddie CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the performance of New Media services, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a. What were the numbers of active users of the 6 mobile applications mentioned in paragraph 16 of the document over the past 3 years? What was the operating expense of each application?
- b. It is mentioned in paragraph 18 of the document that “Daily visits” and “Daily access of new pages” for rthk.hk will decrease in 2024-25. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The average monthly usage of the 6 mobile applications of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Mobile Application	Usage (based on the average usage of the application on a monthly basis) <sup>Note 1</sup>		
	2021	2022	2023
RTHK on the Go	179 000	136 000	123 000
RTHK TV	26 000	23 000	20 000
RTHK Radio	97 000	98 000	99 000
RTHK News	129 000	125 000	79 000
RTHK Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	Not available <sup>Note 2</sup>		
RTHK Audio Description	Not available <sup>Note 2</sup>		

Note 1: Rounded to the nearest thousand

Note 2: As 2 applications are not equipped with “usage” trackers, the relevant data are not available.

RTHK does not have a breakdown of the operating expenditure for each individual mobile application.

The decrease in the numbers of “daily visits” and “daily access of news pages” for RTHK’s website “rthk.hk” in 2024-25 is mainly due to the fact that the public may not rely on the website to obtain information as they are able to obtain information on current affairs, entertainment and other contents from different platforms, including social media. In addition, the number of daily visits to RTHK’s website is also indirectly affected by the heightened restrictions on real-time online streaming and archives for acquired programmes. In view of the above, RTHK will make suitable adjustments to improve and enrich the content provided on its website in order to provide accurate and useful information to the public, and will step up cross-media publicity through RTHK’s various platforms in order to increase the number of visits to RTHK’s website.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB152**

**(Question Serial No. 1381)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

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

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Eddie CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Television (TV) Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) produces TV programmes and operates 5 Digital Terrestrial Television channels. Among them, RTHK TV 31 and 32 have more in-house produced programmes. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- a) The number of episodes and number of hours of in-house produced programmes of RTHK in the past year;
- b) The staff establishment involved in the aforementioned in-house produced programmes; and
- c) The expenditure involved in the aforementioned in-house produced programmes.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The total hours of first-run programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) are 5 950 hours in 2023-24. RTHK does not have a breakdown on the number of episodes, staff establishment and expenditure involved in the relevant programmes.

- End -

**CEDB153**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1383)**

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 (Eddie CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Article 9 of The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall strengthen its work on safeguarding national security and prevention of terrorist activities. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall take necessary measures to strengthen public communication, guidance, supervision and regulation over matters concerning national security, including those relating to schools, universities, social organisations, the media, and the internet. Article 10 expressly provides that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall promote national security education in schools and universities and through social organisations, the media, the internet and other means to raise the awareness of Hong Kong residents of national security and of the obligation to abide by the law. As a government department, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) shall perform the above work. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. In 2023-2024, how many programmes on national security education have been produced and broadcasted by the Radio Division of RTHK? What are the details?
2. In 2023-2024, how many programmes on national security education have been produced and broadcasted by the Television Division of RTHK? What are the details?
3. Will the Administration consider including "national security education" into the Programme Production Goals?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has always attached great importance to the promotion of national security education, and programmes about national security education are already covered under the Programme Production Goal “promote understanding of the concept of ‘One Country, Two Systems’ and engender a sense of citizenship and national identity”.

For television, in 2023-24, RTHK has produced and broadcast a series of programmes relating to national security, including “Flag Raising Ceremony of the National Security Education Day”, “Opening Ceremony cum Seminars of the National Security Education Day”, “2023 Constitution Day Seminar”, “Root & Origin: The Constitution”, “Basic Law And Us”, “Basic Law Daily”, “Talk About Basic Law With Photo” (Cantonese, Putonghua and English versions), “Parade By Disciplined Services And Youth Groups Cum Carnival For Celebrating The 74th Anniversary Of The Founding Of The People’s Republic Of China”, “Offbeat 360”, etc. Furthermore, RTHK has also live broadcast relevant Legislative Council panel meetings, including meetings of Bills Committee on Safeguarding National Security Bill, meetings of Panel on Security, meetings of Panel on Constitutional Affairs, meetings of Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services, etc.

For radio, in 2023-24, RTHK has also produced and relayed numerous programmes relating to national security education, including “NSL Chronicles II”, “20 Questions About Diplomacy 2023”, “The Nitty Gritty of Law”, “National Security Education Day Seminar”, “The 15th Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest”, “Young Politician – Constitution Day Special”, “All About Basic Law”, “‘Protect Your Online Identity’ Seminar and Speech Contest Award Ceremony”, special programmes on “Public Consultation on Article 23 Legislation” and “Stay Vigilant in Cyberspace, Safeguard Your Digital Identity”, etc.

RTHK will continue to proactively produce and broadcast different television and radio programmes to strengthen the promotion of national security.

- End -

**CEDB154**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1392)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

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

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Eddie CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) stipulates that RTHK should “engender a sense of citizenship and national identity through programmes that contribute to the understanding of our community and nation”. Putting in order the education on the National Security Law is precisely to engender a sense of citizenship and national identity among the public. As such, it is the responsibility of RTHK to comply with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government’s putting in order the education on the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Basic Law, so as to enhance the public awareness of maintaining national security and abiding by the law, and prevent them from being distorted and misled by the anti-China destabilising forces, causing misunderstanding and unnecessary fear. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

Over the past financial year, how far have the key performance indicators (KPIs) set by RTHK been achieved? Have the indicators been met? What are the KPIs for the coming financial year?

The Financial Secretary has stated in this year’s Budget that the civil service establishment will achieve “zero growth”. Will the Administration consider, in terms of programme production, introducing programmes of China Central Television to reduce in-house productions, thereby saving manpower resources?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)’s performance is evaluated under 8 Programme Production Goals (PPGs) drawn up by summarising the public purposes, mission and programming objectives stipulated in the Charter of RTHK. Among them, one of the PPGs is to “promote understanding of the concept of ‘One Country, Two Systems’ and engender a sense of citizenship and national identity”. The annual target transmission hours for radio and TV programmes under this PPG are 1 100 hours and 2 514 hours respectively. The

targets were successfully achieved in 2023-24 and it is expected that RTHK can also achieve the respective annual target transmission hours in 2024-25.

Regarding RTHK's manpower and programme production, RTHK has all along enhanced its efficiency through review of workflow, deployment of internal resources and better use of technology, and will continue to strengthen cooperation with Mainland broadcasters to engender a sense of citizenship and national identity. For example, RTHK TV introduced a series of premium programmes from the China Media Group (CMG) in 2023-24, including "Vanguards", "Decode 10 Years", "Our Journey", "Signs of the Republic", "Seeds", "China Aspirations", "Homes in Beautiful China", "Shan He Jin Xiu". For radio, RTHK and CMG have co-produced different programmes in 2023-24 to enable the public to learn more about national development, including the informative and interactive programme "Listen More, Learn More" co-produced by Radio 5 and Radio the Greater Bay to disseminate cultural knowledge in a fun way; and the Bay Area elderly care special "Retiring in the Greater Bay Area" to explore the new development of elderly services in the Bay Area.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1394)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

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

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programmes

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Eddie CHUENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Broadcasting House and the Television House of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) on Broadcast Drive are over 30 years old, with most of the hardware being outdated and aging, and the condition less than satisfactory. In 2009, the Government proposed the construction of a new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O, and had sought for formal funding approval of \$6 billion from the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2013, but the bid was not approved and was vetoed by LegCo in the end. As revitalisation of existing buildings is more economical in the use of public money than the construction of new buildings, will the Government consider renting and revitalising the site of ex-Asia Television Limited studio in Sai Kung District and use it as the new building of RTHK?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

To cater for operational needs, apart from the Broadcasting House and the Television House, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) commenced usage of the offices and program production facilities located in the AIA Kowloon Building in Kwun Tong under tenancy in 2023, including studios, programme production studios, editing rooms and props workshops, etc. RTHK will also continue to repair and maintain the Broadcasting House and the Television House in order to meet its production and development needs for providing high-quality broadcasting services to the public. RTHK currently has no plan to rent the site of the ex-Asia Television Limited studio. Further, RTHK will continue to study the relocation of the Broadcasting House in order to meet long-term development needs.

- End -

**CEDB156**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1395)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

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

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Eddie CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) stipulates that RTHK should “engender a sense of citizenship and national identity through programmes that contribute to the understanding of our community and nation”. Putting in order the education on the National Security Law is precisely to engender a sense of citizenship and national identity among the public. As such, it is the responsibility of RTHK to comply with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government’s putting in order the education on the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Basic Law, so as to enhance the public awareness of maintaining national security and abiding by the law, and prevent them from being distorted and misled by the anti-China destabilising forces, causing misunderstanding and unnecessary fear. In recent years, RTHK has close connection with the China Media Group to strengthen patriotic education; and has relayed channels of China Central Television (CCTV) and China Global Television Network, so as to allow the Hong Kong public to understand the national circumstances. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Government consider introducing more CCTV channels or programmes to allow the public to learn more about the national development, so that they can have a more comprehensive understanding of the real national conditions? Or will the Government introduce our nation’s history, development and achievements through different programmes of RTHK, with a view to enhancing patriotic sentiments among the public, so that they would understand and tell good stories of China and Hong Kong? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Will RTHK promise to produce more national education programmes relating to the National Security Law and Article 23 of the Basic Law and promote them in the future, so as to enhance the public’s sense of national identity?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

In order to engender a sense of citizenship and national identity, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is committed to strengthening its partnership with Mainland broadcasters by co-production of television programmes that foster affection for and sense of belonging to our country.

For television, apart from relaying China Central Television Channel (CCTV-1), China Global Television Network (CGTN) Documentary Channel of the China Media Group (CMG) and CGTN English Channel on RTHK TV 33, 34 and 35 respectively, RTHK introduced a series of premium programmes from CMG in 2023-24, including “Vanguards”, “Decode 10 Years”, “Our Journey”, “Signs of the Republic”, “Seeds”, “China Aspirations”, “Homes in Beautiful China” and “Shan He Jin Xiu”. Besides, RTHK has started co-production of the documentary “The Taste of Hong Kong” with CMG to showcase the unique charm of Hong Kong’s food culture, and co-production of the documentary “My Home, My Panda” with Sichuan Radio and Television to introduce the conservation programmes carried out by Sichuan and Hong Kong experts and to showcase how pandas being the ambassadors connect the two regions. Besides, Yunnan Satellite TV assists RTHK in producing a travelogue about Yunnan to introduce the culture, history and customs of Yunnan, so as to enhance our citizen’s appreciation of the richness and beauty of traditional Chinese culture.

For radio, apart from relaying the FM channel Radio the Greater Bay of CMG and the AM channel Voice of Hong Kong of China National Radio, RTHK and CMG have co-produced different programmes in 2023-24 to enable the public to learn more about national development, including the informative and interactive programme “Listen More, Learn More” co-produced by Radio 5 and Radio the Greater Bay of CMG to disseminate cultural knowledge in a fun way; and the Bay Area elderly care special “Retiring in the Greater Bay Area” to explore the new development of elderly services in the Bay Area. Besides, the premium special contents of CMG have been broadcast in “Happy Daily” of Radio 1, “Chinese Pop Chart” of Radio 2, and “Hear the World” and “Charming China” of the Putonghua Channel respectively. RTHK will continue to co-produce various programmes with Radio the Greater Bay of CMG, including “Charming China” Special: 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China, “Walking Around Hong Kong”, “New Look of the ‘Bay’”, etc.

Meanwhile, RTHK has been proactively producing and broadcasting different television and radio programmes to strengthen promotion of national security including television programmes “Flag Raising Ceremony of the National Security Education Day”, “Opening Ceremony cum Seminars of the National Security Education Day”, “Root & Origin: The Constitution”, live broadcast relevant Legislative Council panel meetings including meetings of Bills Committee on Safeguarding National Security Bill, radio programmes “More About the National Security Law”, “NSL Chronicles III”, “NSL Q&A”, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0482)**

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

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

Programme: (-) -

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Eddie CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) expects that in 2024-25, there will be increases in the operating expenses and capital expenditure, with a decrease of 5 posts in total. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the reasons for the increases in the operating expenses and capital expenditure, the posts to be decreased, as well as the impacts on the relevant work?
2. How many additional civil servants have been recruited by the Administration over the past 3 years? What were the increases and the amounts of expenditure involved?
3. What were the television programmes acquired by RTHK over the past 3 years, the programme hours and the amounts of expenditure involved?
4. Over the past 3 years, how many programmes have been commissioned by RTHK to local producers? What were the amounts of expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in 2024-25 is \$66 million (5.5%) higher than the 2023-24 revised estimate. The increase is mainly due to the expenses required for the programme production, promotion, live coverage and live broadcast of events for the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games, as well as for enhancement and upgrading of infrastructure for the broadcasting signal coverage and relay of the events.

In 2024-25, through internal redeployment and streamlining of procedures, RTHK will reduce 5 non-directorate civil service posts including Clerical Assistant, Office Assistant and

Property Attendant. These posts mainly assist in administrative support work and RTHK's programmes and quality of service will not be affected.

RTHK did not conduct civil service recruitment exercise in 2021-22 and 2022-23. RTHK recruited civil servants in 2023-24 to fill existing vacancies. The overall establishment of RTHK remains unchanged.

Over the past 3 years, the programme hours of RTHK's acquired TV programmes and programme titles are tabulated as below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Programme hours</b>	<b>Programme title</b>
2021-22	728.1 hours	"Like a Flowing River", "Like a Flowing River 2", "The Bond", "Star of Ocean", etc.
2022-23	1 092.3 hours	"Medal of the Republic", "Diplomatic Situation", "Glory of Special Forces", "Flavours of a thousand Cities", etc.
2023-24	1 007.3 hours	"Bright Future", "The Knockout", "Ace Troops", "AI in China", etc.

The expenditure on acquired TV programmes was absorbed within the existing resources. RTHK does not have a breakdown on expenditure for individual programme.

Regarding programme production, to nurture local production talents, RTHK has changed from previous programme commissioning to collaboration with different organisations in order to provide learning and professional practice opportunities for the younger generation, and nurture Hong Kong's new creative force. For example, RTHK has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vocational Training Council, so as to provide young talents a learning platform and showcase youngsters' passion and creativity in programme/video creation to audience through the productions from students of the Higher Diploma Programme in Film and Television of the Hong Kong Design Institute. The expenditure of the above collaboration project was absorbed within the existing resources. RTHK does not have a breakdown on expenditure for individual item.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CEDB158****(Question Serial No. 0499)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (3) New MediaControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Eddie CHEUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

Regarding the Programme New Media of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), will the Government inform us of the following:

1. RTHK at present provides 6 mobile applications in total 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 services on social media (such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram). What are the numbers of followers for the respective applications? What are the manpower and expenditure required by each of them?
2. Will RTHK consider consolidating the applications providing similar services to reduce the manpower and resources required? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The number of downloads of the 6 mobile applications and the number of followers of the social media of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) are tabulated below:

<b>Mobile Application</b>	<b>Accumulated Number of Downloads as at end of February 2024 <sup>Note 1</sup></b>
RTHK on the Go	2 540 000
RTHK TV	670 000
RTHK Radio	549 000
RTHK News	708 000
RTHK Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	205 000
RTHK Audio Description	5 000 <sup>Note 2</sup>

Note 1: Rounded to the nearest thousand

Note 2: Through transmitting the audio channel of the audio description TV programmes broadcasting on RTHK TV 31 to mobile devices in real time, the mobile application "RTHK Audio Description" enables the visually impaired

to “view the programmes with ears”. The application has received positive feedback from the visually impaired community since its launch in 2021. The application mainly serves the visually impaired community and the number of downloads is lower than that of other applications provided for viewers/listeners in general. RTHK will step up promotion to the visually impaired community through social welfare organisations and explore to enhance the diversity of the programmes available on the application so as to serve a broader visually impaired community.

<b>Social Media</b>	<b>Number of Followers as at end of February 2024</b> <sup>Note 3</sup>
YouTube	1 103 000
Facebook (including news pages)	1 388 000
Instagram (including news pages)	148 000

Note 3: Rounded to the nearest thousand

The total operating expenditure of the 6 mobile applications in 2023-24 is \$740,000. RTHK does not have a breakdown of the operating expenditure and manpower involved in each individual mobile application.

RTHK will regularly review the use of each mobile application and social media. RTHK Vox and RTHK Memory ceased to operate in February and September 2023 respectively due to low usage rates. In addition, RTHK has reorganised and renamed the applications to reflect the respective service positioning and function more clearly.

- End -