

**Speaking Points of the Secretary for Development
for the Special Finance Committee Meeting (Works)
on 13 April 2022**

Chairman,

- In the new financial year, we have several priority tasks for works.
- Regarding the fight against the epidemic, I am grateful for the full support of the Central Government, enabling the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR and the designated contractor to establish a tripartite liaison mechanism, and works departments are organised to set up a task force. Through close communication and coordination among all parties, we are building eight community isolation and treatment facilities at full speed. Of these, six were completed and opened last month. The facilities at Penny's Bay and Kai Tak are expected to be commissioned shortly in batches. The above eight facilities, providing a total of about 40 000 beds, are constructed with the Mainland's assistance, and our capability of fighting against the epidemic and isolation will be significantly enhanced.
- As for the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, the Government expects that, in the fourth quarter of 2022, preliminary proposals can be made on four aspects, namely the reclamation extent, transportation infrastructure and routing, land use and financing options, so as to listen to public views. The Government originally planned to commence the first phase of reclamation in 2027, with a view to having the first batch of population intake in 2034. The Government is striving to streamline the procedures to further advance the above timetable.
- With a view to strengthening manpower development, we will

propose to inject \$1.2 billion into the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund to continue to support the industry's application of advanced construction methods and new technologies, and earmark \$30 million to promote applied research and development in public works and the industry, with a view to enhancing the overall productivity and performance of the construction industry.

- To enhance the capability of the coastal areas in responding to rising sea level and extreme waves caused by climate change, the Government plans to take forward appropriate improvement works and management measures in the next five years for 26 coastal low-lying or windy residential areas that are prone to high potential risks.
- Lastly, we will earmark an additional \$1 billion for the Built Heritage Conservation Fund to continue implementing the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, under which the Government funds conservation projects while non-profit-making partners revitalise and make good use of historic buildings in innovative ways. The funding will provide financial support for more private owners to maintain their historic buildings, and will further support public engagement activities and academic research on the theme of built heritage conservation.
- Chairman, I and my colleagues will be happy to answer any questions that Members may wish to raise.