

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)049

Question Serial No.

0163

Head: 91 Lands Department Subhead(No. & title): 111 Hire of services and professional fees

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under Subhead 111, the approved estimate for the hire of services and professional fees in 2002-03 is \$58,909,000 and the revised estimate is \$29,875,000. Please explain why an amount of \$29,034,000 in the approved estimate has not been spent and give the details of the professional services involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply: The amount of \$29,034,000 in the approved estimate for 2002-03 has not been spent mainly due to deferral of projects, lower tender prices for contracting-out services and reduced requirements for contracting-out work.

The professional services engaged through contracting-out are mainly related to resumption of private land, clearance of government land, land administration work and topographic / land boundary survey services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 21.3.2003