

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)067

Question Serial No.

1097

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Of the matters requiring special attention in 2005-06, the Lands Department will, under the Working Group on Small House, continue to explore measures to speed up the processing of small house applications. Would the Government please advise when there will be any outcome? Please also advise on the impacts of the new measures on reducing the administration expenses incurred by government departments in handling small house applications, and, will these new measures have any bearing on shortening the processing time of small house applications?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

We are consulting Heung Yee Kuk (the Kuk) on proposed measures to streamline the processing of small house applications. In light of their comments, we are refining our proposals for further discussions with the Kuk. Early agreement by the Kuk to the revised proposals would facilitate early implementation of the streamlined processing procedures.

One of the key features of our proposals is the classification of applications into straightforward and non-straightforward categories at the beginning of the processing of the applications.

The proposed procedures would facilitate the more efficient handling of small house applications and would speed up the approval of the straightforward cases. The processing time for non-straightforward cases will depend on the nature of the problems of the cases and the time taken to resolve these problems. The proposed procedures would not therefore immediately lead to any substantial reduction in work and expenses to be incurred by government departments in handling small house applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 6 April 2005