

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)081

Question Serial No.

0625

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 : The total acquisition/clearance costs in 2005 is \$1,801 million, marking a two-fold increase over the \$620 million in 2004. Why?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

About 92% (i.e. \$1,648 million) of the 2005 estimated land acquisition/clearance cost is the estimated expenditure rolled over from 2004 on the residual claims arising from about 148 public works programme projects and 10 non-public works programme projects implemented over the past years. Examples of these major public works programme projects and the related provision are as follows : -

- (i) East Rail Extension to Tsim Sha Tsui (\$40 million);
- (ii) Main Drainage Channels for Fanling, Sheung Shui and Hinterland Stage 1 (\$38 million);
- (iii) Deep Bay Link and Widening of Yuen Long Highway between Lam Tei and Shap Pat Heung Interchange (\$32 million); and
- (iv) Castle Peak Road Improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan (\$31 million).

The rest of the 2005 estimated land acquisition/clearance cost of about \$153 million is for 64 new projects. These new projects include those minor public works programme projects which do not require resumption of private land but require payments of clearance costs only, e.g. local drainage improvement works, local road and footpath improvement works, landslip preventive measure works, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 6 April 2005