Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(PL)002
Question Serial No.

1536

Head: 138 Government Secretariat:

Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau

(Planning and Lands Branch)

<u>Subhead</u> (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

(Planning and Lands)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Under Programme (2), provision for 2006-07 is \$4.1 million (5.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. The Government said that it is mainly due to the creation of six posts and increased operating expenses to meet the demands of ongoing and new commitments. Could the Government advise on the title of these six posts, their functions and estimated expenditure, as well as the new work commitments involved and their expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The six additional posts include three supernumerary directorate posts for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project in 2006-07 to perform duties arising from the introduction of additional development parameters and conditions for the project under the Invitation for Proposals framework as proposed by the Government in October 2005. Following Government's announcement to discontinue the Invitation for Proposals process on 21 February 2006, we are reviewing the need for these 3 posts and are examining the resources required to support the coming consultation exercise for WKCD in conjunction with HAB.

The three non-directorate posts comprise two Senior Administrative Officers and one Senior Building Surveyor. The new posts will be assigned to policy units for the provision of administrative and other support services to meet increasing work demand.

The estimated expenditure for the three non-directorate posts is \$1.4 m.

The policy portfolio of the Bureau covers a wide spectrum of activities, as detailed in the Controlling Officer's Report. Our major task is to formulate and co-ordinate policies in respect of areas under our purview. New commitments and work stem from various policy initiatives, for example, mandatory building inspections, review of land lease conditions, etc. It is not possible to give a breakdown on expenditure as resources are pooled together in meeting our work requirements.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita Lau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)
Date	11 March 2006

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