

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)027**

Question Serial No.

2327

Head : 138 Government Secretariat:  
Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau  
(Planning and Lands Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands  
(Planning and Lands)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Regarding the preparation for a public consultation on the review of the Urban Renewal Strategy, what are the projected staff establishment and expenditure and when will the consultation commence?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit Alan

Reply : In 2006-07, the Government will work closely with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to prepare for the public consultation on the review of the Urban Renewal Strategy (URS).

Since its establishment in 2001, the URA has been guided by the new legal framework to gradually roll out its holistic "4R" programme on urban renewal, i.e. redevelopment, rehabilitation, preservation of buildings with architectural or historical significance, and revitalization of old districts. A redevelopment project which involves an interactive and consultative planning process, property acquisition, rehousing and land resumption normally takes several years to complete. As the URA has accorded priority to the former Land Development Corporation projects, redevelopment projects under the new legal framework have only recently been commenced. Besides, the URA's building rehabilitation programme, which provides technical and financial assistance to eligible owners to undertake building maintenance, has been launched only for a relatively short period. We need to allow more time for the URA to accumulate adequate operational experience to enable us to fully understand the implementation aspects and effects of its urban renewal programme and carry out the URS review effectively. Urban renewal is a complex subject involving a great number of stakeholders. As part of the review exercise, the Government and the URA will consult different sectors of the community with a view to ensuring that our urban renewal efforts will better meet the community's aspirations.

The URS review will be handled by existing manpower resources in the relevant departments and the Bureau.

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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