

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)087**

**Question Serial No.**

1994

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 : Regarding the transfer of squatter control and clearance duties from the Housing Department to the Lands Department (Lands D), please advise this Council: (a) whether it is necessary for the Lands D to increase its staff; (b) of the amount of additional funding required; and (c) of the estimated amount of savings arising from the said transfer.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

- (a) The squatter control and clearance duties will be performed by staff transferred from Housing Department (HD) to Lands Department (Lands D). The establishment of Lands D will be increased correspondingly to accommodate the transferred staff.
- (b) \$165 million will be transferred from HD to Lands D in connection with the transfer of the squatter control and clearance functions on 1 April 2006.
- (c) It is not possible to estimate the actual savings resulted, since the duties will be integrated with the overall land control work of the Department. We have also made use of the opportunity to review the existing set-up with a view to strengthening the territory-wide land control work including the squatter control and clearance duties taken over from HD.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 11 March 2006