

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)090**

Question Serial No.

0999

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 : Since the Grand Promenade incident was criticised by the Audit Commission and the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council, the government departments responsible for land development and disposal tend to be very careful in approving land premiums, building plans, land disposals, etc. They have set up barriers and prolonged the approval procedures, thus undermining the investment intention of the developers and their operating environment. With the need to cut red tape and streamline procedures, would the Government consider speeding up or streamlining the procedures concerned? If yes, what measures will be taken; if not, why?

Asked by: Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply:

Lands Department (Lands D) has always been careful in processing land transactions.

Lands D has been working, and will continue to work, with the property development sector represented on the various forums established to explore ways to enhance the processing of land transactions. Such forums include the Pre-Construction Task Force under the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee, the Land and Building Advisory Committee together with its Land Sub-Committee, and various regular and ad-hoc meetings with stakeholders. By way of illustration, Lands D introduced in 2005 enhancement measures to the Application List System of land sale whereby processing time was cut by 30%, lease conditions were reviewed and updated including the simplification (deletion, amalgamation, redrafting) of 20 conditions, parallel processing of land transactions and associated statutory gazettals was standardised, and an enquiry system for certain unusual land grants was introduced in response to requests from stakeholders.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 10 March 2006

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