

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)094**

Question Serial No.

0616

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 : Concerning the setting-up of a new Central Action Team (CAT) to strengthen territory-wide land control work and take over the squatter control and clearance duties from the Housing Department, please advise this Council:

- (a) of the objective, the establishment in 2006-07, the expenditure to be involved, the duties, the expected performance, and the performance indicators of the CAT; and
- (b) whether the setting-up of the CAT indicates any change in the Administration's squatter policy; if yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

- (a) The Central Action Team (CAT) aims at strengthening the territory-wide land control work including squatter control duties for the whole territory to be transferred from Housing Department (HD) on 1 April 2006 such that illegal use on or occupation of government land will be dealt with more effectively.

The CAT will comprise a total of 433 squatter control staff transferred/to be transferred from the HD, and Lands Department (Lands D) staff, whose number and ranking are still under consideration.

In connection with the transfer of the squatter control and clearance functions, a financial provision of \$165 million will be transferred from HD to Lands D in 2006-07 which will be deployed for strengthening the land control work. No additional financial provision from the Government is required.

We expect that the effectiveness and efficiency of the land control work of the whole territory would be strengthened in a number of areas including an expanded patrol programme and shorter response time to complaints/referrals by members of the public regarding illegal use on or occupation of government land. We have drawn up related indicators under "Land Management" and "Squatter Control & Clearance". The indicators will be reviewed as we gain more practical experience in the light of the operation of the CAT.

(b) The Administration's current squatter policy will remain unchanged with the establishment of the CAT.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>PATRICK L C LAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Lands</u>
Date	<u>10 March 2006</u>

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