

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)109

Question Serial No.

0927

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The "General departmental expenses" have been increasing drastically every year since 2004-05, and will surge to more than \$150 million in 2006-07, representing an increase of 54%. Why? What work do these expenses actually involve?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The increase in the estimate of "General departmental expenses" for 2006-07 is mainly due to the increased provision for supporting development of railway projects and strengthening territory-wide land control work including the squatter control and clearance duties taken over from the Housing Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 9 March 2006

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