

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL) 110

Question Serial No.

0928

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration (2) Survey and Mapping (3) Legal Advice

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: In 2006-07, all the above three programmes list out the additional operating expenses incurred as a result of the transfer of squatter control and clearance duties from Housing Department to Lands Department. Please advise this Council of:

- (a) the reasons;
- (b) the total number of additional staff and amount of the operating expenses incurred because of the transfer of duties; and
- (c) the changes when comparing the additional manpower and operating expenses incurred with the situation before the transfer when Housing Department was responsible for such duties.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

- (a) The increase in expenditure in the three programme areas is mainly attributable to the taking over of the squatter control and clearance duties and the associated transfer of resources from the Housing Department (HD) from 1 April 2006. With the resources transferred from HD, we will review the existing set-up with a view to strengthening land control work in the territory. Lands Administration Office of the Department will carry out these functions. Survey and Mapping Office and Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office will provide the required supporting service in their respective areas of work such as checking of lot boundaries and rendering legal advice on disputes arising from land control action by Lands Administration Office.
- (b) 323 staff and \$165 million will be transferred from HD to Lands Department on 1 April 2006 following the transfer of the squatter control and clearance duties.
- (c) No additional provision is incurred arising from the transfer.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 11 March 2006

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