Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)148

Question Serial No.

1001

<u>Head</u>: 707 New Towns and Urban Area <u>Subhead</u>:

Development

Programme:

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question:

The approved project estimate for the projects under Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development from the Capital Works Reserve Fund is \$30.2 billion. The actual expenditure as at 31 March 2005 is only \$18.5 billion. Of the remaining \$11.7 billion of the approved project estimate, only \$2.5 billion is for Revised Estimate 2005-06. In the 2006-07 Estimate, the provision is further reduced to \$2 billion. Please give details for the following –

- (a) the reasons for the further reduction of the estimate when resources are available;
- (b) a list of the projects for the new towns and urban development which are pending commencement and their expenditure and expected construction period; and
- (c) the reasons for not speeding up the project programme, as a result of which there are projects that cannot commence or be completed in 2006-07.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

- (a) The reduction in the estimated expenditure under Head 707 to \$2 billion in 2006-07 is due to the completion or partial completion of a number of major projects, including
 - (i) completion of the grade-separated interchange in Tseung Kwan O and a number of flood protection projects in the North West New Territories; and
 - (ii) partial completion of Central Reclamation phase 3, Road T3 in Sha Tin, Route 9 (Tsuen Wan section) and some roadworks in Yuen Long.

(b) We plan to start the following seven projects in 2006-07 –

Project	Estimated Project Cost	Estimated Spending in 2006-07	Construction Period
	(\$ million)	(\$ million)	(months)
7389RO			
Enhancement of public facilities at Ngong Ping, Lantau	55.356	0.110	20
7712CL			
Feasibility study for the remaining development in Tung Chung			
	28.628	5.580	24
<u>7067GI</u>			
Development of Government Helipad at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre			
Trong Rong Convention and Exhibition Centre	30.000	0.010	15
7719CL			
Kai Tak development engineering review	50.000	5.006	18
7720CL			
Engineering infrastructure works for Pak Shek Kok development, stage 2C – Road L5 and adjoining parking and loading/unloading areas			
	32.000	1.000	21
7794TH			
Ping Ha Road improvement – remaining works (northern part of Ha Tsuen section)			
,	125.563	0.503	36
<u>7741TH</u>			
Northern access to Area 86, Tseung Kwan O	113.910	41.100	33
Total	435.457	53.309	

(c) All projects planned for commencement or completion in 2006-07 are on schedule except for **7704CL** – "Engineering infrastructure works for Pak Shek Kok development, stage 2A". The completion date of this item has been deferred from March 2007 to August 2007 due to the design interface with the adjacent Science Park phase 2 project.

Signature	
Name in block letters	John S V CHAI
Post Title	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Date	10.3.2006