

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)064

Question Serial No.

0666

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: Regarding the cases of processing indigenous villagers' applications for rent concession, the estimated number of applications in 2007 is 3 000, which marks a decrease of more than 50% as compared to 6 128, i.e. the actual number of applications in 2006. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The 6 128 cases completed in 2006 included 2 828 individual applications and 3 300 Tso/Tong applications. These Tso/Tong applications have been held up for years because of absentee/deceased Manager(s). Reactivation of these Tso/Tong cases had become possible due to the adoption of a new processing procedure, agreed with the Heung Yee Kuk, from the end of 2005. Under the new procedure, surviving Manager(s) of the Tso/Tong properties would be accepted for the purpose of rent concession. After clearing the backlog of the Tso/Tong cases, it is anticipated that the number of new applications to be received for assessment in 2007 will be about the same as the number of individual applications completed in 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ PATRICK L C LAU _____

Post Title _____ Director of Lands _____

Date _____ 15 March 2007 _____