

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**HPLB(PL)096**

**Question Serial No.**

**1875**

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: Under the "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08", there is an item about the establishment of a new management services team to ensure compliance with performance standards for enhancement of service quality. However, as revealed in the targets under the Programme concerned, the performance of the Department was not unsatisfactory. Please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the rationale for the establishment of a new management services team;
- (b) the additional expenditure required for the establishment of this new team;
- (c) any increase or decrease in the number of staff of Lands Department with the establishment of the new team; and
- (d) the aspects in which the new team is expected to enhance the performance standards and service quality of the Department.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The setting up of the new management services team (MST) in the Lands Department is in response to the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council, the Ombudsman, and the Independent Commission Against Corruption to ensure compliance with the guidelines, procedures and prescribed timeframe set out in any departmental instructions.
- (b) & (c) The MST will comprise four non-directorate posts at an estimated annual salary expenditure of \$2.7 million. This will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Department.

- (d) The MST has the overall objective to ensure that, in respect of land administration, actions being or have been taken are in full compliance with the guidelines, procedures and prescribed timeframe that have been set out in any departmental instructions. At the organisational level, the MST will identify areas within the existing operating systems where changes should be made to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. The MST will initially focus on work relating to land control, lease enforcement, and management of short-term tenancies. Consideration will be given to expanding its scope of work in the light of the operational experience gained.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 15 March 2007

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