

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Session No. :13
File name : CAB-e1.doc**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>CAB001</u>	0006	YEUNG Sum	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB002</u>	0007	YEUNG Sum	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB003</u>	0008	YEUNG Sum	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB004</u>	0009	YEUNG Sum	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB005</u>	0010	YEUNG Sum	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB006</u>	0011	YEUNG Sum	144	Director of Bureau's Office
<u>CAB007</u>	0012	YEUNG Sum	144	Director of Bureau's Office
<u>CAB008</u>	0183	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB009</u>	0184	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB010</u>	0185	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB011</u>	0186	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB012</u>	0187	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB013</u>	0188	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB014</u>	0189	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB015</u>	0190	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB016</u>	0266	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB017</u>	0593	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB018</u>	0661	WONG Ting-kwong	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB019</u>	0891	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB020</u>	0892	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB021</u>	0893	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB022</u>	0894	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB023</u>	0895	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Director of Bureau's Office
<u>CAB024</u>	0972	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB025</u>	0973	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB026</u>	1119	TIEN Pei-chun, James	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB027</u>	1195	TIEN Pei-chun, James	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB028</u>	1237	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB029</u>	1238	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB030</u>	1320	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB031</u>	1321	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CAB032	1322	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB033	1323	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB034	1430	WONG Kwok-hing	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB035	1489	YOUNG Howard	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB036	1490	YOUNG Howard	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB037	1491	YOUNG Howard	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB038	1726	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB039	1727	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB040	1728	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB041	1729	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB042	0015	YEUNG Sum	163	Electoral Services
CAB043	0016	YEUNG Sum	163	Electoral Services
CAB044	0017	YEUNG Sum	163	Electoral Services
CAB045	0018	YEUNG Sum	163	Electoral Services
CAB046	0078	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	163	Electoral Services
CAB047	0129	LEUNG Kwok-hung	163	Electoral Services
CAB048	0136	TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper	163	Electoral Services
CAB049	0341	YOUNG Howard	163	Electoral Services
CAB050	1054	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
CAB051	1055	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
CAB052	1056	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
CAB053	1069	KWOK Ka-ki	163	Electoral Services
CAB054	1070	KWOK Ka-ki	163	Electoral Services
CAB055	1192	TIEN Pei-chun, James	163	Electoral Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 001

Question Serial No.

0006

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide information on the establishment and salary provision for the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (excluding Director of Bureau's Office) in the revised estimate for 2004-05 and the estimate for 2005-06 as well as the reduction in provision due to the full year effect of civil service pay cut in 2005.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The establishment and salary provision for the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (excluding the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs) in the revised estimate for 2004-05 and the estimate for 2005-06 are as follows :

	2004-05 Revised Estimate As at 31.3.2005	2005-06 Estimate As at 31.3.2006
Establishment*	41	40
Salary Provision*	\$21,647,000	\$21,526,000

- * Two of the staff of the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (i.e. the Administrative Assistant and Personal Secretary I) under Programme (1) are also engaged in work relating to Programme (2). As such, 45% of their salaries are accounted for under Programme (2) while 55% are accounted for under Programme (1).

2. The reduction in salary provision due to the full year effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut is estimated to be \$575,000 in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 002

Question Serial No.

0007

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, please provide information on the form of liaison and the number of activities conducted in 2003-04 (actual provision) and 2004-05 (revised estimate) and those to be conducted in 2005-06 (estimate). Please also specify their respective expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

In 2003–04 and 2004–05, CAB has continued to coordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Major matters handled through the communication channel between CAB and Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong include –

2003-04

- (a) exchange of information during SARS outbreak;
- (b) arrangement of a chartered flight to Taipei to bring back a Hong Kong tour group with one suspected SARS case;
- (c) assistance in the rescue operation where a group of Hong Kong fishermen in distress near Dongsha Qundao were safely brought home through coordination of the Maritime Rescue Cooperation Centre; and
- (d) relaying information on the Avian Influenza attack in Taiwan.

2004-05

- (a) timely assistance to the injured Hong Kong people involved in a serious

traffic accident in Jiu-fen, Taiwan; and

- (b) assistance in the rescue operation where a group of Hong Kong fishermen in distress in Keelung Harbour, Taiwan due to typhoon attack were rescued .

2. Apart from the above, we facilitated visits by Taiwan's business sector and journalists from Taiwan's newspapers/electronic media. We arranged meetings with government bureaux/departments and visits to major infrastructural projects in Hong Kong. We also met other Taiwan visitors and briefed them on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation on the "One Country, Two Systems" here.

3. There have been frequent liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong through telephone calls and meetings. Existing resources have been deployed to implement the work involved.

4. In 2005-06, we will continue to coordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Our work programme include –

- (a) liaising with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong;
- (b) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
- (c) where appropriate, briefing Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

5. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to implement the work involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 003

Question Serial No.

0008

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards the “9+2” projects undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, please provide information on the nature and number of projects included in the revised estimate for 2004-05 and the estimate for 2005-06. Please also specify their respective expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

Since the first “Pan-PRD Regional Cooperation and Development Forum” and the signing of the “Pan-PRD Regional Cooperation Framework Agreement” by the Pan-PRD (“9+2”) governments in June 2004, the “9+2” governments have each set up their own “9+2” General Coordination Office to take forward the initiative. The “9+2” General Coordination Office for Hong Kong is set up under the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB), which undertakes general liaison with the “9+2” partners and coordination with relevant bureaux and departments within the HKSAR government.

2. The revised estimate for 2004-05 in respect of work relating to “9+2” is \$1.523 million. The expenditure mainly covered the Opening Ceremony of the First Pan-PRD Regional Cooperation and Development Forum held on 1 June 2004 in Hong Kong, two Pan-PRD Secretary-General meetings held in July 2004 and January 2005 in Sichuan, and five study visits respectively to Hainan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Fujian and Hunan provinces organised between December 2004 and March 2005. We also participated in a number of activities related to Pan-PRD regional cooperation including the First Pan-PRD Trade Fair held between 14-17 July 2004 in Guangzhou, the Pan-PRD Provincial Capital City Mayors' Forum held on 15-16 September 2004 in Guangzhou, as well as the meeting of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Expert Group on the Promotion of Pan-PRD Cooperation held on 31 January 2005 in Shenzhen.

3. The estimate for 2005-06 is \$2.2 million. Major expenditure items include those related to an incoming visit of representatives from the “9+2” General Coordination Offices in April 2005, and participation in the Second Pan-PRD Regional Cooperation and Development Forum cum Trade Fair to be held in Sichuan in July 2005. It is expected that in 2005-06 we will need to attend more preparatory or working group meetings on “9+2” related issues. We will also continue to conduct study visits to the “9+2” region.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 005

Question Serial No.

0010

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the additional provision required for the non-recurrent items under this Programme in 2005-06? What is the net increase in provision? What are the reasons for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

A provision of \$5,250,000 under General Non-Recurrent provides funds for the Review on Constitutional Development (\$1,500,000), and Enhanced Basic Law Promotion Activities in 2005-06 (\$3,750,000). The net increase compared to the non-recurrent items of the revised estimate for 2004-05 is \$2,705,000, primarily for enhancing Basic Law promotion activities relating to the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 006

Question Serial No.

0011

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide information on the establishment and salary provision for the Director of Bureau's Office, Constitutional Affairs Bureau in the revised estimate for 2004-05 and the estimate for 2005-06. Is there any reduction in the full year expenses of the Office as a result of civil service pay cut in 2005? If yes, what is the amount? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The establishment and salary provision for the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs in the revised estimate for 2004-05 and the estimate for 2005-06 are as follows :

	2004-05 Revised Estimate As at 31.3.2005	2005-06 Estimate As at 31.3.2006
Establishment*	4	4
Salary Provision*	\$1,595,000	\$1,580,000

- * Two of the staff of the Office (i.e. the Administrative Assistant and Personal Secretary I) are also engaged in work relating to Programme (2) Constitutional Affairs. Only 55% of the salaries of these two staff are accounted for under Programme (1) while the remaining 45% are accounted for under Programme (2).

2. The reduction in salary provision due to the full year effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut is estimated to be \$46,000 in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 007

Question Serial No.

0012

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards the planning and co-ordination of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions set out in this Programme, please provide information on the nature and number of functions undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in 2003-04 (actual provision) and 2004-05 (revised estimate) as well as those to be undertaken in 2005-06 (estimate).

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

Broadly speaking, the official functions attended by the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) in the three years referred to in the question include meetings of the Legislative Council (and its committees/panels) and District Councils (DCs), local and overseas media interviews, meetings with Mainland and foreign dignitaries, district visits, seminars and forums on constitutional development and other issues organised by the government and outside organisations, as well as functions organised by academic institutions and political and community organisations. We do not have any readily available information in the form as requested by the Honourable Member.

2. However, in the last four months, SCA attended, for example:

- (a) about 20 meetings with District Councils;
- (b) over 25 media interviews or programmes; and
- (c) some 20 seminars and forums on constitutional development and other issues.

3. We expect that the momentum of these engagements will continue in future, because the fifth report of the Task Force is expected to be published later in the year and the DC review will start before end 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 008

Question Serial No.

0183

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong, please provide information on the actual expenditure in 2004-05 and the estimated expenditure in 2005-06, details of work undertaken in 2004-05 and the work plan for 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In 2004-05, CAB has continued to coordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Major matters handled through the communication channel between CAB and Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong include –

- (c) timely assistance to the injured Hong Kong people involved in a serious traffic accident in Jiu-fen, Taiwan; and
- (d) assistance in the rescue operation where a group of Hong Kong fishermen in distress in Keelung Harbour, Taiwan due to typhoon attack were rescued.

2. Apart from the above, we facilitated visits by journalists from Taiwan's newspapers/electronic media and visitors from other sectors. We arranged meetings with government bureaux/departments and visits to major infrastructural projects in Hong Kong. We also briefed them on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" here.

3. There have been frequent liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong through telephone calls and meetings. Existing resources have been deployed to implement the work involved.

4. In 2005-06, we will continue to coordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Our work programme include :

- (a) liaising with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong;
 - (b) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
 - (c) where appropriate, briefing Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.
5. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to implement the work involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 009

Question Serial No.

0184

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Has the Government earmarked any provision in the estimate for 2005-06 for addressing the issue of constitutional development after 2007? If so, please provide details of the estimated expenditure and the work plan respectively.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In the 2005-06 financial year, a provision of \$1.5M has been earmarked for work relating to constitutional development. The provision is mainly for publication of reports, public consultation and publicity activities, and other miscellaneous expenses. In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff will be redeployed within the CAB, and 6 additional staff will be temporarily redeployed from other departments, to support the Constitutional Development Task Force Secretariat.

2. Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. It aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion, and we hope to gain the support of the public and the legislature.

3. Details of the activities and the estimated expenditure will depend on the progress and requirement of the work of the Task Force.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 010

Question Serial No.

0185

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What specific measures has the Constitutional Affairs Bureau taken to work closely with the Election Affairs Commission in conducting the following two elections:

- (1) the Chief Executive by-election;
- (2) the Election Committee sub-sector by-elections.

What is the provision earmarked by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau for them?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

On electoral matters, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is responsible for formulating policies and, as necessary, the enactment of primary legislation. For the upcoming Chief Executive (CE) election, CAB introduced on 6 April 2005 the Chief Executive Election (Amendment)(Term of Office of the Chief Executive) Bill into the Legislative Council. The Bill aims to clarify that, where the office of the CE becomes vacant under section 4(b) or (c) of the Chief Executive Election Ordinance^{Note}, the term of office of the new CE shall be the remainder of the term of the preceding CE. The necessary resources and the expenditure involved in carrying out the work relating to the CE election are absorbed within the resources allocated to the Bureau.

Note Section 4 of the Chief Executive Election Ordinance provides as follows:

“4. The office of the Chief Executive becomes vacant –

- (a) on the expiry of the term of office of the Chief Executive;
- (b) if the Chief Executive dies; or
- (c) if the Central People's Government removes the Chief Executive from office in accordance with the Basic Law.”

2. The Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The Registration and Electoral Office will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the CE election and the Election Committee sub-sector by-elections.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 011

Question Serial No.

0186

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Demonstration of the success of “One Country, Two Systems” is one of the matters requiring special attention in 2005-06. Has the Government identified its target group(s) for demonstration? What is the detailed breakdown of expenditure and specific plan? Apart from people of Hong Kong, will it also demonstrate to Mainland compatriots the actual situation of democracy and freedoms enjoyed by the people of Hong Kong under “One Country, Two Systems”?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been keeping an overview of the implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and has been providing advice to bureaux and departments in this respect.

2. In 2005-06, we will demonstrate to visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, and will continue to introduce the latest development in Hong Kong through visits to Government bureaux and departments. Similar visit programmes for visitors from the Mainland, Macao, and Taiwan will also continue to be organized.

3. We will also make use of briefings by HKSAR’s overseas Economic and Trade Office, take the opportunities of overseas visits by senior Government officials, as well as through HKSAR’s participation in international fora, to widely publicize abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the Basic Law in the HKSAR.

4. We will continue to reach out to the local, Mainland and international communities through the distribution of publications on the implementation of the Basic Law, e.g. the “Hong Kong and its Basic Law” pamphlet.

5. We will deploy existing resources to carry out the above work in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 012

Question Serial No.

0187

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In view of the unexpected vacancy of the office of the Chief Executive and the legal controversy over the tenure of the “new Chief Executive”, will the Constitutional Affairs Bureau continue to allocate resources for public consultation on the method for selecting the Chief Executive in 2007?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

It remains Government's priority to take forward discussion on the methods for electing the Chief Executive in 2007 and the Legislative Council in 2008. In the 2005-06 financial year, a provision of \$1.5M has been earmarked for work related to this purpose. The provision is mainly for publication of reports, public consultation and publicity activities, and other miscellaneous expenses. In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff will be redeployed within the CAB, and 6 additional staff will be temporarily redeployed from other departments, to support the Constitutional Development Task Force Secretariat.

2. Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. It aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion, and we hope to gain the support of the public and the legislature.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 013

Question Serial No.

0188

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Item 468 – Enhanced
Basic Law promotion activities in
2005-06, being the 15th anniversary of
the promulgation of the Basic Law

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide the following information on Item 468 –

- (1) specific work plan of this item;
- (2) detailed breakdown of expenditure;
- (3) will the authority concerned explain to the public the whole story of the two interpretations by the NPC and their impact to the rule of law in Hong Kong in these promotion activities?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million for promoting the Basic Law, of which \$1.25 million is recurrent expenditure and another \$3.75 million is non-recurrent expenditure having been set aside for the promotion activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

2. Major activities in 2005-06 we will co-ordinate in promoting the Basic Law and further enhancing the public's understanding of it include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio promotional programmes, promotional activities co-organized with other sectors, promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum, production of TV announcements in the public interest and publication of the Basic Law Bulletin and other publicity materials.

3. The recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities :

- Production of TV announcement in the public interest

- Production of promotion materials (such as pamphlets, booklets and webgame)
- Promotional activities in collaboration with community organizations
- Sponsorship for Basic Law Bulletin

4. The non-recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities:

- Student Flag raising ceremony
- Basic Law Carnival
- Television and Radio Promotion Programmes
- Basic Law Roving Exhibition
- Basic Law Promotion Competitions
- Basic Law seminar
- Promotional activities co-organized with other sectors
- Basic Law promotion activities to be organized by the Youth Forum
- Production of TV announcements in the public interest

5. We will continue to promote the Basic Law and introduce to the public the historical background, drafting process and the successful implementation of the Basic Law. As appropriate, information relating to constitutional development, and the power on the part of the National People's Congress Standing Committee to interpret the Basic Law will also be included in the relevant promotional materials.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 014

Question Serial No.

0189

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : (a) What are the details of work undertaken in the 2004-05 financial year in co-ordinating Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong? What are their respective expenditures?

(b) What are the details of work to be undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in the 2005-06 financial year in co-ordinating Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong? What are their respective estimated expenditures?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

(a) In 2004-05, CAB has continued to coordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Major matters handled through the communication channel between CAB and Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong include –

- (i) timely assistance to the injured Hong Kong people involved in a serious traffic accident in Jiu-fen, Taiwan; and
- (ii) assistance in the rescue operation where a group of Hong Kong fishermen in distress in Keelung Harbour, Taiwan due to typhoon attack were rescued.

Apart from the above, we facilitated visits by journalists from Taiwan's newspapers/electronic media and visitors from other sectors. We arranged meetings with government bureaux/departments and visits to major infrastructural projects in Hong Kong. We also briefed them on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" here.

There have been frequent liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong through telephone calls and meetings. Existing resources have been deployed to implement the work involved.

- (b) In 2005-06, we will continue to coordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Our work programme include –
- (i) liaising with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong;
 - (ii) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
 - (iii) where appropriate, briefing Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

Existing resources will continue to be deployed to implement the work involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 015

Question Serial No.

0190

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : (a) What are the details of work undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in the 2004-05 financial year in addressing the issue of constitutional development after 2007? What are their respective expenditures?

(b) What are the details of work to be undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in the 2005-06 financial year in addressing the issue of constitutional development after 2007? What are their respective expenditures?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) During the 2004-05 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) provided support to the work of the Constitutional Development Task Force (Task Force). A dedicated team was set up within the Bureau to serve as its secretariat. CAB was also responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007.

The revised estimated expenditure of CAB for constitutional development in 2004-05 was \$2.545M. The major expenditure items were:-

- (i) the production of four reports of the Constitutional Development Task Force (\$0.661M);
- (ii) public consultation events and publicity activities, including briefings, seminars, regional forums, focus groups, open forums, APIs and a dedicated website (\$0.916M);
- (iii) other expenses, including postage, temporary staff, stationery and other office miscellaneous items (\$0.968M).

In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff were redeployed within CAB, and 6 additional staff were temporarily redeployed from other departments, to support the Task Force Secretariat.

Policy input on matters relating to constitutional development after 2007 was provided by existing resources in CAB.

- (b) In the 2005-06 financial year, the Bureau will continue to provide support to the Task Force and be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. A provision of \$1.5M has been earmarked for work relating to constitutional development. The provision is mainly for publication of reports, public consultation and publicity activities, and other miscellaneous expenses.

In addition, redeployment of 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff within CAB and temporary redeployment of 6 additional staff from other departments will continue to support the Task Force Secretariat.

Policy input on matters relating to constitutional development after 2007 will be provided by existing resources in the Bureau.

Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. It aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion, and we hope to gain the support of the public and the legislature.

Details of the activities and the estimated expenditure will depend on the progress and requirement of the work of the Task Force.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 016

Question Serial No.

0266

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : There is an increase of 6.1% in the financial provision of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau for 2005-06 under Programme (2), or an increase of 18.7% over the original estimate for 2004-05. According to the breakdown of expenditure provided by the Bureau, increased provision is required for enhanced Basic Law promotion activities in relation to the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. Please provide details of these promotion activities.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million for promoting the Basic Law, of which \$1.25 million is recurrent expenditure and another \$3.75 million is non-recurrent expenditure having been set aside for the promotion activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

2. Major activities in 2005-06 we will co-ordinate in promoting the Basic Law and further enhancing the public's understanding of it include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio promotional programmes, promotional activities co-organized with other sectors, promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum, production of TV announcements in the public interest and publication of the Basic Law Bulletin and other publicity materials.

3. The recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities :

- Production of TV announcement in the public interest
- Production of promotion materials (such as pamphlets, booklets and webgame)

- Promotional activities in collaboration with community organizations
 - Sponsorship for Basic Law Bulletin
4. The non-recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities:
- Student Flag raising ceremony
 - Basic Law Carnival
 - Television and Radio Promotion Programmes
 - Basic Law Roving Exhibition
 - Basic Law Promotion Competitions
 - Basic Law seminar
 - Promotional activities co-organized with other sectors
 - Basic Law promotion activities to be organized by the Youth Forum
 - Production of TV announcements in the public interest

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 017

Question Serial No.

0593

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

- Question : (1) How many projects on the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law have been carried out in the 2004-05 financial year? What are the details of each project and which specific article(s) of the Basic Law does it promote? What are the criteria for choosing them for promotion? What is the expenditure of each project?
- (2) What is the total estimated expenditure on the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law in the 2005-06 financial year? Of which how much is used for publicity and promotion of public awareness of Articles 45 and 68?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (1) In 2004-05, the bureaux and departments supporting the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and its four working groups organized about 40 projects to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. These projects include Basic Law seminars, publication of the Basic Law Bulletin, the "Basic Law Promotion Day" Competition, production of TV announcements in the public interest, a Basic Law speech contest, introduction of a Basic Law webgame, the civic education teacher development programme, production of posters for schools on National and Special Administrative Regional Emblems, "Journey to China Study Tour Project", flag-raising training for students, Basic Law teleline stories and a Basic Law interactive drama series.

The relevant bureaux and departments allocated a total of 4 million in 2004-05 to organize the above activities, of which the Constitutional Affairs Bureau contributed \$2.215 million.

Many of these promotional activities aim to promote the Basic Law in general. For example, we have in 2004-05 launched the TV announcements in the public interest entitled “One Country, Two Systems” to promote public understanding of such basic principles as “One Country, Two Systems”, “a high degree of autonomy” and “Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong”. The Basic Law speech contest and the Basic Law quiz and talent competition covered various chapters of the Basic Law and aimed to promote the Basic Law in general. Some of the events focused on specific issues in the Basic Law and related provisions, for instance, seminars on “The Basic Law and the Legal System of the HKSAR”.

- (2) In 2005-06, the relevant bureaux and departments have allocated a total of about \$7.6 million for promoting the Basic Law, in which \$5 million is contributed by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) for the purpose of stepping up Basic Law promotion in the 15th anniversary of its promulgation. As in previous years, we would make use of a variety of channels to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. While it is not possible to apportion separately the amount to be spent on the promotion of Articles 45 and 68, the “Drafting and Implementation of the Basic Law” roving exhibition, for example, gives an overview of the Basic Law, including Articles 45 and 68.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 018

Question Serial No.

0661

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General
non-recurrent

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : A provision of \$3,750,000 under General Non-Recurrent provides funds for Enhanced Basic Law Promotion Activities. Will this provision be used to finance other organisations in holding promotional activities? What is the provision ratio? Is there any overall strategic study on enhancing public understanding of the Basic Law? If the provision is not used for financing other organisations, then what is the actual use of it?

Asked by : Hon. Wong Ting-kwong

Reply :

To mark the 15th anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law, we have allocated in 2005-06 a non-recurrent provision of \$3.75 million to step up promotion of the Basic Law and to further enhance the public's understanding of it. Major activities planned include a student flag raising ceremony, a Basic Law carnival, a roving exhibition, seminars, television and radio promotional programmes, promotional activities co-organized with other sectors, promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum and production of TV announcements in the public interest.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is committed to enhancing the public's understanding of the Basic Law. Our strategy for promoting the Basic Law will focus on three aspects, viz. to promote the content of the Basic Law in a comprehensive manner, to tie in the promotion of the Basic Law with civic education and to step up cooperation with community organizations in the promotion of the Basic Law. To that end, we will provide sponsorship to different groups within the community as appropriate. We plan to spend about 20% of the present allocation for this purpose. In addition, in the planned promotional activities for 2005-06, we will seek to organise some of them in collaboration with these organisations, such as Basic Law seminars.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 019

Question Serial No.

0891

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please list consultation forums and publicity activities in regard to constitutional development after 2007 held so far and the detailed breakdown of expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

During the 2004-05 financial year, the Constitutional Development Task Force organized a total of 18 sessions of seminars, regional and open forums and group discussions to solicit public views on issues related to constitutional development. The total attendance was about 1,600. Twelve sessions were held during the consultation for the Third Report, and 6 sessions were organized for the consultation for the Fourth Report.

2. Publicity activities relating to constitutional development included TV and radio APIs and a dedicated website.

3. The revised estimated expenditure in 2004-05 for the above activities was \$0.916M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak
 Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 020

Question Serial No.

0892

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide details on promotion activities of the Basic Law, in particular those related to the implementation of Basic Law Articles 45 and 68 with the ultimate goal of universal suffrage in 2007/08. What are the projects, programmes and publicity activities conducted so far? What is the detailed breakdown of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

In 2004-05, the bureaux and departments supporting the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and its four working groups organized about 40 projects to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. The projects include Basic Law seminars, publication of the Basic Law Bulletin, the "Basic Law Promotion Day" Competition, production of TV announcements in the public interest, a Basic Law speech contest, introduction of a Basic Law webgame, the civic education teacher development programme, production of posters for schools on National and Regional Symbols, "Journey to China Study Tour Project", flag-raising training for students, Basic Law teleline stories and a Basic Law interactive drama series.

2. Many of our promotional activities aim to promote the Basic Law in general. For example, in 2004-05 we launched the "Drafting and implementation of the Basic Law" exhibition and published "The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" booklet. These exhibition and publication introduce to the public the historical background of Basic Law, the concepts of "One Country, Two Systems", "a high degree of autonomy" and "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong", as well as the implementation of the Basic Law in Hong Kong in various aspects. These activities aim to give the public an overview of the Basic Law, including Articles 45 and 68. It is difficult to apportion separately the production costs for the coverage of Articles 45 and 68.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 021

Question Serial No.

0893

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please list the work of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in respect of the issue of constitutional development and implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle. Please also provide their detailed breakdown of expenditures and specify their success.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

Work relating to Constitutional Development

During the 2004-05 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) provided support to the work of the Constitutional Development Task Force (Task Force). A dedicated team was set up within the Bureau to serve as its secretariat. CAB was also responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007.

2. The revised estimated expenditure of CAB for constitutional development in 2004-05 was \$2.545M. The major expenditure items were:-

- (i) the production of four reports of the Constitutional Development Task Force (\$0.661M);
- (ii) public consultation events and publicity activities, including briefings, seminars, regional forums, focus groups, open forums, APIs and a dedicated website (\$0.916M);
- (iii) other expenses, including postage, temporary staff, stationery and other office miscellaneous items (\$0.968M).

3. In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff were redeployed within CAB, and 6 additional staff were temporarily redeployed from other departments, to support the Task Force Secretariat.

4. Policy input on matters relating to constitutional development after 2007 was provided by existing resources in CAB.

5. During the public consultation for the various reports of the Task Force, many valuable views and proposals were received. A total of about 1,600 participants attended the seminars, forums and discussion groups on the Third and Fourth Report. More than 2,000 written submissions were received by the Task Force on various reports released so far. In addition, the total page views of the constitutional development website since its launch on 19 February 2004 is over 1.4 million.

6. Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. Its aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion, and to gain the support of the public and the legislature.

Implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” principle

7. Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been keeping an overview of the implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and has been providing advice to bureaux and departments in this respect.

8. In 2004-05, we demonstrated to visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, and continued to introduce the latest development in Hong Kong through visits to Government bureaux and departments. Similar visit programmes were also organized for visitors from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan. We had more than 3,200 official exchanges with Mainland and Macao government officials in 2004. Through these exchanges, we presented to the visitors first hand information regarding the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle.

9. We also made use of briefings by HKSAR’s overseas Economic and Trade Office, take the opportunities of overseas visits by senior Government officials, as well as through HKSAR’s participation in international fora, to widely publicize abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the Basic Law in the HKSAR. Countries visited by the Chief Secretary for Administration and other senior government officials in 2004-05 include the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden, Mexico, Chile, Japan, Thailand and India. HKSARG participated in over 140 international conferences in 2004.

10. We also promoted the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle to the local and international communities through the distribution of publications on the implementation of the Basic Law. For instance,

we distributed the “Hong Kong and its Basic Law” pamphlet to overseas communities through the Economic and Trade Offices. The Basic Law leaflet was also distributed to overseas participants taking part in a number of international conferences held in Hong Kong.

11. The above work was carried out in 2004-05 by existing resources. We will continue to do the above work with existing resources in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 022

Question Serial No.

0894

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please list the grades of the 45 permanent posts in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau. How many of them are engaged in constitutional development and promotion of the Basic Law? Please specify their actual performance and effectiveness.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The grades of the 45 permanent posts in Constitutional Affairs Bureau is at **Annex.**

2. During the 2004-05 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) provided support to the work of the Constitutional Development Task Force (Task Force). A dedicated team was set up within the Bureau to serve as its secretariat. CAB was also responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007.

3. Among the 45 permanent posts, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff have been redeployed within the Bureau to support the Task Force Secretariat. (In addition, 6 additional staff were temporarily redeployed from other departments to support the Task Force Secretariat.) Policy input on matters relating to constitutional development after 2007 was also provided by CAB with existing resources, which included 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Senior Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff.

4. During the public consultation for the various reports of the Task Force, many valuable views and proposals were received. A total of about 1,600 participants attended the seminars, forums and discussion groups on the Third and Fourth Report. More than 2,000 written submissions were received by the Task Force on various reports released so far. In addition, the total page views of the

constitutional development website since its launch on 19 February 2004 is over 1.4 million.

5. Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. It aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion, and to gain the support of the public and the legislature.

6. As for the promotion of the Basic Law, 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Administrative Officer and 1 supporting staff have been deployed to, among other things, provide secretariat support to the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, to plan and implement Basic Law promotion activities and coordinate various Basic Law promotion initiatives from relevant bureaux and departments. (These Officers also undertake duties other than the promotion of the Basic Law). In 2004-05, CAB launched 15 promotion activities, attracting over 17,000 participants. These activities include a Basic Law seminar, publication of the Basic Law Bulletin, the “Basic Law Promotion Day” Competition, Basic Law Quiz and Talent Competition, production of TV announcements in the public interest, Basic Law Speech Contest, a Basic Law webgame, student flag-raising event and survey on the public understanding of the Basic Law.

7. In 2000 and 2002, CAB commissioned the Census and Statistics Department to conduct surveys on the public understanding of the Basic Law. The percentage of members of the public aged 15 or above who claimed to have a good or some knowledge of the Basic Law increased from 25% in the first survey to 48% in the second. The percentage of members of the public who claimed to have heard of the Basic Law increased from 80% in 2000 to 90% in 2002. It is clear that the public’s understanding of the Basic Law has been enhanced. Another survey was conducted in 2004. The results are now being analysed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak
Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Constitutional Affairs Bureau**(As at 31 March 2005)**

Grade	Rank	Establishment
Administrative Officer (AO)	Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 (D8)*	1
	Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 (D4)	1
	Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3)	1
	Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)	4
	Senior Administrative Officer	5
	Administrative Officer	4
		<hr/> 16
Executive Officer (EO)	Senior Executive Officer	1
	Executive Officer I	1
	Executive Officer II	1
		<hr/> 3
Official Language Officer (OLO)	Senior Official Language Officer	1
Clerical Officer (CO)	Assistance Clerical Officer	3
Clerical Assistant (CA)	Clerical Assistant	2
Calligraphist (Calli)	Calligraphist	1
Personal Secretary (PS)	Personal Assistant	1
	Senior Personal Secretary	2
	Personal Secretary I	5
	Personal Secretary II	5
		<hr/> 13
Confidential Assistant (ConA)	Confidential Assistant	2
Office Assistant (OA)	Office Assistant	2

Grade	Rank	Establishment
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* An Administrative Officer Staff Grade A (D6) post has been created on a supernumerary basis and held against this D8 post

Chauffeur (Chauffeur)	Chauffeur	1
Motor Driver (MD)	Motor Driver	1
<i>Total</i>		45

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 023

Question Serial No.

0895

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : How many staff are engaged in the routine work of the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs? What administrative support has to be directly provided to the Secretary? Please specify their actual performance and effectiveness.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) is currently staffed by five civil servants, comprising an administrative assistant, a press secretary, two personal secretaries and a chauffeur. The team provides a range of support services to SCA, including planning and coordinating the public, media and community functions attended by SCA, drafting speeches or statements made by the Secretary on these occasions, and handling correspondences addressed to the Secretary. Apart from working for the Secretary, for better utilisation of resources, the administrative assistant, the press secretary and a personal secretary are also engaged in other aspects of work relating to the Constitutional Affairs Bureau. Accordingly, only 55% of the salaries of the administrative assistant and a personal secretary are accounted for under Programme (1) – Director of Bureau's Office, while the remaining 45% are accounted for under Programme (2) – Constitutional Affairs. The press secretary is remunerated under the vote of the Information Services Department, as is the case for other press secretaries.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 024

Question Serial No.

0972

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for 2005-06 is \$2 million (6.1%) higher than the estimate for 2004-05. According to the Bureau, the increase is mainly due to increased requirement for “9+2”.

- (a) What amount will be spent on the “9+2”?
- (b) What is the “increased requirement”? What are the programmes under the “9+2” for 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply :

Under the Programme of Constitutional Affairs, provision for 2005-06 is 6.1% higher than that of 2004-05, which is mainly due to a net increase in provision required for the non-recurrent items and increased requirement for “9+2”. Information on expenditure for “9+2” related activities is set out below:

- (a) The estimated expenditure for “9+2” related activities for 2005-06 financial year is \$2.2 million.
- (b) Major expenditure items on “9+2” related activities include our participation in the Second Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation and Development Forum cum Trade Fair to be held in Sichuan in July 2005, as well as an incoming visit of representatives from the “9+2” General Coordination Offices in April 2005. With increasing communication and liaison amongst the “9+2” governments in promoting Pan-Pearl River Delta regional cooperation, it is expected that in 2005-06 we will need to attend more preparatory or working group meetings on “9+2” related issues. We will also continue to conduct study visits to the “9+2” region. To cater for the enhanced work requirement, resource earmarked in 2005-06 for this cause is higher than that for 2004-05 (i.e. 1.523 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 025

Question Serial No.

0973

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the estimated provision for the item 468 under subhead 700 “Enhanced Basic Law promotion activities, being the 15th anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law”? What promotion activities will be launched under this item?

Asked by : Hon. Abraham SHEK

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million for promoting the Basic Law, of which \$1.25 million is recurrent expenditure and another \$3.75 million is non-recurrent expenditure having been set aside for the promotion activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

2. Major activities in 2005-06 we will co-ordinate in promoting the Basic Law and further enhancing the public's understanding of it include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio promotional programmes, promotional activities co-organized with other sectors, promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum, production of TV announcements in the public interest and publication of the Basic Law Bulletin and other publicity materials.

3. The recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities :

- Production of TV announcement in the public interest
- Production of promotion materials (such as pamphlets, booklets and webgame)
- Promotional activities in collaboration with community organizations
- Sponsorship for Basic Law Bulletin

4. The non-recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities:

- Student Flag raising ceremony
- Basic Law Carnival
- Television and Radio Promotion Programmes
- Basic Law Roving Exhibition
- Basic Law Promotion Competitions
- Basic Law seminar
- Promotional activities co-organized with other sectors
- Basic Law promotion activities to be organized by the Youth Forum
- Production of TV announcements in the public interest

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 026

Question Serial No.

1119

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General
non-recurrent

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to Item 469, the review on constitutional development commenced in 2004-05 and its revised estimated expenditure for the year was \$2,545,000. Please provide details of the work programme and the breakdown of expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

In the 2004-05 financial year, the revised estimated expenditure under Item 469 was \$2.545M. The major expenditure items were:-

- (i) the production of four reports of the Constitutional Development Task Force (\$0.661M);
- (ii) public consultation events and publicity activities, including briefings, seminars, regional forums, focus groups, open forums, APIs and a dedicated website (\$0.916M);
- (iii) other expenses, including postage, temporary staff, stationery and other office miscellaneous items (\$0.968M).

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak
Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 027

Question Serial No.

1195

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under the Programme of Constitutional Affairs, provision for 2005-06 is 6.1% higher than that of 2004-05, which is mainly due to a net increase in provision required for the non-recurrent items and increased requirement for “9+2”. Please provide details of items involved and their respective expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

Regarding non-recurrent expenditure items for the 2005-06 financial year, a provision of \$1.5M has been earmarked for work relating to constitutional development. The provision is mainly for publication of reports, public consultation and publicity activities, salaries for one non-civil servant contract staff, and other miscellaneous expenses.

2. Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. It aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion. We hope to gain the support of the public and the legislature. Details of the consultation activities and the estimated expenditure will depend on the progress and requirement of the work of the Task Force.

3. Non-recurrent expenditure items also include expenditure to step up promotion of the Basic Law. To mark the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, we have allocated in 2005-06 a non-recurrent provision of \$3.75 million to step up the promotion of the Basic Law and to further enhance the public's understanding of it. The enhanced activities in 2005-06 include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio programmes, promotional activities co-organised with other sectors,

promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum and production of TV announcements in the public interest.

4. The estimated expenditure for “9+2” related activities for the 2005-06 financial year is \$2.2 million. Major expenditure items include those related to the planned incoming visit of representatives from the “9+2” General Coordination Offices in April 2005, and participation in the Second Pan-PRD Regional Cooperation and Development Forum cum Trade Fair to be held in Sichuan in July 2005. With the increasing communication and liaison involved in promoting Pan-Pearl River Delta regional cooperation, it is expected that in 2005-06 we will need to attend more preparatory or working group meetings. We will also continue to conduct study visits to the “9+2” region.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 028

Question Serial No.

1237

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under this Programme, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will “co-ordinate liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong” in 2005-06. Please provide information on:

- (1) details of the work programme, expenditure and staffing requirement; and
- (2) related liaison work conducted since 1 July 2002, such as organisations and individuals involved, topics of discussion and number of meetings held.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) In 2005-06, CAB will continue to coordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Our work programme include :
 - (a) liaising with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong;
 - (b) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
 - (c) where appropriate, briefing Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

We will use existing resources to implement the above work programme.

- (2) Since July 2002, CAB has been coordinating liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Major matters dealt with through this communication channel include:

- (a) exchange of information during SARS outbreak;
- (b) arrangement of a chartered flight to Taipei to bring back a Hong Kong tour group with one suspected SARS case;
- (c) timely assistance to the injured Hong Kong people involved in a serious traffic accident in Jiu-fen, Taiwan; and
- (d) assistance in rescue operations for Hong Kong fishermen in distress.

Apart from the above, we facilitated visits by Taiwan's business sector, journalists from Taiwan's newspaper/electronic media and visitors from other sectors. We arranged meetings with government bureaux/departments and visits to major infrastructural projects in Hong Kong. We also briefed them on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" here.

There has been frequent liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong through telephone calls and meetings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 029

Head : 144

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

1238

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under this Programme, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will “make suitable preparations for a review on the roles, functions and composition of District Councils” in 2005-06. What are the details of its work programme, expenditure and staffing requirement?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The review of the roles, functions and composition of the District Councils (DCs) is expected to commence by the end of this year. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the Home Affairs Department have set up a working group to make preparations.

2. When the review commences, we will issue a consultation document to seek the views of DCs and different sectors of the community. In conducting the review, we will have regard to the relevant statutory provisions, the original thinking behind the introduction of the district administration scheme, the recommendations put forth by the Government in the Report of the Working Group on District Councils Review published in 2001, and the experience of the operation of the DCs.

3. The Bureau will conduct the review with existing resources and will work closely with the Home Affairs Bureau and other relevant bureaux and departments in the process.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Clement C H Mak

Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 030

Question Serial No.

1320

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in the 2005-06 financial year is \$2.0 million (6.1%) higher than that of 2004-05, which is mainly due to requirement for non-recurrent items and co-operation projects among the 11 governments ("9+2") in the Pan-PRD region. What are the details of these work programmes and their respective expenditures?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Regarding non-recurrent expenditure items for the 2005-06 financial year, a provision of \$1.5M has been earmarked for work relating to constitutional development. The provision is mainly for publication of reports, public consultation and publicity activities, salaries for one non-civil servant contract staff, and other miscellaneous expenses.

2. Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. It aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion. We hope to gain the support of the public and the legislature. Details of the consultation activities and the estimated expenditure will depend on the progress and requirement of the work of the Task Force.

3. Non-recurrent expenditure items also include expenditure to step up promotion of the Basic Law. To mark the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, we have allocated in 2005-06 a non-recurrent provision of \$3.75 million to step up promotion of the Basic Law and to further enhance the public's understanding of the Basic Law. The enhanced activities in 2005-06 include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio programmes, promotional activities co-organised with other sectors,

promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum and production of TV announcements in the public interest.

4. The estimated expenditure for “9+2” related activities for the 2005-06 financial year is \$2.2 million. Major expenditure items include those related to the planned incoming visit of representatives from the “9+2” General Coordination Offices in April 2005, and participation in the Second Pan-PRD Regional Cooperation and Development Forum cum Trade Fair to be held in Sichuan in July 2005. With the increasing communication and liaison involved in promoting Pan-Pearl River Delta regional cooperation, it is expected that in 2005-06 we will need to attend more preparatory or working group meetings. We will also continue to conduct study visits to the “9+2” region.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 031

Question Serial No.

1321

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the provision earmarked for the Chief Executive by-election in the 2005-06 financial year? Does this provision include publicity on the method for selecting the new Chief Executive? Will the public be informed of the composition of the Election Committee and the method for electing its members, so as to enhance public awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of the Chief Executive by-election and its related system?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for conducting the Chief Executive election and the Election Committee Subsector by-elections is about \$22 million, comprising -

	\$M
(a) Staff cost for about 24 civil servants and 160 non-civil service contract staff for two to four months	10
(b) Other expenses (including the costs for hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, postage and printing, etc)	11
(c) Publicity	1
<hr/>	
Total	22

2. The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will endeavour to absorb the expenditure from provision reserved for conducting possible by-elections to the

Legislative Council and District Councils. Supplementary provision will be sought if and when necessary before the close of the 2005-06 financial year.

3. The methods for selecting the Chief Executive and members of the Election Committee are stipulated in the Basic Law and the Chief Executive Election Ordinance. The Chief Executive election and the Election Committee Subsector by-elections will be conducted in accordance with the Basic Law and the Chief Executive Election Ordinance.

4. A dedicated website for the Chief Executive election and the Election Committee Subsector by-elections will be launched as part of the publicity arrangements for these two elections. The Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Election Committee Subsector elections and the Chief Executive election issued by the Electoral Affairs Commission will be posted on the website. The Guidelines will include, among other things information on the composition of the Election Committee as well as the voting systems for both the Election Committee Subsector by-elections and the Chief Executive election. In addition, the REO will place advertisements in newspapers to publicize the nomination period and the polling date. The Electoral Affairs Commission will also hold press conferences to brief the media and the public on the two elections from time to time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak
Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 032

Question Serial No.

1322

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In the 2005-06 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will facilitate liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong Province, the Shanghai and Beijing Municipalities, as well as other provinces and regions in the Pan-PRD region on matters of common interest. What are the matters of common interest drawn up by the authorities concerned? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Since reunification in 1997, closer cooperation has been fostered between HKSAR and provinces and regions in the Mainland. High level cooperation mechanisms have been established between HKSARG and governments of Beijing, Guangdong, Shanghai, as well as 8 Mainland provinces/region and the Macao SARG in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region (Pan-PRD). These mechanisms, including the “Hong Kong-Beijing Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference”, “Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference”, “Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference” as well as “Pan-PRD Regional Cooperation Framework Agreement”, serve as solid foundations for sustained efforts to promote HK-Mainland cooperation.

2. Specific cooperation areas have been identified under each of these mechanisms and concrete initiatives are being formulated and followed up to promote closer cooperation between HKSAR and relevant cities/provinces/regions. Hong Kong-Beijing cooperation covers areas including economic and trade, professional exchanges, education, culture, tourism, environmental protection and Olympics economy. Hong Kong-Shanghai cooperation covers areas including airport, port and maritime, logistics, Shanghai Expo 2010, tourism, convention and exhibition industry, investment and trade, education, health and sports, financial services and professional personnel exchanges. Pan-PRD cooperation covers areas including infrastructure,

investment, business and trade, tourism, agriculture, labour, education and culture, information and technology, environmental protection, as well as health and prevention of infectious disease. For Hong Kong-Guangdong cooperation, key areas of cooperation in the coming year include, among other things, facilitation of Mainland enterprises to invest/list in Hong Kong, assisting Hong Kong enterprises to develop business in the Mainland, further facilitation of cross boundary people and cargo flow, support of research and technology development to help develop and upgrade the industries in Guangdong and Hong Kong, environmental improvement measures, and joint efforts to enhance development and competitiveness of the region.

3. To promote these multi-faceted cooperations which impinge on various policy areas, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will work to facilitate liaison and cooperation between government departments on both sides. An estimated expenditure of around \$2.316 million has been earmarked for such purposes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 033

Question Serial No.

1323

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational
expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In the 2005-06 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) has an establishment ceiling of 37 non-directorate posts and 7 directorate posts. Does the Government consider CAB's establishment commensurate with its workload? If so, what are the reasons? Is there any room for downsizing in light of its workload?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) has been keeping our establishment under review. In the 2003-04 financial year, CAB deleted one Directorate post, one Administrative Officer post and one Personal Secretary I post. In the 2004-05 financial year, we kept the overall establishment unchanged and made use of existing staff resources to handle additional tasks, which included providing support to the newly established Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference, Hong Kong/Beijing Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference, and stepping up Basic Law promotion activities.

2. CAB will delete one other non-directorate post in 2005-06. We will continue to review our establishment position in the light of changing circumstances.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 034

Question Serial No.

1430

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General
non-recurrent

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to General Non-Recurrent Item 468 "Enhanced Basic Law promotion activities in 2005-06, being the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law", please provide details of the activities and expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million for promoting the Basic Law, of which \$1.25 million is recurrent expenditure and another \$3.75 million is non-recurrent expenditure having been set aside for the promotion activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

2. Major activities in 2005-06 we will co-ordinate in promoting the Basic Law and further enhancing the public's understanding of it include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio promotional programmes, promotional activities co-organized with other sectors, promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum, production of TV announcements in the public interest and publication of the Basic Law Bulletin and other publicity materials.

3. The recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities :

- Production of TV announcement in the public interest
- Production of promotion materials (such as pamphlets, booklets and webgame)
- Promotional activities in collaboration with community organizations

- Sponsorship for Basic Law Bulletin

4. The non-recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities:

- Student Flag raising ceremony
- Basic Law Carnival
- Television and Radio Promotion Programmes
- Basic Law Roving Exhibition
- Basic Law Promotion Competitions
- Basic Law seminar
- Promotional activities co-organized with other sectors
- Basic Law promotion activities to be organized by the Youth Forum
- Production of TV announcements in the public interest

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 035

Question Serial No.

1489

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, it is stated that the bureau will help facilitate liaison and cooperation with the Guangdong Province, the Shanghai and Beijing Municipalities, as well as other provinces and regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta region on matters of common interest. What are the concrete plans and the estimated resources involved for such work?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Since reunification in 1997, closer cooperation has been fostered between HKSAR and provinces and regions in the Mainland. High level cooperation mechanisms have been established between HKSARG and governments of Beijing, Guangdong, Shanghai, as well as Mainland provinces/region and the Macao SARG in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region. These mechanisms, including the "Hong Kong-Beijing Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference", "Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference", "Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference" as well as "Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation Framework Agreement", serve as solid foundations for sustained efforts to promote HK-Mainland cooperation.

2. Specific cooperation areas have been identified under each of these mechanisms and concrete initiatives are being formulated and followed up to promote closer cooperation between HKSAR and relevant cities/provinces/regions. To promote these multi-faceted cooperations which impinge on various policy areas, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will work to facilitate liaison and cooperation between government departments on both sides. To further strengthen communication and liaison for the promotion of cooperation initiatives, we expect an increase in the number of incoming and outgoing visits, conferences and meetings in the 2005-06 financial year, and an estimated expenditure of around \$2.316 million has been earmarked for such purposes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 036

Head : 144

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

1490

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06, it is stated that the bureau will work closely with relevant bureaux and departments to make suitable preparations for a review on the roles, functions and composition of District Councils. Please provide details on the timeframes and the resources to be incurred.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The review of the roles, functions and composition of the District Councils (DCs) is expected to commence by the end of this year. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the Home Affairs Department have set up a working group to make preparations.

2. When the review commences, we will issue a consultation document to seek the views of DCs and different sectors of the community. In conducting the review, we will have regard to the relevant statutory provisions, the original thinking behind the introduction of the district administration scheme, the recommendations put forth by the Government in the Report of the Working Group on District Councils Review published in 2001, and the experience of the operation of the DCs.

3. The Bureau will conduct the review with existing resources and will work closely with the Home Affairs Bureau and other relevant bureaux and departments in the process.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Clement C H Mak

Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005 Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

CAB 037

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

Question Serial No.

1491

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs
Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General
non-recurrent

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The estimates of enhanced Basic Law promotion activities in 2005-06, being the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, will be \$3,750,000. What are the concrete plans for these activities and breakdown of estimates resources for each activity?

Asked by : Hon. Howard YOUNG

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million for promoting the Basic Law, of which \$1.25 million is recurrent expenditure and another \$3.75 million is non-recurrent expenditure having been set aside for the promotion activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

2. Major activities in 2005-06 we will co-ordinate in promoting the Basic Law and further enhancing the public's understanding of it include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio promotional programmes, promotional activities co-organized with other sectors, promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum, production of TV announcements in the public interest and publication of the Basic Law Bulletin and other publicity materials.

3. The recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities :

- Production of TV announcement in the public interest
- Production of promotion materials (such as pamphlets, booklets and webgame)
- Promotional activities in collaboration with community organizations

- Sponsorship for Basic Law Bulletin

4. The non-recurrent provision is reserved for the following activities:

- Student Flag raising ceremony
- Basic Law Carnival
- Television and Radio Promotion Programmes
- Basic Law Roving Exhibition
- Basic Law Promotion Competitions
- Basic Law seminar
- Promotional activities co-organized with other sectors
- Basic Law promotion activities to be organized by the Youth Forum
- Production of TV announcements in the public interest

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 038

Question Serial No.

1726

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the specific plan for co-ordinating the promotion of the Basic Law and conducting publicity activities in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure for the publicity activities concerned?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million for promoting the Basic Law, of which \$1.25 million is recurrent expenditure and another \$3.75 million is non-recurrent expenditure having been set aside for the promotion activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law.

2. Major activities in 2005-06 we will co-ordinate in promoting the Basic Law and further enhancing the public's understanding of it include a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a seminar, television and radio promotional programmes, promotional activities co-organized with other sectors, promotional activities organized by the Youth Forum, production of TV announcements in the public interest and publication of the Basic Law Bulletin and other publicity materials.

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- Basic Law Promotion Competitions
- Basic Law seminar
- Promotional activities co-organized with other sectors
- Basic Law promotion activities to be organized by the Youth Forum
- Production of TV announcements in the public interest

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 039

Question Serial No.

1727

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the demonstration of success in implementing the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ principle, what is the specific plan in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure for these publicity activities?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been keeping an overview of the implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and has been providing advice to bureaux and departments in this respect.

2. In 2005-06, we will continue to demonstrate to visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, and will introduce the latest development in Hong Kong through visits to Government bureaux and departments. Similar visit programmes for visitors from the Mainland, Macao, and Taiwan will also continue to be organized.

3. We will also make use of briefings by HKSAR’s overseas Economic and Trade Office, take the opportunities of overseas visits by senior Government officials, as well as through HKSAR’s participation in international fora, to widely publicize abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the Basic Law in the HKSAR.

4. We will continue to reach out to the local, Mainland and international communities including the distribution of publications on the implementation of the Basic Law, e.g. the “Hong Kong and its Basic Law” pamphlet.

5. We will deploy existing resources to carry out the above work in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak
Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 040

Question Serial No.

1728

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the specific plan for facilitating liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong Province, the Shanghai and Beijing Municipalities, as well as other provinces and regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta (Pan-PRD) region in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Since reunification in 1997, closer cooperation has been fostered between HKSAR and provinces and regions in the Mainland. High level cooperation mechanisms have been established between HKSARG and governments of Beijing, Guangdong, Shanghai, as well as Mainland provinces/region and the Macao SARG in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region. These mechanisms, including the “Hong Kong-Beijing Economic and Trade Co-operation Conference”, “Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference”, “Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference” as well as “Pan- Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation Framework Agreement”, serve as solid foundations for sustained efforts to promote HK-Mainland cooperation.

2. Specific cooperation areas have been identified under each of these mechanisms and concrete initiatives are being formulated and followed up to promote closer cooperation between HKSAR and relevant areas. To promote these multi-faceted cooperations which impinge on various policy areas, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will work to facilitate liaison and cooperation between government departments on both sides. To further strengthen communication and liaison for the promotion of cooperation initiatives, we expect an increase in the number of incoming and outgoing visits, conferences and meetings in the 2005-06 financial year, and an estimated expenditure of around \$2.316 million has been earmarked for such purposes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 041

Question Serial No.

1729

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for 2005-06 in regard to public consultation on constitutional development after 2007?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In the 2005-06 financial year, a provision of \$1.5M has been earmarked for work relating to constitutional development. The provision is mainly for publication of reports, public consultation and publicity activities, and other miscellaneous expenses.

2. Public consultation on the Fourth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force is continuing and will end on 31 May 2005. The Task Force aims to publish its Fifth Report in the latter half of this year after consultation with the newly elected Chief Executive. It aims to put forth a mainstream proposal to facilitate public discussion, and we hope to gain the support of the public and the legislature.

3. For budget planning purpose, a sum of about \$0.2M has been set aside in connection with public consultation on the Fourth Report and publication of the Fifth Report. Details of the other activities and the estimated expenditure will depend on the progress and requirement of the work of the Task Force.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

Regarding the drop by \$221.7 million (75.3%) in the estimated provision for 2005-06 under this programme, please provide the figure of provision reduction due to the 2005 civil service pay cut and a breakdown on reductions attributed to other causes.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG SumReply :

The provision for the Registration and Electoral Office in 2005-06 (\$73.8 million) is \$221.7 million lower than 2004-05 revised estimate (\$295.5 million). This is accounted for as follows –

Item	2004-05 (Revised Estimate) (\$M)	2005-06 (Estimate) (\$M)	Changes in provision (\$M)
Personal Emoluments and Personnel Related Expenses	45.1	32.6	-12.5 (-27.7%)
Departmental Expenses	15.5	15.5	0 (0%)
Election Expenses	234.9	25.7	-209.2 (-89.1%)
Total	295.5	73.8	-221.7 (-75.0%)

2. Of the total reduction in provision of \$221.7 million, \$0.7 million is accounted for by the civil service pay cut in 2005. The rest of the reduction is mainly due to the fact that resources reserved for the conduct and supervision of the 2004 Legislative Council election in 2004-05 are not required in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

Please provide the estimated provision for the preparation of the 2007 Village Representative elections under this programme in 2005-06 and ranks and scope of work of the temporary posts created for this purpose.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG SumReply :

The planned provision for the preparatory work for the 2007 Village Representative elections is \$1.14 million, of which \$0.26 million is for the staff cost of two time-limited civil service posts and \$0.88 million for other operating expenses. Two time-limited Senior Executive Officer posts are planned for creation in early 2006 to provide administrative support for the review and preparation of electoral guidelines and subsidiary legislation for the 2007 Village Representative elections. These posts will also assist in the preparatory work for the demarcation of District Council constituencies for the 2007 District Council election.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

Regarding the need to prepare and arrange for Election Committee by-election and Chief Executive election to be held in 2005 subsequent to the arising of vacancy in the office of the Chief Executive, what are the relevant estimated provisions? How will resources (including manpower and provisions) be redeployed or expanded in order to properly carry out the electoral exercises?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for conducting the Chief Executive election and the Election Committee Subsector by-elections is about \$22 million, comprising -

	\$M
(a) Staff cost for about 24 civil servants and 160 non-civil service contract staff for two to four months	10
(b) Other expenses (including the costs for hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, postage and printing, etc)	11
(c) Publicity	1
Total	22

We plan to temporarily redeploy 24 civil servants with experience in conducting elections from other government departments to assist in conducting the elections. Further, 160 non-civil service contract staff will be employed for a period of two to four months to provide the necessary support for the elections.

We will endeavour to absorb the expenditure from provision reserved for conducting possible by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils. Supplementary provision will be sought if and when necessary before the close of the 2005-06 financial year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

Are there any provisions earmarked under this programme for conducting the 2006 District Council elections and 2007 Chief Executive election? If yes, what are the resources involved? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG SumReply :

No provision has been included in the 2005-06 draft Estimates for conducting the 2007 District Council election and the 2007 Chief Executive election. The necessary provision will be sought in the 2006-07 draft Estimates.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

As the post of the Chief Executive (CE) fell vacant on 15 March, a new CE needs to be selected within six months in accordance with the provisions of Article 45 of the Basic Law. In this regard, could the Administration tell us the specific manpower arrangements and financial provision?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, FrederickReply :

The office of the Chief Executive (CE) became vacant on 12 March 2005. The election of a new CE will be held on 10 July 2005. The estimated expenditure for conducting the Chief Executive election and the Election Committee Subsector by-elections is about \$22 million, comprising -

	\$M
(a) Staff cost for about 24 civil servants and 160 non-civil service contract staff for two to four months	10
(b) Other expenses (including the costs for hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, postage and printing, etc)	11
(c) Publicity	1
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 22

We plan to temporarily redeploy 24 civil servants with experience in conducting elections from other government departments to assist in conducting the elections. Further, 160 non-civil service contract staff will be employed for a period of two to four months to provide the necessary support for the elections.

We will endeavour to absorb the expenditure from provision reserved for conducting possible by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils. Supplementary provision will be sought if and when necessary before the close of the 2005-06 financial year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ LAM Man-ho _____
Post Title	_____ Chief Electoral Officer _____
Date	_____ 8 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

What are the scope of work, ranks and remuneration of the two additional posts to be created in the Registration and Electoral Office in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hungReply :

Two time-limited Senior Executive Officer posts are planned for creation in early 2006 to provide administrative support for the review and preparation of electoral guidelines and subsidiary legislation for the 2007 Village Representative elections. The staff cost will be \$0.26 million. These posts will also assist in the preparatory work for the demarcation of District Council constituencies for the 2007 District Councils election. These two time-limited posts will be deleted upon completion of the exercise.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

With no mention of matters concerning the by-election of the new Chief Executive, information under the programme "Electoral Services" fails to give an account on the exact costs and expenses of the by-election. Please provide details of such expenses.

Asked by : Hon. TSANG Yok-sing, JasperReply :

We have not reserved in the draft Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06 provision specifically for the conduct of the Chief Executive election and the Election Committee Subsector by-elections because the vacancy in the office of the Chief Executive arose after the draft Estimates have been finalized.

The estimated expenditure for conducting the Chief Executive election and the Election Committee Subsector by-elections is about \$22 million, comprising -

	\$M
(a) Staff cost for about 24 civil servants and 160 non-civil service contract staff for two to four months	10
(b) Other expenses (including the costs for hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, postage, printing and transportation, etc)	11
(c) Publicity	1
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 22

We plan to temporarily redeploy 24 civil servants with experience in conducting elections from other government departments to assist in conducting the elections. Further, 160 non-civil service contract staff will be employed for a period of two to four months to provide the necessary support for the elections.

We will endeavour to absorb the expenditure from provision reserved for conducting possible by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils. Supplementary provision will be sought if and when necessary before the close of the 2005-06 financial year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

As shown by the key performance measure, the bureau has achieved an efficiency of 100% in issuing campaign arrangement notice to electors ten days before the poll in 2003 and in 2004. Is there any plan to advance the target date for issuing notice to electors? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

For the Legislative Council and District Council elections, the Registration and Electoral Office is required under the relevant electoral law to send a poll card at least ten days before polling day to each elector notifying him of the date of election, polling hours, the constituency to which he belongs, and the address of the polling station assigned to him. The poll card is sent together with a copy of the relevant candidates' introductory leaflets, a location map of the polling station assigned to the elector concerned, a guide on voting and a leaflet of the Independent Commission Against Corruption. This statutory timeframe has been set having regard to the lead time required, after the close of the nomination period, for the printing and delivery of the various election-related materials mentioned above to over 3.2 million registered electors.

Given the huge amount of election-related materials to be printed and sent to the electors concerned, the work has to be conducted in batches. Our records show that the first batch of election-related materials are normally sent to electors days ahead of the target date, whereas the last batch of election-related materials are sent to electors at least ten days before polling day. We will continue to make best endeavours to send the election-related materials to the electors as soon as possible.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

Among the 112 posts under the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office in 2005-06, how many are of pensionable posts, and how many are of contract posts?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chungReply :

All the 112 posts under the establishment of the Registration and Electoral Office in 2005-06 are pensionable posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

What are the concrete plans for the promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise in 2005-06? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chungReply :

The 2005 voter registration exercise will be conducted from 18 April to 29 June 2005. We will organize various publicity activities to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, and to remind registered electors who have changed addresses to update their records with the Registration and Electoral Office. The activities include:

- (i) sending voter registration forms to universities, post-secondary institutions, youth and elderly centres, banks, post offices, government departments and other organizations;
- (ii) setting up voter registration counters at major Registration of Persons Offices of Immigration Department; and
- (iii) placing advertisements in newspapers.

The provisional voter register and the final voter register will be published on or before 15 June 2005 and 25 July 2005 respectively.

The estimated expenditure for conducting the 2005 voter registration exercise and updating the voter register is about \$4.2 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

Why do two posts needed to be created in 2005-06 to prepare for the 2007 Village Representative elections? What is the scope of work of these two posts? Is it because there is not enough manpower in the current establishment to handle the work concerned? What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chungReply :

In line with past practice, additional executive support will be required to cope with the increased workload associated with the preparatory work for the 2007 Village Representative elections and the 2007 District Council election. We plan to create two time-limited Senior Executive Officer posts in early 2006 to provide administrative support for the review and preparation of electoral guidelines and subsidiary legislation for the 2007 Village Representative elections. These posts will also assist in the preparatory work for the demarcation of District Council constituencies for the 2007 District Council election. The two posts will be deleted upon completion of the exercise.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the original and revised estimates of all administrative expenses of the 2004 Legislative Council election. For our reference and comparison, please also provide the data of the 2000 Legislative Council election.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-kiReply :

The breakdown of the original and revised estimates of expenditure for the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election and information on the expenditure incurred for the 2000 LegCo election are set out below:

	2004 LegCo election Original <u>Estimate</u> (\$M)	2004 LegCo election Revised <u>Estimate</u> (\$M)	2000 LegCo election Actual <u>Expenditure</u> (\$M)
(1) Staff Cost			
- time-limited civil service posts	15.7	15.2	16.4
- non-civil service contract staff	38.5	41.8	38.3
(2) Publicity	50.0	45.1	89.7
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing and printing, etc)	171.3	140.8	130.8

Total	275.5	242.9	275.2
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Signature	
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):Programme : Electoral ServicesControlling Officer : Chief Electoral OfficerDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional AffairsQuestion :

Regarding the improper electoral arrangements, shortage of ballot boxes, chaotic polling procedures, failure of the computer systems and the overtime work of the polling staff on the polling day on 12 September 2004 as well as the consequential payout of compensatory allowance, please provide in detail the items and expenditure under the originally approved provision for the contingency measures implemented on the polling day of the Legislative Council election.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-kiReply :

The approved provision for conducting the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election is \$275.5 million, comprising -

	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	
- time-limited civil service posts	15.7
- non-civil service contract staff	38.5
(2) Publicity	50.0
(3) Other Expenses	171.3
(including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing and printing, etc)	
Total	275.5

The problems relating to the practical arrangements on polling day resulted in additional expenditure mainly in two areas. First, to address the problem of the shortage of ballot boxes in various polling stations, an additional transportation cost of about \$30,000 was incurred to deliver additional ballot boxes to the polling stations. Secondly, the problem in the compilation of voter turnout statistics due to the failure of the Interactive Voice Response System led to the late announcement of election results for geographical constituencies. As a result, polling and counting staff were required to remain on duty for a longer period than expected. Additional honorarium of about \$7 million was paid to the polling and counting staff for the extra working hours. All the additional expenditure is absorbed by the provision under “(3) Other Expenses” as set out in paragraph 1.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

In light of the review results of the chaos in the 2004 Legislative Council election, has the Registration and Electoral Office set aside any provision to implement the improvement measures? Please provide details if it has done so.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

In working out the practical arrangements for the upcoming Election Committee Subsector by-elections and the Chief Executive Election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has taken into account the review conducted by the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) on the 2004 Legislative Council election and the recommendations put forth in the EAC reports. In particular, the following measures which can be implemented immediately will be put in place in the upcoming elections:

- (a) arrangements are being drawn up to cater for emergency situations;
- (b) best endeavours have been made to recruit civil servants with experience in conducting elections as polling and counting staff; and
- (c) more senior officers (including the Chief Electoral Officer) will station at the Central Command Centre on polling days to strengthen the command structure.

The estimated expenditure for conducting the Election Committee Subsector by-elections and the Chief Executive Election (i.e. about \$22 million) has included expenditure to be incurred by (a) and (b) above. REO will endeavour to absorb the expenditure from provision reserved for conducting possible by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils. Supplementary provision will be sought if and when necessary before the close of the 2005-06 financial year.

REO will continue to review and improve the arrangements for future elections having regard to the longer term improvement measures put forth in the EAC Reports on the 2004 Legislative Council election and the report to be published by the Independent Committee of Experts. Among other things, REO will step up training on polling arrangements, so

that all those who may be involved in managing electoral arrangements will be fully equipped to do so. If the implementation of the improvement measures in future elections require additional resources, supplementary provision will be sought as necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ LAM Man-ho _____
Post Title	_____ Chief Electoral Officer _____
Date	_____ 8 April 2005 _____