

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Session No. :15

File name : CAB-e1.doc

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CAB001	0089	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB002	0115	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB003	0116	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB004	0121	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB005	0122	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB006	0123	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB007	0157	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB008	0158	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB009	0159	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB010	0190	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB011	0200	CHEUNG Man-kwong	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB012	0682	HUI Cheung-ching	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB013	0723	IP Kwok-him	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB014	0724	IP Kwok-him	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB015	0725	IP Kwok-him	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB016	0726	IP Kwok-him	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB017	0756	TIEN Pei-chun, James	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB018	0757	TIEN Pei-chun, James	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB019	0758	TIEN Pei-chun, James	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB020	0759	TIEN Pei-chun, James	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB021	0793	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB022	0794	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB023	0866	SIN Chung-kai	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB024	0867	SIN Chung-kai	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB025	0868	SIN Chung-kai	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB026	0883	CHU Yu-lin, David	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB027	0910	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB028	0971	LEE Cheuk-yan	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB029	1003	LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB030	1028	NG Margaret	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB031	1029	NG Margaret	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB032	1074	LAU Chin-shek	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB033	1075	LAU Chin-shek	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB034	1294	SIN Chung-kai	144	Constitutional Affairs

Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>CAB035</u>	1365	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB036</u>	1366	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB037</u>	1367	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB038</u>	1564	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB039</u>	1565	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB040</u>	1570	MA Fung-kwok	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB041</u>	1623	SZETO Wah	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>CAB042</u>	0189	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB043</u>	0580	YEUNG Sum	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB044</u>	0683	HUI Cheung-ching	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB045</u>	0727	IP Kwok-him	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB046</u>	0728	IP Kwok-him	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB047</u>	0741	IP Kwok-him	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB048</u>	0795	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB049</u>	0796	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB050</u>	0797	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB051</u>	1358	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB052</u>	1359	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB053</u>	1360	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	163	Electoral Services
<u>CAB054</u>	1624	SZETO Wah	163	Electoral Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 001

Question Serial No.

0089

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 : Regarding consultancy studies for policy formulation and assessment (if any) commissioned by your bureau, please provide details in the following format:

- (1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated in 2003-04:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

- (2) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2004-05? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

(1) No financial provision has been made for consultancy studies in 2003-04.

(2) No financial provision has been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 002

Question Serial No.

0115

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 : How many projects on the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law have been carried out in the 2003-04 financial year? What are the details of each project and which specific articles of the Basic Law does it promote? What is the expenditure of each project?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

In 2003-04, 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 training courses for primary and secondary school teachers, the Basic Law teaching resources webpage, production of Putonghua teaching materials with content on the Basic Law for civil servants, new ETV programmes on the Basic Law for primary school students, Inter-school Basic Law Souvenir Cover Design Competition, re-printing the Basic Law text and "An ABC Guide to the Basic Law", production of TV announcements in the public interest, publication of the Basic Law Bulletin, sponsoring Basic Law promotional activities under the Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme for Tertiary Institutions and sponsoring Basic Law promotional projects under the Community Participation Scheme.

2. Many of these promotional activities aim to promote the Basic Law in general. Some of them focus on specific issues in the Basic Law and related provisions. For instance, the Civil Service Training and Development Institute has organized seminars on "the Basic Law and the Bill of Rights" for newly recruited police officers, as well as seminars on specific topics such as the "implementation of Article 23 of the Basic Law," the "Basic Law and the Development of the Political Structure of the HKSAR" and the "Interpretation and Amendment of the Basic Law". We have also broadcast TV announcements in the public interest which focus on specific provisions of the Basic Law. These provisions include Articles 10, 111, 140, 149 and 155.

3. In 2003-04, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for these promotional activities amounted to \$3.46 million. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau itself contributed \$1.98 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law. The \$1.98 million was allocated for the following activities:

-	Production of TV announcements in the public interest	\$700,000
-	Roving Photo Exhibition to mark the Sixth Anniversary of the Implementation of the Basic Law	\$700,000
-	Booklet on implementation of the Basic Law	\$150,000
-	Sponsorship for seminars and conferences	\$70,000
-	Basic Law Souvenir Cover Design Competition	\$50,000
-	Interschool Quiz (preparatory stage)	\$50,000
-	Radio Quiz	\$50,000
-	Basic Law Promotion Day Competition (preparatory stage)	\$30,000
-	Others	\$180,000
Total		<hr/> \$1,980,000

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 003

Question Serial No.

0116

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 total expenditure on the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law in the 2004-05 financial year? Of which, how much will be spent on the promotion of and public education on Articles 45 and 68 of the Basic Law?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

In 2004-05, the relevant bureaux and departments have allocated a total of \$4 million for promoting the Basic Law. This represents an increase over the allocation of \$3.46 million in 2003-04. As in previous years, we would make use of a variety of channels to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. It is not possible to separately apportion the amount to be spent on the promotion of Articles 45 and 68. To cite an example: the publication "ABC Guide to the Basic Law" gives an overview of the Basic Law including Articles 45 and 68. It is difficult to apportion 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 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 004

Question Serial No.

0121

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) As regards co-ordination of the Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in the HKSAR, what are the details of liaison work undertaken in the 2003-04 financial year? What are their respective expenditures?
- (b) As regards co-ordination of the Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in the HKSAR, what are the details of the work planned for the 2004-05 financial year? What are their respective estimated expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

- (a) In 2003-04, Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) has continued to maintain an effective communication channel with Chung Hwa Travel Service (CHTS) on matters pertaining to Hong Kong/Taiwan relations. For example, during the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, we facilitated an effective exchange of information relating to SARS between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Through this communication channel, we have facilitated the handling of emergency matters. For example, CAB took prompt action in arranging a chartered flight to Taipei to bring back a Hong Kong tour group with one suspected SARS case in April 2003; CAB also facilitated the rescue operation in December 2003 where a group of Hong Kong fishermen in distress near Dongsha Qundao were safely brought home through coordination by the Maritime Rescue Cooperation Centre.

Apart from the above liaison work, 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 of the "One Country, Two Systems" here.

The above work was conducted using existing staff resources.

- (b) In 2004-05, we will maintain liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong on matters concerning the two places, including emergency matters. In addition, on Taiwan-related matters, we will continue to advise and assist bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan and where appropriate, brief visitors from Taiwan 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.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 005

Question Serial No.

0122

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 the work undertaken in the 2003-04 financial year by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in dealing with issues relating to constitutional development after 2007? What are their respective expenditures?
- (b) What are the details of the work to be undertaken in the 2004-05 financial year by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in dealing with issues relating to constitutional development after 2007? What are their respective expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

- (a) During the 2003-04 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau conducted internal study on issues relating to constitutional development after 2007. Following the establishment of the Constitutional Development Task Force in early January 2004, the Bureau has been providing support to the Task Force. The Bureau provided a dedicated team to serve as its secretariat. Further, the Bureau continues to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The main tasks of the Task Force at this stage is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of public on the issues.

The expenditure in 2003-04 incurred by CAB to provide secretariat support for the Task Force is \$1.08M. This sum comprised, in the main, the salaries of 6 additional staff temporarily redeployed from other departments, the establishment and maintenance of the constitutional development website, the production of an API to publicise the website, and associated office expenses.

In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff have been redeployed within the Bureau to support the Task Force Secretariat.

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

- (b) In the 2004-05 financial year, the Bureau will continue to provide support to the work of the Constitutional Development Task Force. The Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The expenditure required 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 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 006

Question Serial No.

0123

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 are the details of the work undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in 2003-04 financial year in facilitating official exchanges between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Central People's Government, other Mainland authorities and the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region? What are their respective expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau has assisted other bureaux and departments to establish channels of communication and develop a cordial and effective working relationship with their counterparts in the Mainland authorities. In addition, we also seek to promote better understanding between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the Mainland authorities through arranging visits by HKSAR Government officials to the Mainland and by Mainland officials to Hong Kong. In 2003, there were some 1,100 visits by HKSARG official delegations to the Mainland and a similar number of official visits by Mainland delegations to Hong Kong.

2. Similarly, we have provided assistance to other bureaux and departments in developing a cordial and effective working relationship with their counterparts in the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSARG). In 2003, there were some 130 visits by HKSARG official delegations to Macao and some 110 visits by MSARG official delegations to Hong Kong. We have maintained regular contact with the Chief Executive's Office of the MSARG to facilitate official exchanges.

3. The above duties are undertaken with existing staff resources.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 007

Question Serial No.

0157

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 the following information on constitutional development:

- (a) the amount of resources allocated in 2003-04 for conducting study on the issues of principles and legislative process relating to constitutional development in the Basic Law; the details and findings of the study;
- (b) the work to be undertaken in 2004-05 to deal with issues relating to constitutional development and to encourage active public participation in the discussion of constitutional reform, and the estimated expenditure for it.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

- (a) During the 2003-04 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau conducted internal study on issues relating to constitutional development after 2007. Following the establishment of the Constitutional Development Task Force in early January 2004, the Bureau has been providing support to the Task Force. The Bureau provided a dedicated team to serve as its secretariat. Further, the Bureau continues to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The main tasks of the Task Force at this stage is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of public on the issues.

The expenditure in 2003-04 incurred by the CAB to provide secretariat support for the Task Force is \$1.08M. This sum comprised, in the main, the salaries of 6 additional staff temporarily redeployed from other departments, the establishment and maintenance of the constitutional development website, the production of an API to publicise the website, and associated office expenses.

In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff have been redeployed within the Bureau to support the Task Force Secretariat.

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

The various issues of principle and the legislative process have been set out in a paper put forward by the Task Force to the Legislative Council Constitutional Affairs Panel on 14 January 2004, and in a statement made by the Chief Secretary at the Legislative Council sitting on 11 February 2004. The Task Force is in the process of gathering public views on these issues.

- (b) In the 2004-05 financial year, the Bureau will continue to provide support to the work of the Constitutional Development Task Force. The Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The expenditure required will depend on the progress and requirement of work.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 008

Question Serial No.

0158

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 endeavour has been made in 2003-04 by the Bureau to co-ordinate the Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in the HKSAR? What are the resources allocated for enhancing the liaison work in 2004-05 and what measures will be taken?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

- (a) In 2003-04, Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) has continued to maintain an effective communication channel with Chung Hwa Travel Service (CHTS) on matters pertaining to Hong Kong/Taiwan relations. For example, during the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, we facilitated an effective exchange of information relating to SARS between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Through this communication channel, we have facilitated the handling of emergency matters. For example, CAB took prompt action in arranging a chartered flight to Taipei to bring back a Hong Kong tour group with one suspected SARS case in April 2003; CAB also facilitated the rescue operation in December 2003 where a group of Hong Kong fishermen in distress near Dongsha Qundao were safely brought home through coordination by the Maritime Rescue Cooperation Centre.

Apart from the above liaison work, 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 of the "One Country, Two Systems" here.

The above work was conducted using existing staff resources.

- (b) In 2004-05, we will maintain liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong on matters concerning the two places, including emergency matters. In addition, on Taiwan-related matters, we will continue to advise and assist bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan and where appropriate, brief visitors from Taiwan 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.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 009

Question Serial No.

0159

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 measures will be taken by the Bureau in 2004-05 to assist the Government to implement the principle of "One Country, Two Systems"? In what way will it demonstrate its success in this aspect? What is the estimated expenditure of these measures?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

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

2. We will continue to do so in 2004-05 and demonstrate to interlocutors and visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle through briefings on the latest development in Hong Kong and visits to Government bureaux and departments, as well as through HKSAR's participation in the international fora.

3. Our work plan in this area also include arrangement of various visit programmes for visitors from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan, through which they can have first hand understanding of the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle in the HKSAR.

4. We will also make use of briefings by HKSAR's overseas Economic and Trade Office and take the opportunities of overseas visits by senior Government officials to widely publicize the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and the Basic Law in the HKSAR.

5. We will also continue to reach out to the local 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.

6. We will continue to make use of existing resources to do the above work in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 010

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: The estimated provision for 2004-05 is reduced by \$2.8 million over the previous fiscal year because of the completion of a non-recurrent item in relation to Basic Law promotion. What is the provision for, as well as the content of, the Basic Law promotion campaign in 2004-05? Are there any plans to provide funding for this purpose through internal redeployment of resources? If yes, how much?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. This represents an increase over the allocation of \$3.46 million in 2003-04. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law, as compared to the allocation of \$1.98 million in 2003-04.

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is committed to enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Our future strategy for promoting the Basic Law will focus on three aspects: to promote the Basic Law in a comprehensive manner, to incorporate the "one country" concept in promotion activities and to encourage wider participation of the community in the promotion of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, "Basic Law Promotion Day" Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of television announcements in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public's understanding of the Basic Law.

3. As necessary, CAB will consider allocating additional funding for Basic Law promotional activities.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 011

Question Serial No.

0200

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: What is the expense in respect of the post of Secretary for Constitutional Affairs in the 2004-05 Estimates?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

The expense in respect of the post of Secretary for Constitutional Affairs in the 2004-05 Estimates is \$3,232,000.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 012

Question Serial No.

0682

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: It is said in the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05" that the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will continue to co-ordinate the promotion of the Basic Law and conduct further publicity to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Please provide information on the proposed promotional programmes and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. HUI Cheung-ching

Reply:

In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. This represents an increase over the allocation of \$3.46 million in 2003-04. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law, as compared to the allocation of \$1.98 million in 2003-04.

2. As in previous years, we will make use of a variety of channels to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, "Basic Law Promotion Day" Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of television announcements in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public's understanding of the Basic Law.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____
Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____
27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 013

Question Serial No.

0723

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 enhancing liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong Province and Shanghai, please advise this Council:

- (a) on the financial provision involved in 2004-05 and the detailed breakdown of expenditure;
- (b) on the specific plan.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) has provided advice to bureaux and departments on establishing channels of communication as well as developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with the Mainland authorities, including those in Guangdong and Shanghai. In particular, CAB has been providing support to the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference and the newly established Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference.

2. In 2004-05, we will continue to perform these tasks. We will make use of existing staff resources to do so.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 014

Question Serial No.

0724

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 co-ordination of the Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in the HKSAR, please advise this Council:

- (a) on the work programme;
- (b) on the detailed breakdown of expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

- (a) In 2004-05, we will continue to maintain an effective communication channel with Chung Hwa Travel Service on matters pertaining to Hong Kong/Taiwan relations. In addition, we will continue to advise and assist bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan and where appropriate, brief visitors from Taiwan on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".
- (b) We will use existing resources to implement the above work programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 015

Question Serial No.

0725

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: The Bureau has indicated that it will 'continue to facilitate the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and demonstrate its success' in the coming year. Please advise this Council:

- (a) on the detailed breakdown of expenditure;
- (b) on the specific plan;
- (c) on the specific work arrangements, in particular on how to "demonstrate its success".

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

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

2. We will continue to do so in 2004-05 and demonstrate to interlocutors and visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle through briefings on the latest development in Hong Kong and visits to Government bureaux and departments, as well as through HKSAR's participation in the international fora.

3. Our work plan in this area also include arrangement of various visit programmes for visitors from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan, through which they can have first hand understanding of the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle in the HKSAR.

4. We will also make use of briefings by HKSAR's overseas Economic and Trade Office and take the opportunities of overseas visits by senior Government officials to widely publicize the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and the Basic Law in the HKSAR.

5. We will also continue to reach out to the local 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.

6. We will continue to make use of existing resources to do the above work in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 016

Question Serial No.

0726

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 co-ordination in the promotion of the Basic Law and the conduct of further publicity to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, please advise this Council:

- (a) on the specific plan in 2004-05;
- (b) on the detailed breakdown of expenditure;
- (c) on the details of promotional programmes of the Basic Law organised in the past three years and their respective expenditures; and
- (d) on the evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of the past promotional programmes in enhancing public understanding of the Basic Law.

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

- (a) The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is committed to enhancing the public's understanding of the Basic Law. Our future strategy for promoting the Basic Law will focus on three aspects: to promote the Basic Law in a comprehensive manner, to incorporate the "one country" concept in promotion activities and to encourage wider participation of the community in the promotion of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, "Basic Law Promotion Day" Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of TV announcement in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public's understanding of the Basic Law.
- (b) In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law.
- (c) From 2001-02 to 2003-04, the recurrent allocations of relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law are as follows –

<u>Year</u>	<u>(\$ million)</u>
2001/2002	2.94
2002/2003	2.78
2003/2004	3.46

In addition, a non-recurrent allocation of \$5.56 million was set aside in 2001-02 for Basic Law promotion.

The promotional activities carried out by the bureaux and departments supporting the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and its four working groups in the past three financial years are at Annex.

- (d) In 2000 and 2002, the 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 2000 to 48% in 2002. 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 public's understanding of the Basic Law has been enhanced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

**Promotional Activities Organized by Relevant Bureaux and Departments
To Promote the Basic Law in 2003-04**

(1) *Seminars, talks, exhibitions*

- ☐ Organising Basic Law roving exhibition
- ☐ Organizing an exhibition on “The National Flag, Emblem and Anthem of the People’s Republic of China”
- ☐ Organising Basic Law seminars for civil servants
- ☐ Organizing roving exhibition on National Education (content of the exhibition included the HKSAR regional flag and regional emblem and their relationship to the Basic Law)
- ☐ Organizing seminars on “Understanding National Flag and Regional Flag cum Training on Flag-raising”
- ☐ Organising district seminars on the promotion of the Basic Law for women
- ☐ Organizing celebrity talks series on national education and Basic Law education

(2) *Courses and educational materials*

- ☐ Organising Basic Law training courses for primary and secondary school teachers
- ☐ Designing the Basic Law teaching resources webpage
- ☐ Production of Putonghua teaching materials with content on Basic Law for civil servants
- ☐ Broadcasting new ETV programmes on the Basic Law for primary school students

(3) *Competition and games*

- ☐ Launching of teleline stories
- ☐ Organising Inter-school Basic Law Souvenir Cover Design Competition

(4) *Promotional materials and publications*

- ☐ Production of Basic Law leaflets (traditional and simplified Chinese, English and French versions)

- ☐ Re-printing the Basic Law text and “An ABC Guide to the Basic Law”
- ☐ Publishing booklets on implementation of the Basic Law
- ☐ Producing television announcements in the public interest
- ☐ Production of Basic Law Bulletin
- ☐ Promoting Basic Law through the distribution of the Basic Law Bulletin
- ☐ Distribution of computer mouse pads with Basic Law promotion slogans to schools

(5) *Sponsoring promotional activities*

- ☐ Sponsoring Basic Law promotional activities under the Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme for Tertiary Institutions (5 Projects)
- ☐ Sponsoring Basic Law promotional projects under the Community Participation Scheme (10 Projects)
- ☐ Sponsoring the Basic Law seminars

**Promotional Activities Organized by Relevant Bureaux and Departments
To Promote the Basic Law in 2002-03**

(1) *Seminars, talks, exhibitions*

- ☐ Organizing and sponsoring Basic Law promotion seminars
 - ☐ Organising half-day seminars for civil servants
- ☐ Organising district seminars on the promotion of the Basic Law for women

(2) *Courses and educational materials*

- ☐ Conducting Basic Law training courses for primary and secondary school principals and teachers
- ☐ Launching of the Moral and Civic Education Resources Net
- ☐ Launching new web-based course on the Basic Law entitled “A Simple and Handy Guide to the Basic Law” for civil servants

(3) *Competition and games*

- ☐ Conducting “Rule of Law and Civic Responsibility” Inter-school Project Competition Prize Presentation Ceremony
- ☐ Organising Basic Law Comic Strip Design Competition
- ☐ Producing copies of the Basic Law triathlon game CD-ROM
- ☐ Organising quiz on the Basic Law story
- ☐ Production of web game
- ☐ Launching of teleline stories

(4) *Promotional materials and publications*

- ☐ Publishing Basic Law Bulletin
- ☐ Distributing the Basic Law Bulletin to students
- ☐ Producing television announcements in the public interest
- ☐ Production of Basic Law leaflets
- ☐ Distributing gift packs to primary schools
- ☐ Re-printing “An ABC Guide to the Basic Law” and other teaching materials
- ☐ Conducting survey on public’s understanding of the Basic Law

(5) *Sponsoring promotional activities*

- ☐ Sponsoring Basic Law promotional activities under the Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme for Tertiary Institutes (3 Projects)
- ☐ Sponsoring Basic Law promotional projects under the Community Participation Scheme (16 Projects)

**Promotional Activities Organized by Relevant Bureaux and Departments
To Promote the Basic Law in 2001-02**

(1) *Seminars, talks, exhibitions*

- ☐ Organising Basic Law seminars for civil servants
- ☐ Organising district seminars on the promotion of the Basic Law for women

(2) *Courses and educational materials*

- ☐ Conducting Basic Law training courses for primary and secondary school principals and teachers
- ☐ Producing teaching materials to promote the Basic Law
- ☐ Producing ETV programmes on the Basic Law for primary school students
- ☐ Re-printing Basic Law teaching materials such as VCDs on “All about the Basic Law”

(3) *Competition and games*

- ☐ Conducting Inter-school Project Competition
- ☐ Conducting Inter-varsity Debate
- ☐ Conducting Inter-secondary School Debate
- ☐ Conducting Basic Law Story Writing Competition
- ☐ Organising Basic Law Screen Saver Design Competition
- ☐ Producing Basic Law Crossword Puzzle game set
- ☐ Launching of teleline stories

(4) *Promotional materials and publications*

- ☐ Producing CD-ROM on Civic Education Trail
- ☐ Publishing Basic Law Bulletin
- ☐ Designing screen saver programme with Basic Law message
- ☐ Distributing gift packs to primary schools
- ☐ Production of Basic Law leaflets
- ☐ Producing television announcements in the public interest

(5) *Sponsoring promotional activities*

- ☐ Sponsoring Basic Law seminars
- ☐ Sponsoring Basic Law promotional activities under the Basic Law Promotion Funding Scheme for Tertiary Institutes (2 Projects)
- ☐ Sponsoring Basic Law promotional projects under the Community Participation Scheme (15 Projects)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 017

Question Serial No.

0756

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 scope of work in regard to the promotion of “liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong Province and Shanghai”? Will financial provision be allocated for it? What are the details of expenditure? Why does the liaison and co-ordination efforts focus solely on Guangdong Province and Shanghai? Will financial provision be allocated for liaison and co-operation with other provinces and municipalities?

Asked by: Hon. Tien Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) has been providing advice to bureaux and departments on establishing channels of communication as well as developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with the Mainland authorities, including those in Guangdong and Shanghai. In particular, CAB has been providing support to the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference and the newly established Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference.

2. Whilst we have maintained close liaison with our counterparts in Guangdong and Shanghai, we have also maintained good ties with other provinces and municipalities to facilitate official exchanges between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and these provinces and municipalities. In 2003, there were some 1,100 official visits by HKSAR Government delegations to the Mainland and a similar number of visits by Mainland official delegations to Hong Kong.

3. In 2004-05, we will make use of existing resources to continue to perform these tasks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 018

Question Serial No.

0757

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: How will the Bureau further enhance its working relationships with the HKMAO and the MFA Office? Will financial provision be allocated for it?

Asked by: Hon. Tien Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Over the years, we have developed and maintained a good working relationship with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (OCMFA). In 2004-05, we will continue to enhance our working relationship with the two offices through frequent exchanges. Working meetings with the HKMAO and the OCMFA will be held from time to time to facilitate communication and discussion of issues of mutual concern.

2. We will continue to make use of existing resources to maintain and foster closer liaison with the HKMAO and the OCMFA.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 019

Question Serial No.

0758

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 does the Constitutional Affairs Bureau plan to do to facilitate the implementation of the "One Country, Two System" principle? What is the estimated expenditure for the plan? Please compare it with the corresponding figures of the past two years.

Asked by: Hon. Tien Pei-chun, James

Reply:

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

2. We will continue to do so in 2004-05 and demonstrate to interlocutors and visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle through briefings on the latest development in Hong Kong and visits to Government bureaux and departments, as well as through HKSAR's participation in the international fora.

3. Our work plan in this area also include arrangement of various visit programmes for visitors from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan, through which they can have first hand understanding of the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle in the HKSAR.

4. We will also make use of briefings by HKSAR's overseas Economic and Trade Office and take the opportunities of overseas visits by senior Government officials to widely publicize the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and the Basic Law in the HKSAR.

5. We will also continue to reach out to the local 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.

6. We will continue to make use of a similar level of existing resources to do the above work in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 020

Question Serial No.

0759

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 are the plans in hand for the implementation and promotion of the Basic Law?
What is the estimated expenditure for 2004-05? Please compare it with the corresponding figures of the past two years.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been keeping an overview of the implementation of the Basic Law in the HKSAR and providing advice to bureaux and departments in this respect. We will demonstrate to interlocutors and visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle through briefings on the latest development in Hong Kong and visits to Government bureaux and departments, as well as through HKSAR's participation in the international forum.

2. In 2004-05, we will continue to make use of existing staff resources to assist in implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and the Basic Law.

3. In respect of promotion of the Basic Law, our future strategy will focus on three aspects: to promote the Basic Law in a comprehensive manner, to incorporate the "one country" concept in promotion activities and to encourage wider participation of the community in the promotion of the Basic Law.

4. In 2004-05, we will, as in previous years, make use of a variety of channels to promote the Basic Law and to further enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, "Basic Law Promotion Day" Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of television announcement in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public's understanding of the Basic Law.

5. In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law.

6. In 2002-03, the recurrent allocations made by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounted to \$2.78 million, whereas a total allocation of \$3.46 million was made in 2003-04. In addition, a non-recurrent allocation of \$5.56 million was set aside in 2001-02 for Basic Law promotion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 021

Question Serial No.

0793

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 coordinating the promotion of the Basic Law and conducting further publicity in 2004-05? What is the estimated expenditure for the publicity activities concerned?

Asked by: Hon. TAM yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2004-05, we will, as in previous years, make use of a variety of channels to promote the Basic Law and to further enhance public understanding of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, "Basic Law Promotion Day" Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of television announcements in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public's understanding of the Basic Law.

2. In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 022

Question Serial No.

0794

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

Programme: (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In 2004-05, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will continue to facilitate the implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and demonstrate its success. What is the specific plan for this area of work? Will publicity activities be conducted? If so, 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 the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and has been providing advice to bureaux and departments in this respect.

2. We will continue to do so in 2004-05 and demonstrate to interlocutors and visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle through briefings on the latest development in Hong Kong and visits to Government bureaux and departments, as well as through HKSAR’s participation in the international fora.

3. Our work plan in this area also include arrangement of various visit programmes for visitors from the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan, through which they can have first hand understanding of the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle in the HKSAR.

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

5. We will also continue to reach out to the local 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.

6. We will continue to make use of existing resources to do the above work in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 023

Question Serial No.

0866

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Please provide a breakdown of the provision for entertainment expenses to be incurred by the Secretary for Constitutional affairs and the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, such as hosting and attending receptions, in the revised estimate for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05. Has the Government set an upper limit for such expenses? Are there any objective criteria for approving such expenses?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The revised estimate for 2003-04 on official entertainment expenses for the Constitutional Affairs Bureau as a whole is \$266,000. The majority of occasions are hosted by the Principal Official with civil service colleagues participating. For budget planning purposes, we have reserved the same amount for the draft estimate for 2004-05.

2. Under the current policy, expenditure on entertainment may be charged to public funds only when it is directly related to the discharge of an officer's duties or is a necessary part of making or maintaining contacts in his official capacity, and is in the public interest. All such expenditure must be approved by the head or deputy head of the bureau or department personally, or by a directorate officer duly authorised by the head of department.

3. To further enhance the exercise of economy when entertaining guests, the prevailing general guideline issued is that departments should aim to spend not more than \$250 per person for lunch and not more than \$400 per person for dinner, inclusive of tips. In the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, we have further lowered the guideline to \$240 and \$380 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 024

Question Serial No.

0867

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: Regarding the estimated expenditure of Director of Bureau's Office for 2004-05, please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure by (1) purposes (including the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions, etc.), and (2) expenditure items (salaries and establishment, allowance, job-related allowances and departmental expenses).

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The estimated provision for the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) comprises the salaries and allowances of SCA and staff in his office. As SCA and staff in his office are engaged in a wide range of official duties, it is difficult to provide a breakdown of their estimated salaries and allowances on the basis of the provision of their various official duties. The breakdown by expenditure items for the office of SCA in 2004-05 is as follows :

Salary of SCA	\$3,232,000
Staff in his office (including Administrative Assistant*, Personal Assistant, Chauffeur and Personal Secretary I*) –	
Salaries	\$1,606,000
Allowances	\$158,000
Total	\$4,996,000

* Only 55% of the salaries of the Administrative Assistant and Personal Secretary I are accounted for under Programme (1) while the remaining 45% are accounted for under Programme (2) as they are also engaged in work relating to the latter.

Signature

Name in block
letters

Clement C H Mak

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date

27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 025

Question Serial No.

0868

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Please list the revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs and the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, with particulars of: (1) the purposes and details of the visits; (2) the main means of transport and related expenses for the visits; (3) board and lodging expenses for the visits. What is the corresponding estimated expenditure for 2004-05? Has the Administration laid down a ceiling on the amount of allowances that can be granted and a set of criteria for approving such allowances?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) and the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (PSCA) is \$82,000, including transport, board and lodging expenses. These duty visits covered a number of cities in the Mainland, the United States and Australia. SCA and PSCA travelled to these places by air, through-train or ferry. The purposes of these duty visits included meeting working counterparts to exchange views on issues of mutual concern, attending conferences/seminars and updating our interlocutors on the latest developments of Hong Kong.

2. We have set aside \$70,550 in the 2004-05 estimates for duty visits outside Hong Kong.

3. Under the current policy, an officer who is on duty outside Hong Kong may be granted a subsistence allowance at specified daily rates to cover the cost of the appropriate standard of accommodation and meals, laundry charges, casual entertainment, gratuities, traveling expenses within town and all minor incidental out-of-pocket expenses. The rates of the subsistence allowance differ from country to country to take into account the different costs in different countries. The amount of allowance paid is abated in case of sponsorship of hotel accommodation or in cash.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 026

Question Serial No.

0883

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: It is said in the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05" that the Bureau will (1) continue to co-ordinate the promotion of the Basic Law and conduct further publicity to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law; (2) facilitate liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong Province and Shanghai and (3) co-ordinate the Government's liaison with Taiwan organizations in the HKSAR. Please provide information on the staffing and financial arrangements for the above items. In respect of the promotion of the Basic Law, will financial provisions be allocated for activities jointly organised by the Bureau and non-governmental organizations or community organizations. If yes, what is the amount?

Asked by: Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply:

- (a) In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is committed to enhancing the public's understanding of the Basic Law. Our future strategy for promoting the Basic Law will focus on three aspects: to promote the Basic Law in a comprehensive manner, to incorporate the "one country" concept in promotion activities and to encourage wider participation of the community in the promotion of the Basic Law. To that end, we will seek to organize promotional activities in collaboration with different groups within the community or provide sponsorship to them as appropriate.

- (b) Since reunification, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) has provided advice to bureaux and departments on establishing channels of communication as well as developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with the Mainland authorities, including those in Guangdong and Shanghai. In particular, CAB has been providing support to the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference and the newly established Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference.
In 2004-05, we will make use of existing staff resources to continue to perform these tasks.

- (c) In 2004-05, we will continue to maintain an effective communication channel with the Chung Hwa Travel Service on matters pertaining to Hong Kong/Taiwan relations. In addition, we will continue to advise and assist bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan and where appropriate, brief visitors from Taiwan on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”. We will do so with existing staff resources.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 027

Question Serial No.

0910

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question:

Regarding policy research projects and the expenditure involved, please provide detailed information on the policy research projects commenced or being conducted by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau itself or with the funding of the Bureau in 2003-04, including

- 1) project title, objective and subject matter;
- 2) expenses;
- 3) latest progress;
- 4) whether the Administration has followed up on the research results.

Also, is there any provision earmarked for policy research in 2004-05? If yes, what is the amount? What are the objectives and subject matters of the respective projects?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

Formulating and coordinating policies are the major tasks of policy bureaux, including the Constitutional Affairs Bureau. In 2003 – 04, to ensure that our policies would be implemented more effectively and better able to serve the long-term development needs of Hong Kong, we conducted policy research into a number of areas, including the electoral policies for the 2004 Legislative Council elections and matters relating to constitutional development after 2007. These research efforts were undertaken by in-house staff using existing resources. We do not maintain information on the detailed expenditure of each individual task.

2. In 2004-05, we will as appropriate conduct policy research within existing resources in order to further strengthen our policy-making capabilities and improve the quality of our policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 028

Question Serial No.

0971

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 of what the Administration has done over the past three years in the way of internal study and preparatory work to address the issue of constitutional development after 2007, and what are the expenses involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

As undertaken in the Policy Agenda Booklet published in January 2003, we began in 2003 to make suitable preparations for the review of constitutional development after 2007. During the 2003-04 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau conducted internal study on issues relating to constitutional development after 2007. Following the establishment of the Constitutional Development Task Force in early January 2004, the Bureau has been providing support to the Task Force. The Bureau provided a dedicated team to serve as its secretariat. Further, the Bureau continues to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The main tasks of the Task Force at this stage is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of public on the issues.

2. The expenditure in 2003-04 incurred by CAB to provide secretariat support for the Task Force is \$1.08M. This sum comprised, in the main, the salaries of 6 additional staff temporarily redeployed from other departments, the establishment and maintenance of the constitutional development website, the production of an API to publicise the website, and associated office expenses.

3. In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff have been redeployed within the Bureau to support the Task Force Secretariat.

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

Signature

Name in block
letters

Clement C H Mak

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date

27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 029

Question Serial No.

1003

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: One of the main responsibilities of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau is to “facilitate the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law”.

Has the Bureau assessed the expenditure and effectiveness of such work in 2003-04? If so, please provide the details. If not, please give the reasons. What are the details, estimated expenditure, target groups and their numbers as well as the expected effectiveness of such work in 2004-05?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply:

In 2000 and 2002, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (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 2000 to 48% in 2002. 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. We plan to undertake another survey in 2004.

2. In 2004-05, we will, as in previous years, make use of a variety of channels to promote the Basic Law and to enhance the public's understanding of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, “Basic Law Promotion Day” Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of television announcements in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public's understanding of the Basic Law.

3. Many of these promotional activities are aimed at reaching out to the general public and the others are focused on specific target groups including civil servants, students and teachers.

4. In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. CAB itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

CAB 030

Question Serial No.

1028

Head : 144: GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What practical steps are the Constitutional Affairs Bureau taking to work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to assist the 2004 LegCo election? How much expenditure is the CA Bureau putting on this?

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

In preparation for the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election, we have been working closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) on the drafting of subsidiary legislation in respect of the delineation of geographical constituencies for the election, the financial assistance scheme for candidates, and the printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers.

2. In the coming months, we will continue to work closely with the EAC in carrying out the preparatory work for the 2004 LegCo election, including the preparation of the guidelines on the election-related activities and the drafting of subsidiary legislation on electoral procedures. We are also co-ordinating the publicity programmes for the 2004 Voter Registration Campaign and the LegCo election.

3. These tasks are carried out as part of the policy work relating to elections done by the Bureau. The necessary resources and the expenditure involved in carrying out the above work is absorbed within the recurrent allocation to the Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H MAK

Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 031

Question Serial No.

1029

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: How much expenditure is the CA Bureau allowing for to promote consultation on the constitutional development after 2007? What events and publications are being planned for 2004?

Asked by: Hon. Margaret Ng

Reply:

Following the establishment of the Constitutional Development Task Force (the Task Force) in early January 2004, the Bureau has been providing support to the Task Force. The Bureau provided a dedicated team to serve as its secretariat. Further, the Bureau continues to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The main tasks of the Task Force at this stage is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of the public on the issues. All written submissions by organizations and individuals to the Task Force will be published for public information, unless the organizations or individuals concerned request confidentiality.

2. The expenditure in 2003-04 incurred by the CAB to provide secretariat support for the Task Force is \$1.08M. This sum comprised, in the main, the salaries of six additional staff temporarily redeployed from other departments, the establishment and maintenance of the constitutional development website, the production of an API to publicise the website, and associated office expenses.

3. In addition, one Administrative Officer and two supporting staff have been redeployed within the Bureau to support the Task Force.

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

5. In the 2004 – 05 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will continue to provide support to the Task Force. The expenditure required for 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 _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 032

Question Serial No.

1074

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 for extensive public consultation on the pattern of constitutional development after 2007 in the estimated expenditure for 2004-05? If yes, please specify the amount of estimated expenditure earmarked and details of the action plan. If no, please state the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply:

During the 2003-04 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau conducted internal study on issues relating to constitutional development after 2007. Following the establishment of the Constitutional Development Task Force (the Task Force) in early January 2004, the Bureau has been providing support to the Task Force. The Bureau provided a dedicated team to serve as its secretariat. Further, the Bureau continues to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The main tasks of the Task Force at this stage is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of the public on the issues.

2. The expenditure in 2003-04 incurred by the CAB to provide secretariat support for the Task Force is \$1.08M. This sum comprised, in the main, the salaries of six additional staff temporarily redeployed from other departments, the establishment and maintenance of the constitutional development website, the production of an API to publicise the website, and associated office expenses.

3. In addition, one Administrative Officer and two supporting staff have been redeployed within the Bureau to support the Task Force.

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

5. In the 2004 – 05 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will continue to provide support to the Task Force. The expenditure required 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 _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :Programme : (2) Constitutional AffairsControlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional AffairsDirector of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Government has pledged to review the structure of the District Councils and whether to maintain/abolish the appointed membership after the second term District Councils have been formed. Please advise whether this review will be conducted in 2004-05. If so, please provide details of the estimated expenditure and the work plan respectively.

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shekReply :

In the 2004-05 financial year, we will begin to make suitable preparations for a review on the function and composition of the District Councils (DCs). We will also take into account the experience of the operations of the second term DCs since 2004. The Bureau will do so 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 Clement C H Mak _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs _____

Date 27 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 034

Question Serial No.

1294

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The 2004 Policy Address has mentioned about the need to raise the standard of policy research undertaken by the Government:

“To improve our governance, we must raise the level of sophistication with which both the Government and the community handle policy issues. We need to do more public policy research, particularly from a macro and long-term perspective. Objective and concrete public policy research will help us better realise the objectives of effective governance. It will help us avoid sweeping, politicised and emotional policy debates, thus making it easier for the Government and various sectors of the community to reach a consensus on public issues. This will ensure that our policies are implemented more effectively and better able to serve the long-term development needs of Hong Kong.”

Please advise whether provision has been made or resources deployed in the 2004-05 Estimates to take forward a stated commitment of the Policy Address that public policy matters will be pursued with a higher standard. If yes, please give a detailed account of the projects funded. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

Since the publication of the 2004 Policy Address, the Central Policy Unit (CPU) has followed up on the commitment referred to in the question by exploring ways to promote research on public policy issues and develop the human resources required. We understand that the CPU is formulating an agenda for policy research so as to take forward research on priority issues. To meet this objective, we understand that CPU will carry out relevant research work using in-house resources as far as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 035

Question Serial No.

1365

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:The Constitutional Affairs Bureau has set out the issue of constitutional development after 2007 as one of the matters requiring special attention in 2004-05. Please advise this Council:

- (1) whether provision has been allocated for the conduct of general opinion survey on constitutional development. If yes, when will it be conducted? If not, what are the reasons for that? What will the Government do to ensure views of the general public are extensively heard and accepted?
- (2) whether the Government has a specific timetable for constitutional development. What are the resources involved?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply:

- (1) At this stage, the main tasks of the Constitutional Development Task Force, which was established in January 2004, is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of public on the issues. The Task Force is in the process of gathering views from a wide spectrum of the community on these issues. There is currently no plan to conduct general opinion surveys on the various issues.
- (2) The Task Force will consider the next steps of its work, taking into account the progress made in the current phase. The actual expenditure required will depend on the progress and requirement of work of the Task Force.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 036

Question Serial No.

1366

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: The Constitutional Affairs Bureau will continue to co-ordinate the promotion of the Basic Law and conduct further publicity to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Please advise this Council:

(1) on the breakdown of promotional programmes;

(2) on the resources involved.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply:

Our future strategy for promoting the Basic Law will focus on three aspects: to promote the Basic Law in a comprehensive manner, to incorporate the “one country” concept in promotion activities and to encourage wider participation of the community in the promotion of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, “Basic Law Promotion Day” Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of television announcement in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public’s understanding of the Basic Law.

2. In 2004-05, the recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 037

Question Serial No.

1367

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 co-ordination of the Government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in the HKSAR, please advise this Council on the detailed plans to facilitate the liaison and exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply:

In 2004-05, we will continue to maintain an effective communication channel with Chung Hwa Travel Service on matters pertaining to Hong Kong/Taiwan relations. In addition, we will continue to advise and assist bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan and where appropriate, brief visitors from Taiwan on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____
Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____
27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 038

Question Serial No.

1564

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 respect of the 2004-05 Estimates, does the expenditure of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in 2004-05 represent an increase, or decrease, against expenditure in the year prior to the implementation of the accountability system? What is the amount of increase or decrease? What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

The 2004-05 Estimate of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau as compared with our actual expenditure in 2001-02 (i.e. the financial year immediately before the implementation of the Accountability System for Principal Officials in July 2002) are as follows:

2004-05 Estimate (a)	2001-02 Actual Expenditure (b)	Change (a – b)
\$34.4M	\$35.2M	-\$0.8M

2. The estimate for 2004-05 is \$0.8 million lower than the actual expenditure in 2001-02. This is due to a combination of changes including reduction in the staffing establishment and the level of non-recurrent expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 039

Question Serial No.

1565

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: One of the main responsibilities of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau under Programme (2) is to “address the issue of constitutional development after 2007”. Please state in detail the establishment of staff engaged in addressing the issue of constitutional development after 2007, and also their job content and specific tasks. How much time, on average, does the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs spend each month in addressing these matters? Please provide details of his work in this aspect.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

During the 2003-04 financial year, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau conducted internal study on issues relating to constitutional development after 2007. Following the establishment of the Constitutional Development Task Force in early January 2004, the Bureau has been providing support to the Task Force. The Bureau provided a dedicated team to serve as its secretariat. Further, the Bureau continues to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The main tasks of the Task Force at this stage is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of public on the issues.

2. The expenditure in 2003-04 incurred by CAB to provide secretariat support for the Task Force is \$1.08M. This sum comprised, in the main, the salaries of 6 additional staff temporarily redeployed from other departments, the establishment and maintenance of the constitutional development website, the production of an API to publicise the website, and associated office expenses.

3. In addition, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff have been redeployed within the Bureau to support the Task Force Secretariat.

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

5. On average, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs has spent more than 50% of his time in dealing with issues relating to constitutional development after 2007. His key areas of work in this respect include providing policy input to the work of the Constitutional Development Task Force, attending the meetings between the Task Force and various organisations and individuals, giving guidance to the Task Force Secretariat, and dealing with relevant Legislative Council business.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 040

Question Serial No.

1570

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) What specific measures will the Bureau take to “continue to co-ordinate the promotion of the Basic Law and conduct further publicity to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law”? What is the current evaluation of the public’s understanding of the Basic Law? What is the estimated provision required to take forward the above measures? What will the Bureau do to make good use of the provision to enhance public understanding of the Basic Law?

(2) Please provide detailed information on how to “facilitate liaison and co-operation with the Guangdong Province and Shanghai on matters of common interests”. What is the estimated provision?

Asked by: Hon. MA Fung-kwok

Reply:

(1) In 2004-05, we would, as in previous years, make use of a variety of channels to promote the Basic Law and to further enhance the public’s understanding of the Basic Law. Planned activities for 2004-05 include: Basic Law seminars, “Basic Law Promotion Day” Competition in schools, Basic Law Speech Contest, Basic Law Ambassador Scheme, civic education teacher development programme, a new series of television announcements in the public interest, posters on National and Regional Symbols, TV Quiz, web games and a survey on the public’s understanding of the Basic Law.

In 2000 and 2002, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (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 2000 to 48% in 2002. 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. We plan to undertake another survey in 2004.

The recurrent expenditure allocated by relevant bureaux and departments for promoting the Basic Law amounts to \$4 million. The CAB itself will contribute \$2.215 million under Head 144 for promoting the Basic Law.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is committed to enhancing the public's understanding of the Basic Law and our promotional efforts in the past have proved to be effective. Our future strategy for promoting the Basic Law will focus on three aspects: to promote the Basic Law in a comprehensive manner, to incorporate the "one country" concept in promotion activities and to encourage wider participation of the community in the promotion of the Basic Law.

- (2) Since reunification, the CAB has provided advice to bureaux and departments on establishing channels of communication as well as developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with the Mainland authorities, including those in Guangdong and Shanghai. In particular, CAB has been providing support to the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference and the newly established Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference.

In 2004-05, we will make use of existing staff resources to continue to perform these tasks.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 041

Question Serial No.

1623

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: One of the main responsibilities of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau under this Programme is to "address the issue of constitutional development after 2007". Please state in detail the specific tasks and timetable of the Bureau, from now up to 2007, for addressing the issue of constitutional development after 2007.

Asked by: Hon. SZETO Wah

Reply:

Following the establishment of the Constitutional Development Task Force in early January 2004, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been providing support to the Task Force. The Bureau provided a dedicated team to serve as its secretariat. Further, the Bureau continues to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. The main tasks of the Task Force at this stage is to examine in depth the issues of principle and the legislative process in the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, to consult the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, and to listen to the views of public on the issues.

2. The Task Force will consider the next steps of its work, taking into account the progress made in the current phase.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak
letters _____

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB042

Question Serial No.

0189

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 : It is estimated that provision for 2004-05 is \$138.8 m, or 70.3%, higher than the funding allocation for 2003-04, because the Office will be responsible for the conduct and supervision of the 2004 LegCo election.

- (a) Breakdown of expenditure items (e.g. promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise, making of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements for the election, printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers, etc)
- (b) How do the expenditure items compare with those of the LegCo election in 2000?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The total provision of \$336.2 million in 2004-05 to the Registration and Electoral Office includes an amount of \$267 million for the conduct of the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election. For planning purposes, the amount comprises the following main items :

(a)	(1)	Staff Cost	\$M
		– time-limited civil service posts	13.1
		– non-civil service contract staff	35.8
	(2)	Publicity	50
	(3)	Other Expenses	168.1
		(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			267.0

Depending on actual work requirement, resources may be redeployed among the various items.

(b) A comparison of the planned expenditure items for the 2004 LegCo election and the actual expenditure items for the 2000 LegCo election is set out below:

	2004 LegCo <u>election</u> \$M	2000 LegCo <u>election</u> \$M
(1) Staff Cost		
- time-limited civil service posts	15.7	16.4
- non-civil service contract staff	38.5	38.3
(2) Publicity	50	89.7
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorary for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing and printing, etc)	171.3	130.8
<hr/>		
Total	275.5*	275.2

* The amount includes the expenditure of \$8.5m incurred in 2003-04 and the budgeted provision of \$267m included in the 2004-05 draft Estimates.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LI Wing
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB043

Question Serial No.

0580

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:

- (a) With regard to the 2004-05 Estimate, please provide a breakdown of the expenditure and the amount of each item for the 2004 Legislative Council election.
- (b) What is the provision for voter registration in the 2004-05 Estimate? Will there be any new measures of voter registration introduced? What does the Administration plan to do to encourage the public to register as electors?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The total provision of \$336.2 million in 2004-05 to the Registration and Electoral Office includes an amount of \$267 million for the conduct of the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election. For planning purposes, the amount comprises the following main items:

(a)	(1)	Staff Cost	\$M
		– time-limited civil service posts	13.1
		– non-civil service contract staff	35.8
	(2)	Publicity	50
	(3)	Other Expenses	168.1
		(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)	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>267.0</u>

Depending on actual work requirement, resources may be redeployed among the various items.

- (b) The planned provision for the various publicity activities of the 2004 Voter Registration Campaign is \$15 million. The planned provision relating to the processing of application forms received, the compilation and publication of the provisional and final voter registers, and other operational expenses, is \$16.5 million.

During the Voter Registration Campaign, we will adopt a multi-pronged and result-oriented approach under which we will organize a variety of activities, including setting up roving registration counters at popular locations and conducting household visits to newly developed residential areas. A new initiative is the sending of appeal letters to all households in Hong Kong, encouraging eligible persons to register as electors and reminding registered electors who have recently changed their addresses to update their records with the Registration and Electoral Office. These activities will be supported by awareness raising measures, including television and radio announcements of public interest, advertisements in public transport, plus banners and buntings in selected locations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB044

Question Serial No.

0683

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 : It is indicated in the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision that there will be an increase in requirements due to the conduct and supervision of the 2004 Legislative Council election. Please provide a breakdown of the items of expenditure and the amounts involved.

Asked by : Hon. HUI Cheung-ching

Reply :

The total provision of \$336.2 million in 2004-05 to the Registration and Electoral Office includes an amount of \$267 million for the conduct of the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election. For planning purposes, the amount comprises the following main items :

(1)	Staff Cost	\$M
	– time-limited civil service posts	13.1
	– non-civil service contract staff	35.8
(2)	Publicity	50
(3)	Other Expenses	168.1
	(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)	
<hr/> Total		267.0

Depending on actual work requirement, resources may be redeployed among the various items.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB045

Question Serial No.

0727

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:

With regard to the promotion and conduct of the Voter Registration Campaign for the 2004 Legislative Council election, could the Administration provide us with:

- (a) the specific timetable for its implementation and the details of its content;
- (b) the specific details of the provision and its itemized breakdown according to use; and
- (c) the basis of the projection that there will be 180 000 new electors registered and 300 000 elector records updated.

Asked by : Hon. Ip Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The 2004 Voter Registration Campaign will be conducted from 3 April to 16 May 2004. During the six-week campaign, we will adopt a multi-pronged and result-oriented approach under which we will organize a variety of activities, including setting up roving registration counters at popular locations and conducting household visits to newly developed residential areas. A new initiative is the sending of appeal letters to all households in Hong Kong, encouraging eligible persons to register as electors and reminding registered electors who have recently changed their addresses to update their records with the Registration and Electoral Office. These activities will be supported by awareness raising measures, including television and radio announcements of public interest, advertisements in public transport, plus banners and buntings in selected locations.

The provisional voter register and the final voter register will be published on or before 15 June 2004 and 21 July 2004 respectively.

- (b) The planned provision for the various publicity activities of the 2004 Voter Registration Campaign is \$15 million. The planned provision relating to the processing of application forms received, the compilation and publication of the provisional and final voter registers, and other operational expenses is \$16.5 million.

- (c) We have stated in the draft Estimates that our performance indicator is to register 180 000 new electors and update the records of 300 000 registered electors during the 2004 calender year. This performance indicator is arrived at having regard to the actual figures achieved in the 2003 calender year which is 169 333 and 267 299 respectively.

We will be taking active steps to register as many new electors and to update as many election records as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB046

Question Serial No.

0728

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 :

With regard to the printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the 2004 Legislative Council election, could the Administration provide us with the following information:

- a) What are the details of the expenditure involved and its itemized breakdown according to use?
- b) Will the public be briefed about the new arrangements for the ballot papers and will there be any publicity drive to promote them? If yes, what are the specific arrangements and what is the expenditure involved? If no, why not?

Asked by : Hon. Ip Kwok-him

Reply :

- a) A provision of \$4 million has been reserved for expenses relating to the printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers. The breakdown is as follows:

	\$ M
Staff cost	1.7
Design and printing of ballot paper	1.2
New ballot boxes	0.7
Others	0.4
Total:	4.0

The staff cost is for the processing of applications by organizations and individuals to register with the Electoral Affairs Commission their names, abbreviations and emblems.

- b) We will be conducting a publicity campaign for the 2004 Legislative Council election later this year, which will include publicity for the new ballot papers. We will work out details of the publicity arrangements and the expenditure involved at a later stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

CAB047

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Question Serial No.

0741

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 the provision for 2004-05 is \$138.8 million higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04, could the Administration provide us with the following information:

- c) What are the details of the expenditure involved and its itemized breakdown according to use; and
- d) the specific arrangements for the work involved.

Asked by : Hon. Ip Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a)&(b) The provision for the Registration and Electoral Office in 2004-05 (\$336.2 million) is \$138.8 million higher than 2003-04 revised estimate (\$197.4 million). This is accounted for as follows -

Item	2003-04 (Revised Estimate) (\$M)	2004-05 (Estimate) (\$M)	Changes in provision (\$M)
Personal Emoluments and Personnel Related Expenses	50.6	46.3	-4.3 (-8.5%)
Departmental Expenses	11.1	18.0	6.9 (+62.2%)
Election Expenses	135.7	271.9	136.2 (+100.4%)
Total	197.4	336.2	138.8 (+70.3%)

The decrease in provision for personal emoluments is due to the civil service pay cut.

The additional departmental expenses is for recurrent expenditure of the new Electoral and Registration System to enhance the work related to delineation of geographical constituencies, voter registration and elections.

The increase in election expenses is mainly due to the conduct and supervision of the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election, which involves a series of essential work including:

- (a) the conduct of a voter registration exercise lasting six weeks from 3 April to 16 May 2004;
- (b) the printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers;
- (c) the conduct and supervision of the polling and counting of the 2004 LegCo election; and
- (d) the processing of claims by candidates under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for the LegCo election.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB048

Question Serial No.

0795

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 : The Registration and Electoral Office will delete 33 posts in 2004-05, or 22.8% of its establishment. Please provide a list of the titles of these deleted 33 posts and their scheduled dates of deletion. What are the arrangements for staff affected by the exercise?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

There will be a net deletion of 33 posts in the Registration and Electoral Office in 2004-05, as follows -

	<u>Post</u>
Executive Officer	26
Clerical Officer	4
<u>Supplies Supervisor and others</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	33

These posts are scheduled for deletion after the completion of the 2004 Legislative Council election. The deletions are planned to take place from November 2004 to January 2005. The staff affected will be re-posted to other government departments through their respective Heads of Grade.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

CAB049

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Question Serial No.

0796

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:

The election expenses of 2004-05 have increased by 100% to \$270 million when compared with the election expenses for conducting Village Representative election and the District Council election last year. What are the reasons for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The budgetted provision for election expenses in the 2004-05 draft Estimates (\$272 million) is higher than the Revised Estimates for election expenses of 2003-04 (\$136 million) by \$136 million mainly because the funding requirement of the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election is greater than that of 2003 District Council (DC) election*. The following major reasons account for the difference in requirement:

- (a) In the 2003 DC election, a number of constituencies were uncontested and there was no need to set up polling stations for these uncontested constituencies.
- (b) Additional resources are required for conducting elections in the functional constituencies for the LegCo election.
- (c) The implementation of the two newly enacted subsidiary legislation, i.e. the Particulars Relating to Candidates on Ballot Papers (LegCo) Regulation and the Electoral Affairs Commission (Financial Assistance for LegCo Elections) (Application and Payment Procedure) Regulation will incur additional costs.
- (d) The planned provision for conducting the publicity programmes for the 2004 LegCo election is more than the expenditure incurred by the publicity programmes for the 2003 DC election, due to the greater importance of LegCo election and the need to cover functional constituencies.

* Village Representative election is funded by Home Affairs Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB050

Question Serial No.

0797

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 : Please provide an itemized comparison of the election expenses of 2004-05 and those of 2000-01.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The breakdown of the election expenses in 2000-01 and 2004-05 is as follows:

	2000-01 (Actual) (\$M)	2004-05 (Estimate) (\$M)
(1) Legislative Council (LegCo) election		
– non-civil service contract staff	28.5	35.8
– publicity	49.1	50.0
– 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)	113.9	168.1
<i>Sub-total:</i>	191.5	253.9
(2) LegCo/ District Councils by-elections and Election Committee Sub-sectors elections	40.4	18.0
	231.9	271.9

2. As the expenses incurred for the preparatory work and conduct of the 2000 LegCo election and the 2004 LegCo election each straddle over two financial years (i.e. 1999 – 2000 and 2000 –

2001 for the 2000 LegCo election, 2003 – 2004 and 2004 –2005 for the 2004 LegCo election), the sub-totals of item (1) above only represent part of the expenses, respectively, of the 2000 and 2004 LegCo election. The total actual expenses of the 2000 LegCo election is \$275.2 million, and the total planned expenses of the 2004 LegCo election is \$275.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB051

Question Serial No.

1358

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 :

What is the estimated expenditure for conducting and supervising the 2004 Legislative Council election? How does it compare with the total estimated expenditure? How does it compare with the expenditure for the 2003 District Council election?

Provision for 2004-2005 will increase by \$138.8 million (70.3%). Please explain why the estimated expenditure for the 2004 Legislative Council election exceeds the expenditure for 2003 District Council election by such a large margin?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The total provision allocated to the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) in 2004-05 is \$336.2 million, 79% (\$267 million) of which has been earmarked for the conduct of the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) election. Together with the expenditure of \$8.5M incurred in 2003-04 for the preparatory work for the 2004 LegCo election, the estimated total expenditure for conducting the 2004 LegCo election is \$275.5 million, which is higher than the total expenditure of the 2003 District Council (DC) election (\$143 million) by \$132.5 million.

2. The provision allocated to REO in 2004-05 (\$336.2 million) is \$138.8 million higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04 (\$197.4 million), mainly because the funding requirement of the 2004 LegCo election is greater than that of 2003 DC election. The following major reasons account for the difference in requirements:

- (e) In the 2003 DC election, a number of constituencies were uncontested and there was no need to set up polling stations for these uncontested constituencies.
- (f) Additional resources are required for conducting elections in the functional constituencies for the LegCo election.
- (g) The implementation of the two newly enacted subsidiary legislation, i.e. the Particulars Relating to Candidates on Ballot Papers (LegCo) Regulation and the Electoral Affairs Commission (Financial Assistance

for LegCo Elections) (Application and Payment Procedure) Regulation will incur additional costs.

- (h) The planned provision for conducting the publicity programmes for the 2004 LegCo election is more than the expenditure incurred by the publicity programmes for the 2003 DC election, due to the greater importance of LegCo election and the need to cover functional constituencies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB052

Question Serial No.

1359

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:

What is the expenditure earmarked for promoting voter registration for 2004-2005? How does it compare with that for 2003-2004? What are the reasons for the adjustment?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

A provision of \$15 million is earmarked in 2004-05 for the 2004 Voter Registration Campaign. In 2003-04, the actual expenditure for the 2003 campaign was about \$7.9 million. The planned provision for this year's campaign is about \$7 million more than the actual expenditure for 2003, mainly due to the greater importance of Legislative Council election and the need to cover functional constituencies in this year's campaign. The provision also includes the expenditure on a new initiative of sending appeal letters to all households in Hong Kong, encouraging eligible persons to register as electors and reminding registered electors who have recently changed their addresses to update their records with the Registration and Electoral Office.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB053

Question Serial No.

1360

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:

What is the work plan of the Government for promoting voter registration for the functional constituencies in 2004-2005? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The 2004 Voter Registration Campaign will be conducted from 3 April to 16 May 2004. Most of the activities are general in nature, covering eligible electors in both geographical and functional constituencies.

2. Activities targetting eligible functional constituencies electors in particular are set out below –

- (i) sending appeal letters to eligible persons in functional constituencies who have not yet registered; and
- (ii) sending appeal letters to umbrella organisations soliciting their assistance in promoting voter registration among their members.

The expenditure for carrying out the above activities is estimated at \$360,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB054

Question Serial No.

1624

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 :

Has provision been made in the 2004-05 Estimate for studies on new voting procedure so as to make it more convenient for the public to vote, like making use of new developments in computer technology to allow voters to cast their votes in a polling station of their choice?

Asked by : Hon. Szeto Wah

Reply :

Resources have not been specifically reserved in the 2004-05 draft Estimates for conducting study on the feasibility of introducing new voting arrangements. Under the existing electoral legislation, an elector will be allocated to a polling station close to his registered residential address to cast his vote. Generally speaking, we believe the current polling arrangements can serve the purpose of facilitating electors in voting. However, if there is a strong demand from the public, the Administration will be prepared to consider alternative arrangements to provide added convenience to electors. Any study which may need to be carried out in this connection will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ LI Wing

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer

Date _____ 27 March 2004

**Replies to initial written/ questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Session No. :15

File name : S-CAB-e1.doc

Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>S-CAB001</u>	S049	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>S-CAB002</u>	S050	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	144	Constitutional Affairs
<u>S-CAB003</u>	S051	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	144	Constitutional Affairs

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-CAB001

Question Serial No.

S049

Head : 144 Government Secretariat:
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 give the number of times that the Administration has met with the representatives of Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong in 2003-04. Please also give details of dates, discussion items, officials involved on both sides and follow-up actions. Is the Administration planning to meet with the Taiwan representatives in 2004-05? If the answer is yes, can we have the details?

Asked by : Hon. Cyd Ho Sau-lan

Reply :

In 2003-04, CAB has continued to communicate with Chung Hwa Travel Service (CHTS) on matters pertaining to Taiwan. Matters handled through the communication channel between CAB and CHTS include—

- a) exchange of information during the 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.

A directorate officer of CAB has been designated as the regular point of contact with CHTS. More senior officers of CAB have also met with the Managing Director of CHTS as necessary. There is regular liaison by telephone and meetings are held as necessary. These contacts are quite frequent.

In 2004-05, we will continue to maintain liaison with CHTS on matters pertaining to Taiwan.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Clement C H Mak

Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

April 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

S-CAB 002

Question Serial No.

S050

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 give the number of times that the Administration has met with representatives of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the Liaison Office in 2003-04. Please also give details of dates, discussion items, officials involved on both sides and follow-up actions. Is the Administration planning to meet with the representatives of the above-mentioned organisations in 2004-05? If the answer is yes, can we have the details?

Asked by: Hon. Cyd Ho Sau-lan

Reply:

In 2003-04, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) in his capacity as a member of the Constitutional Development Task Force took part in two working meetings with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of the State Council (and the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress) to discuss issues relating to constitutional development. During the year, other members of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) had another meeting with the HKMAO to exchange views on issues of mutual concern, including the liaison between HKSAR Government and provincial/municipal officials. Apart from meetings, we maintain frequent exchanges with HKMAO by correspondence or telephone.

2. In 2003-04, CAB did not have any working meeting with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong. SCA and other members in CAB met with officials from the Liaison Office on various social occasions. We have not kept a record of those social meetings.

3. In 2004-05, we will continue to maintain contacts with the HKMAO and the Liaison Office as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ .4.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Reply Serial No.

S-CAB 003

Question Serial No.

S051

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 give the number of times (if any) that the Administration has met with the newly established Institute of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office under the Development Research Centre of the State Council in 2003-04. Please also give details of dates, discussion items, officials involved on both sides and follow-up actions. Is the Administration planning to meet with the representatives of the above-mentioned organisations in 2004-05? If the answer is yes, can we have the details?

Asked by: Hon. Cyd Ho Sau-lan

Reply:

In 2003-04, we did not have any meeting with the Institute of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, nor do we have any specific plan at this stage to meet with the organisation in 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ .4.2004