

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Session No. :10

File name : CAB-e1.doc

Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.	Reply Serial No.*	Question Serial No.
<u>CAB001</u>	0298	<u>CAB021</u>	1784	<u>CAB041</u>	2269
<u>CAB002</u>	0299	<u>CAB022</u>	1785	<u>CAB042</u>	2363
<u>CAB003</u>	0300	<u>CAB023</u>	1786	<u>CAB043</u>	2364
<u>CAB004</u>	0584	<u>CAB024</u>	1787	<u>CAB044</u>	2365
<u>CAB005</u>	0585	<u>CAB025</u>	1805	<u>CAB045</u>	2366
<u>CAB006</u>	0609	<u>CAB026</u>	1852	<u>CAB046</u>	2367
<u>CAB007</u>	0610	<u>CAB027</u>	1853	<u>CAB047</u>	2368
<u>CAB008</u>	0869	<u>CAB028</u>	2176	<u>CAB048</u>	2369
<u>CAB009</u>	0870	<u>CAB029</u>	2177	<u>CAB049</u>	2370
<u>CAB010</u>	0871	<u>CAB030</u>	2178	<u>CAB050</u>	2371
<u>CAB011</u>	0872	<u>CAB031</u>	2179	<u>CAB051</u>	2372
<u>CAB012</u>	0873	<u>CAB032</u>	1153	<u>CAB052</u>	2400
<u>CAB013</u>	1064	<u>CAB033</u>	1154	<u>CAB053</u>	2401
<u>CAB014</u>	1502	<u>CAB034</u>	2206	<u>CAB054</u>	2402
<u>CAB015</u>	1503	<u>CAB035</u>	2246	<u>CAB055</u>	2403
<u>CAB016</u>	1779	<u>CAB036</u>	2247	<u>CAB056</u>	2404
<u>CAB017</u>	1780	<u>CAB037</u>	2265	<u>CAB057</u>	2210
<u>CAB018</u>	1781	<u>CAB038</u>	2266	<u>CAB058</u>	2221
<u>CAB019</u>	1782	<u>CAB039</u>	2267	<u>CAB059</u>	2312
<u>CAB020</u>	1783	<u>CAB040</u>	2268	<u>CAB060</u>	0168

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Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CAB001	0298	CHAN Wai-yip	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB002	0299	CHAN Wai-yip	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB003	0300	CHAN Wai-yip	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB004	0584	LAU Wai-hing	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB005	0585	LAU Wai-hing	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB006	0609	KWONG Chi-kin	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB007	0610	KWONG Chi-kin	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB008	0869	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB009	0870	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB010	0871	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB011	0872	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB012	0873	LEUNG Kwok-hung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB013	1064	FUNG Kin-kee	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB014	1502	FUNG Kin-kee	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB015	1503	FUNG Kin-kee	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB016	1779	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB017	1780	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB018	1781	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB019	1782	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB020	1783	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB021	1784	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB022	1785	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB023	1786	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB024	1787	LEUNG Yiu-chung	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB025	1805	LI Fung-ying	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB026	1852	TAM Heung-man	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB027	1853	TAM Heung-man	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB028	2176	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB029	2177	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB030	2178	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB031	2179	KWOK Ka-ki	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB032	1153	TIEN Pei-chun	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB033	1154	TIEN Pei-chun	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB034	2206	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB035	2246	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB036	2247	TAM Yiu-chung	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB037	2265	NG Margaret	144	Constitutional Affairs

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CAB038	2266	NG Margaret	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB039	2267	NG Margaret	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB040	2268	NG Margaret	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB041	2269	NG Margaret	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB042	2363	MA Lik	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB043	2364	MA Lik	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB044	2365	MA Lik	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB045	2366	MA Lik	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB046	2367	MA Lik	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB047	2368	SIN Chung-kai	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB048	2369	SIN Chung-kai	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB049	2370	SIN Chung-kai	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB050	2371	SIN Chung-kai	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB051	2372	SIN Chung-kai	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB052	2400	MA Lik	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB053	2401	MA Lik	144	Constitutional Affairs
CAB054	2402	MA Lik	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB055	2403	MA Lik	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB056	2404	MA Lik	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB057	2210	NG Margaret	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB058	2221	SIN Chung-kai	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB059	2312	LAU Chin-shek	144	Mainland Economic and Trade Offices
CAB060	0168	WONG Kwok-hing	163	Electoral Services
CAB061	1024	MA Lik	163	Electoral Services
CAB062	1025	MA Lik	163	Electoral Services
CAB063	1026	MA Lik	163	Electoral Services
CAB064	1034	MA Lik	163	Electoral Services
CAB065	1098	Howard YOUNG	163	Electoral Services
CAB066	2220	MA Lik	163	Electoral Services
CAB067	2243	YEUNG Sum	163	Electoral Services
CAB068	2248	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
CAB069	2249	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
CAB070	2250	TAM Yiu-chung	163	Electoral Services
CAB071	2282	LEONG Kah-kit	163	Electoral Services
CAB072	2300	SIN Chung-kai	163	Electoral Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 001

Question Serial No.

0298

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

In respect of call on senior government officials / organisations, it is estimated that 525 calls will be made in 2006, representing a substantial increase of 50% as compared to 350 calls actually made in 2005. What are the reasons for the increase? What are their respective actual expenditure in 2005-06 and estimated expenditure in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2005, the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) made a total of 350 calls on senior government officials and organisations to foster closer ties and communication with the latter. To coordinate more effectively our efforts to strengthen liaison, exchanges and cooperation with the provinces/municipalities in the eastern and southwestern regions of the Mainland, we are planning to set up two new Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Chengdu and Shanghai, which are expected to commence service in the latter half of 2006. The estimated number of 525 calls in 2006 reflects the planned targets of GDETO and the two new Mainland ETOs.

2. Calls on senior government officials and organisations are an integral part of activities undertaken by the Mainland ETOs. It is difficult to single out the specific resources devoted to this task.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 002

Question Serial No.

0299

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for 2006-07 is \$64.5 million (341.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. The Government has attributed the increase to new requirements for setting up the Shanghai and Chengdu Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), as well as the expansion of Guangdong ETO. Please provide information on the estimated expenditures and establishments of the Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The estimated expenditures and staffing support of the two Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu for 2006-07 are detailed as follows :

	Shanghai ETO (\$M)	Chengdu ETO (\$M)
Estimated Expenditures		
<u>Recurrent Operational Expenses</u>		
Personal Emolument (Civil Servants) and Departmental Expenses	19.937	13.312
<u>Non-recurrent</u>		
One-off Setting Up Cost	9.5	7.9
<u>Capital</u>		
Purchase of Office Car	0.5	0.5
Total :	29.937	21.712
Staffing Support		
Civil Service Establishment	7*	6*
Locally Engaged Staff	8	8
Total :	15	14

* including one Executive Officer post for each ETO which is time-limited for two years only for setting up the new office. These two posts will be deleted for 2008-09.

2. The Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs are planned to commence service in the latter half of 2006. For budgetting purpose, the estimated Recurrent Operational Expenses in respect of the personal emoluments of these two ETOs cover nine months expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 003

Question Serial No.

0300

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

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for 2006-07 is \$6.1 million (14.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. The Government has attributed the increase partly to the increased requirement for promotion of Basic Law. It is noted that the Government has previously allocated additional provision for this purpose in 2005-06. Please provide information on -

- (a) the estimated expenditure in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for promotion of Basic Law;
- (b) reasons for the increase in expenditure;
- (c) details of Basic Law promotion activities in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

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

2. In 2006-07, CAB has increased the total provision for promoting the Basic Law to \$7 million, to further enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law.

3. Major promotional activities to be organized in 2006-07 include a Basic Law carnival cum student flag raising ceremony in early April, a roving show in different districts to promote the Basic Law, TV and radio programmes, competitions for students and the public, production of publications and TV announcements of public interest, and promotion activities jointly organised with community and youth organisations, etc. We will step up our co-operation with community organisations and, through the network of these organisations,

strengthen our promotion efforts among different sectors of society particularly, students and the youth.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 004

Question Serial No.

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

0584

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the reinforcement of the Basic Law promotion and the conduct of publicity to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, please provide the details of each project and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

To further enhance public's awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, CAB has reserved \$7 million in 2006-07 for organising a series of activities to strengthen the promotion efforts of the Basic Law.

2. Major promotional activities to be organized in 2006-07 include a Basic Law carnival cum student flag raising ceremony in early April, a roving show in different districts to promote the Basic Law, TV and radio programmes, competitions for students and the public, production of publications and TV announcements of public interest, and promotion activities jointly organised with community and youth organisations, etc. We will step up our co-operation with community organisations and, through the network of these organisations, strengthen our promotion efforts among different sectors of society particularly, students and the youth.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 005

Question Serial No.

0585

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 will work closely with the relevant bureaux and departments to review the roles, functions and composition of District Councils. In this connection, please provide the details of each project and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is working closely with the Home Affairs Bureau and other relevant bureaux and departments to make final preparations for consulting the public on the role, functions and composition of the District Councils (DCs). It is expected that the public consultation exercise will start within the first half of 2006.

2. In his Policy Address of 2005-06, the Chief Executive announced that DCs would be allowed to participate in the management of district facilities, such as libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools, within the limits of the framework of the existing statutory provisions and resource allocations. The consultation document to be published will set out further details of the proposal for discussion by the public. The Government will also set out in the consultation document other issues relating to the role, functions and composition of DCs. The final proposals and the amount of resources required to implement them will be determined in the light of feedback received during the public consultation exercise.

3. CAB is undertaking the work relating to the review with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 006

Question Serial No.

0609

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide the following information on the 38 directorate and non-directorate posts to be created in 2006-07:

- (a) their post titles, the departments they affiliated with and their annual salary cost;
- (b) reason(s) for the creation of these new posts;
- (c) whether they are created as permanent civil service posts.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

(a) In 2006-07, a total of 38 directorate and non-directorate posts will be created for the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO), the two new Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu, as well as the Guangdong ETO. The 38 posts will be offset by deleting 7 posts under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary" and 7 other posts under Head 96 "Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices". Details of their post titles and annual salary cost are as follows :

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
<u>MALO</u>		
(i) 2 x Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Directorate 2)	1,360,800	1 post of the next higher rank (i.e. Directorate 3) under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
<u>MALO</u>		
(i) 2 x Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Directorate 2)	1,360,800	1 post of the next higher rank (i.e. Directorate 3) under Head 142 “Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary” will be deleted in 2006-07.
(ii) 2 x Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	3 posts of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iii) Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Chief Executive Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iv) Senior Executive Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Senior Executive Officer)	681,180	
(v) Executive Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Executive Officer I)	481,020	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vi) 2 x Personal Secretary I to PAS(CA) (Personal Secretary I)	275,880	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vii) 2 x Clerical Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Clerical Officer)	275,880	
(viii) 2 x Assistant Clerical Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Assistant Clerical Officer)	162,180	
<u>Guangdong ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Guangdong (Directorate 3)	1,580,400	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 “Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
(ii) Deputy Director, Guangdong ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	Trade Offices” will be deleted in 2006-07. 1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iii) Head, Investment Promotion Division, Guangdong ETO (Investment Promotion Project Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iv) Head, Commercial Relations Division, Guangdong ETO (Principal Trade Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(v) Principal Information Officer, Guangdong ETO (Principal Information Officer)	773,100	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vi) Commercial Relations Manager, Guangdong ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vii) 2 x Investment Promotion Manager, Guangdong ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(viii) Principal Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Principal Immigration Officer)	1,008,480	
(ix) Chief Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Chief Immigration Officer)	747,960	
(x) 2 x Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Immigration Officer)	383,100	
<u>Shanghai ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Shanghai (Directorate 3)	1,580,400	

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
(ii) Deputy Director, Shanghai ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	
(iii) Principal Trade Officer, Shanghai ETO (Principal Trade Officer)	929,220	
(iv) 2 x Trade Officer, Shanghai ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	
(v) Senior Information Officer, Shanghai ETO (Senior Information Officer)	622,440	
(vi) Executive Officer, Shanghai ETO (Executive Officer I)	481,020	Time-limited post for two years.
<u>Chengdu ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Chengdu (Directorate 2)	1,360,800	
(ii) Deputy Director, Chengdu ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	
(iii) 2 x Trade Officer, Chengdu ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	
(iv) Senior Information Officer, Chengdu ETO (Senior Information Officer)	622,440	
(v) Executive Officer, Chengdu ETO (Executive Officer I)	481,020	Time-limited post for two years.

(b) The Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address the plan to establish the MALO under the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) and to set up

ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu. The existing ETO in Guangdong will also be expanded to cover four more provinces/regions and provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. As the MALO will also take up matters relating to Hong Kong/Guangdong cooperation, the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU) under Head 142 “Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary” will be subsumed under the MALO. The Guangdong ETO under Head 96 “Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices” will also be transferred to CAB, in line with the new arrangement for the MALO to oversee the Guangdong ETO. The posts referred to in point (a) above are created to effect these changes.

(c) All the above posts are permanent civil service posts, except for the two Executive Officer posts of the Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs, which are time limited for two years for setting up the new office.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 007

Question Serial No.

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

0610

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The provision for 2006-07 will be considerably increased by \$64.5 million, which is earmarked for setting up new offices and expansion in the functions and coverage of the Guangdong ETO. In this connection, please advise this Committee -

- (a) will there be any changes regarding requests for assistance received from Hong Kong residents after the establishment of new offices? What is the degree of change? Please give reasons for this projection.
- (b) the target of providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress within the same day upon request continues to be set at 95% even after an addition of financial provision. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

Currently requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland are handled by the Immigration Department in Hong Kong and the Beijing Office. It is difficult to predict the number of requests after the establishment of new Mainland offices. The number of cases to be handled by the Immigration Team of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) from April (the target date for setting up the team) to December 2006 is estimated to be 1,025. This estimate has taken account of the average number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress originating from the five provinces/region to be covered by GDETO (i.e. Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan), which were handled by the Immigration Department and the Beijing Office in 2004 and 2005.

2. The Immigration Team of the GDETO will provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan. Depending on the nature of the requests and the circumstances of individual cases, the Immigration Team may need to take more time in responding to certain cases,

particularly those which happen in remote areas in these provinces. We have therefore set the target of handling 95% of requests for assistance within the same day upon request. In practice, the Immigration Team will endeavour to provide assistance as quickly as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 008

Question Serial No.

0869

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 enhancement of the Basic Law promotion, please provide information on the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 and the details of work plan.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In 2006-07, CAB has allocated a total provision of \$7 million for promoting the Basic Law, to further enhance public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law.

2. Major promotional activities to be organized in 2006-07 include a Basic Law carnival cum student flag raising ceremony in early April, a roving show in different districts to promote the Basic Law, TV and radio programmes, competitions for students and public, production of publications and TV announcements of public interest, and promotion activities jointly organised with community and youth organisations, etc. We will step up our co-operation with community organisations and, through the network of these organisations, strengthen our promotion efforts among different sectors of society particularly, students and the youth.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 009

Question Serial No.

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

0870

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong undertaken by the Bureau in the past three years (ie. from 2003-04 to 2005-06), please provide information on the expenditure, staffing and details of work involved in the respective years. Has the Bureau made any evaluation on the effectiveness of its work in facilitating co-ordination of matters relating to Hong Kong / Taiwan relations?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

Since July 2002, CAB has been co-ordinating liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Major matters dealt with through this communication channel include -

2003-04

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

2004-05

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

2005-06

- (a) exchange of information when malachite green has been found in a fish sample imported from Taiwan; and
- (b) assistance in rescue operation for Taiwan fishermen in distress in Hong Kong.

2. Apart from the above, we facilitated visits by Taiwan's business sector, journalists from Taiwan's newspaper/electronic media, the Taipei City Council, Taiwan university students, Taiwan legal experts and visitors from other sectors in Taiwan. We arranged meetings with government bureaux/departments and visits to major infrastructural projects in Hong Kong. We also briefed them on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" here. Existing resources have been deployed to implement the work involved.

3. We believe that the initiatives set out above have been helpful in facilitating co-ordination of matters relating to Hong Kong / Taiwan relations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 010

Question Serial No.

0871

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

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards the review of the roles, functions and composition of District Councils mentioned in the 2006-07 Estimates, please provide the breakdown of expenditure and details of the work programme.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is working closely with the Home Affairs Bureau and other relevant bureaux and departments to make final preparations for consulting the public on the role, functions and composition of the District Councils (DCs). It is expected that the public consultation exercise will start within the first half of 2006.

2. In his Policy Address of 2005-06, the Chief Executive announced that DCs would be allowed to participate in the management of district facilities, such as libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools, within the limits of the framework of the existing statutory provisions and resource allocations. The consultation document to be published will set out further details of the proposal for discussion by the public. The Government will also set out in the consultation document other issues relating to the role, functions and composition of DCs. The final proposals and the amount of resources required to implement them will be determined in the light of feedback received during the public consultation exercise.

3. CAB is undertaking the work relating to the review with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 011

Question Serial No.

0872

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 expenditure required for the co-ordination of Commission on Strategic Development's work in examining issues relating to the electoral methods and a road map for attaining universal suffrage for electing the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council? Will the Bureau assist the Commission in conducting a territory-wide opinion survey to gauge the views of Hong Kong people towards the road map?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In the 2006-07 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage. One directorate officer at D2 level and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau to carry out the work. One Senior Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will also be redeployed within the Bureau for this purpose.

2. The aim of the Commission on Strategic Development is to conclude discussions on the principles and concepts relating to universal suffrage by mid-2006, and on the design of a universal suffrage system for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by early 2007. The Commission has not conducted any public opinion survey in relation to its work. However, all papers discussed by the Commission are made public to facilitate discussion of the issue within the community. Conclusions made by the Commission will also be made public. There is no plan to conduct any opinion survey at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 012

Question Serial No.

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

0873

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the actual expenditure for 2005-06 in regard to the fulfillment of the Bureau's duty as the focal point of contact between the Government of the HKSAR and the Central People's Government as well as the Mainland authorities? What are the details of work? Will the Bureau facilitate and strengthen communication between members of Legislative Council and the Central Government and the Mainland authorities in 2006-07? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

One of the tasks of Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is to help establish constructive working relationships and facilitate the cooperation between HKSARG and Mainland Government departments in accordance with the Basic Law and the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". CAB also provides advice and assistance to bureaux/departments on official exchanges with the Mainland Government departments. There were more than 3,000 official contacts between the two places in 2005-06, including the visits by Mainland officials to Hong Kong under the "Mainland Visitors Programme" and "Foreign Affairs Offices visit programme" that are co-ordinated by CAB. The above work was carried out in 2005-06 with existing staff resources. Expenditure relating to the "Mainland Visitors Programme" was met by the Information Services Department. CAB met the expenditure relating to the "Foreign Affairs Offices Visit Programme", which was in the region of \$650,000 in 2005-06.

2. In future, we will continue to strengthen our work in this area. One of the key functions of the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office, to be set up under CAB in April 2006, is to promote co-operation between Hong Kong and Mainland provinces/regions, and to oversee the liaison between our Mainland Offices and the Mainland authorities. The two new Economic and Trade Offices to be set up in Shanghai and Chengdu will also seek to establish liaison network with respective regions and enhance mutual understanding. These offices will flexibly provide advice and assistance as appropriate, taking account of resource availability, nature of the visits and specific requests raised, to facilitate official contacts between Legislative Council Members and relevant Mainland authorities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 013

Question Serial No.

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

1064

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong, please (i) cite previous incidents to illustrate the specific tasks undertaken in this aspect and (ii) provide information on the expenditure and staffing arrangement in the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (i) Since July 2002, CAB has been co-ordinating liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Major matters dealt with through this communication channel include -
- (a) exchange of information during SARS outbreak;
 - (b) arrangement of a chartered flight to Taipei to bring back a Hong Kong tour group with one suspected SARS case;
 - (c) relaying information on the Avian Influenza attack in Taiwan;
 - (d) timely assistance to the injured Hong Kong people involved in a serious traffic accident in Jiu-fen, Taiwan;
 - (e) exchange of information when malachite green has been found in a fish sample imported from Taiwan; and
 - (f) assistance in rescue operations for Taiwan fishermen in distress in Hong Kong and for Hong Kong fishermen in distress in Taiwan.

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

- (ii) Existing resources have been deployed to implement the work involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 014

Question Serial No.

1502

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

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will undertake to “review the roles, functions and composition of District Councils”. In his Policy Address in October 2005, the Chief Executive said that the formal consultation on the review of the functions and structure of the District Councils would commence in the first quarter of this year. In this connection, please provide information on –

- (i) when will the Government commence the review;
- (ii) the scope of the review;
- (iii) the expenditure and staffing arrangement for the review.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is working closely with the Home Affairs Bureau and other relevant bureaux and departments to make final preparations for consulting the public on the role, functions and composition of the District Councils (DCs). It is expected that the public consultation exercise will start within the first half of 2006.

2. In his Policy Address of 2005-06, the Chief Executive announced that DCs would be allowed to participate in the management of district facilities, such as libraries, community halls, leisure grounds, sports venues and swimming pools, within the limits of the framework of the existing statutory provisions and resource allocations. The consultation document to be published will set out further details of the proposal for discussion by the public. The Government will also set out in the consultation document other issues relating to the role, functions and composition of DCs. The final proposals and the amount of resources required to implement them will be determined in the light of feedback received during the public consultation exercise.

3. CAB is undertaking the work relating to the review with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 015

Question Serial No.

1503

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

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau undertakes to “examine the possibility of further developing the existing political appointment system through creating new non-civil service positions to be taken up by appointments of people from various sectors”. In this connection, please provide information on -

- (i) the details of the study and the progress made so far;
- (ii) when the consultation will commence;
- (iii) detailed arrangement and timetable for the implementation of the final recommendations;
- (iv) the expenditure and staffing arrangement for the entire study.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

To strengthen political support for politically appointed Principal Officials, the Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address that the Administration would consider creating a small number of positions dedicated to political affairs. The positions would be open to people from different sectors including the civil service, political groups as well as the professional and business sectors. In taking forward such proposals, the fine traditions of a permanent, professional and politically neutral civil service would be preserved.

2. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the relevant bureaux are looking into the matter and will formulate a package of proposals in conjunction with senior civil servants. We will launch consultations with the Legislative Council, the civil service and the community at large in the second half of the year. Subject to the outcome of the consultations, we will consider how and when to implement the proposals.

3. The study will be conducted with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 016

Question Serial No.

1779

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide detailed information on the proposed 38 permanent posts to be created in 2006-07 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address the plan to establish the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) under the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) and to set up Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu. The existing ETO in Guangdong will also be expanded to cover four more provinces/regions and provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. As the MALO will also take up matters relating to Hong Kong/Guangdong cooperation, the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU) under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary" will be subsumed under the MALO. The Guangdong ETO under Head 96 "Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices" will also be transferred to CAB, in line with the new arrangement for the MALO to oversee the Guangdong ETO.

2. To effect the changes mentioned above, a total of 38 directorate and non-directorate posts will be created in 2006-07. The 38 posts will be offset by deleting 7 posts under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary" and 7 other posts under Head 96 "Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices". Details of the post titles and annual salary cost are as follows :

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
<u>MALO</u>		
(i) 2 x Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Directorate 2)	1,360,800	1 post of the next higher rank (i.e. Directorate 3) under Head 142 “Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary” will be deleted in 2006-07.
(ii) 2 x Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	3 posts of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iii) Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Chief Executive Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iv) Senior Executive Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Senior Executive Officer)	681,180	
(v) Executive Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Executive Officer I)	481,020	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vi) 2 x Personal Secretary I to PAS(CA) (Personal Secretary I)	275,880	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vii) 2 x Clerical Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Clerical Officer)	275,880	
(viii) 2 x Assistant Clerical Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Assistant Clerical Officer)	162,180	
<u>Guangdong ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Guangdong (Directorate 3)	1,580,400	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 “Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices” will be

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
		deleted in 2006-07.
(ii) Deputy Director, Guangdong ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iii) Head, Investment Promotion Division, Guangdong ETO (Investment Promotion Project Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iv) Head, Commercial Relations Division, Guangdong ETO (Principal Trade Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(v) Principal Information Officer, Guangdong ETO (Principal Information Officer)	773,100	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vi) Commercial Relations Manager, Guangdong ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vii) 2 x Investment Promotion Manager, Guangdong ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(viii) Principal Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Principal Immigration Officer)	1,008,480	
(ix) Chief Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Chief Immigration Officer)	747,960	
(x) 2 x Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Immigration Officer)	383,100	
<u>Shanghai ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Shanghai (Directorate 3)	1,580,400	

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
(ii) Deputy Director, Shanghai ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	Time-limited post for two years.
(iii) Principal Trade Officer, Shanghai ETO (Principal Trade Officer)	929,220	
(iv) 2 x Trade Officer, Shanghai ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	
(v) Senior Information Officer, Shanghai ETO (Senior Information Officer)	622,440	
(vi) Executive Officer, Shanghai ETO (Executive Officer I)	481,020	
<u>Chengdu ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Chengdu (Directorate 2)	1,360,800	Time-limited post for two years.
(ii) Deputy Director, Chengdu ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	
(iii) 2 x Trade Officer, Chengdu ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	
(iv) Senior Information Officer, Chengdu ETO (Senior Information Officer)	622,440	
(v) Executive Officer, Chengdu ETO (Executive Officer I)	481,020	

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 017

Question Serial No.

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

1780

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the expenditure required for the enhancement of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law in 2005-06? Of which, how many activities are devoted to the promotion of Articles 45 and 68 of the Basic Law? What is the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 on the enhancement of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law in 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million to step up promotion of the Basic Law and to further enhance public understanding.

2. As in previous years, we would make use of a variety of channels to promote public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Whilst it is not possible to apportion separately the amount to be spent on the promotion of Articles 45 and 68, "The Drafting and Implementation of the Basic Law" roving exhibition, for example, gives an overview of the Basic Law, including Articles 45 and 68.

3. In 2006-07, we have increased the total provision for promoting the Basic Law to \$7 million. Major promotional activities to be organized in 2006-07 include a Basic Law carnival cum student flag raising ceremony in early April, a roving show in different districts to promote the Basic Law, TV and radio programmes, competitions for students and public, production of publications and TV announcements of public interest, and promotion activities jointly organised with community and youth organisations, etc. We will step up our co-operation with community organisations and, through the network of these organisations, strengthen our promotion efforts among different sectors of society particularly, students and the youth.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 018

Question Serial No.

1781

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 work and expenditure in 2005-06 in regard to the co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong? What is the estimated expenditure for the related work in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, CAB has continued to co-ordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Major matters dealt with through this communication channel include -

- (a) exchange of information when malachite green has been found in a fish sample imported from Taiwan; and
- (b) assistance in rescue operations for Taiwan fishermen in distress in Hong Kong.

2. Apart from the above, we facilitated visits by the Taipei City Council, Taiwan university students, Taiwan legal experts and visitors from other sectors in Taiwan. We arranged meetings with government bureaux/departments and visits to major infrastructural projects in Hong Kong. We also briefed them on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" here.

3. In 2006-07, CAB will continue to co-ordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Our work programme include -

- (a) liaising with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong;
- (b) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and

- (c) where appropriate, briefing Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong on the latest developments in Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

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

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 019

Question Serial No.

1782

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 work and expenditure in 2005-06 in regard to the review of the roles, functions and composition of District Councils? What is the estimated expenditure for the related work in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, a working group jointly set up by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) and the Home Affairs Bureau made preparations for the review of the role, functions and composition of District Councils (DCs). The working group examined the relevant statutory provisions, the thinking at the time behind the introduction of the District Administration Scheme, and the recommendations put forth by the Government in the Report of the Working Group on District Councils Review published in 2001. Following the Chief Executive's announcement in the 2005-06 Policy Address of an initiative to let DCs participate in the management of district facilities, the working group has also worked on the implementation details of the initiative.

2. It is expected that public consultation exercise on the role, functions and composition of DCs will start within the first half of 2006. The consultation document to be published will set out further details of the proposal regarding participation of DCs in the management of district facilities for discussion by the public. The Government will also set out in the consultation document other issues relating to the role, functions and composition of DCs. The final proposals and the amount of resources required to implement them will be determined in the light of feedback received during the public consultation exercise.

3. CAB is undertaking the work relating to the review with existing resources in 2005-06, and will continue to do so in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 020

Question Serial No.

1783

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 assistance rendered in 2005-06 to Hong Kong residents with family members detained in the Mainland (such as Ching Cheong's family)? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

For Hong Kong residents who are detained in the Mainland, the relevant bureaux and departments as well as the HKSARG officers in the Mainland work closely together with a view to rendering the appropriate assistance to the concerned family members. Depending on the nature of the case, (such as the reason of detention, the suspected offences of which the concerned Hong Kong residents have committed; and the stage of the legal proceedings), we will identify the appropriate channels through which the requests of the concerned family members may be reflected. In general, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will assist the concerned family members to reflect their requests either to the respective Peoples' Courts, Peoples' Procuratorate, Public Security Bureaux (at either the provincial or the central level) or the General Administration of Customs. Requests of the concerned family members normally include paying visits to the detained Hong Kong residents; requesting the concerned Mainland authority to consider putting the detained HK residents on bail or even allowing the detained Hong Kong resident to return to Hong Kong; requesting the concerned Mainland authority to provide a brief account on the condition of/offences committed by the detained Hong Kong residents, etc. The Security Bureau will be responsible for the subsequent following-up and co-ordination in regard to the detention cases.

2. Existing resources have been deployed to implement the work involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 021

Question Serial No.

1784

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 work plan in 2006-07 in respect of providing support to Commission on Strategic Development in examining issues relating to the electoral methods as well as a roadmap and timetable for attaining universal suffrage for electing the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council in accordance with the Basic Law? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Commission on Strategic Development aims at concluding discussions on the principles and concepts relating to universal suffrage by mid-2006, and on the design of a universal suffrage system for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by early 2007. It is envisaged that these conclusions could provide a basis for the next phase of work in attaining universal suffrage.

2. In the 2006-07 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage. One directorate officer at D2 level and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau to carry out the work. One Senior Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will also be redeployed within the Bureau for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 022

Question Serial No.

1785

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 work and the expenditure in 2005-06 in regard to the co-ordination of promotion of closer ties with the Mainland?
What is the expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB), in accordance with the Basic Law and the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", assisted other bureaux and departments to enhance closer working relationships between HKSARG and the Mainland authorities. For example, CAB facilitated regional co-operation including Pan-Pearl River Delta regional co-operation, and co-operation between HKSAR and Guangdong, Beijing and Shanghai. CAB also arranged Mainland officials to visit Hong Kong under the "Mainland Visitors Programme" and "Foreign Affairs Offices Visit Programme", to enhance their understanding about the work of HKSARG and Hong Kong.

2. CAB will continue the work as above in 2006-07. As in 2005-06, the above work will be carried out in 2006-07 with existing resources.

3. Apart from the above, the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office to be set up under CAB in April will promote co-operation between Hong Kong and Mainland provinces/regions, and oversee the liaison between the Mainland authorities and our Mainland Offices. The two new Economic and Trade Offices to be set up in Shanghai and Chengdu will also seek to enhance mutual understanding and establish liaison network with respective regions. These efforts will help strengthen communication between the HKSAR and the Central Government as well as Mainland authorities as a whole.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 023

Question Serial No.

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

1786

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs /
Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question : How many requests for assistance received from Hong Kong residents were handled by Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively? What were their respective expenditures?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

From 2003 to February 2006, GDETO has handled a total of 166 requests (25 in 2003; 59 in 2004, 47 in 2005, and 35 in January to February of 2006) for assistance from Hong Kong residents.

2. The work required to provide assistance for Hong Kong residents concerned was shared by GDETO's staff as part of their functions. Resource input could not be singled out and quantified.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 024

Question Serial No.

1787

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs /
Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question : What are the details of work undertaken by Mainland Economic and Trade Offices in 2005-06 in facilitating contacts between the Legislative Council and relevant Mainland authorities and what is the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) was involved in the organisation of visit by Legislative Council Members to the Pearl River Delta in September 2005. The Office was mainly responsible for liaison, communication and coordination with the concerned Guangdong authorities as well as logistical arrangements of the visit.

2. The GDETO and new ETOs to be set up in Shanghai and Chengdu will flexibly provide advice and assistance as appropriate, taking account of resource availability, nature of the visits and specific requests raised, to facilitate official contacts between Legislative Council Members and relevant Mainland authorities. Relevant resource input in 2005-06 and 2006-07 could not be singled out and quantified.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 025

Question Serial No.

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

1805

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : For 2006-07, the indicators for “providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the areas within Guangdong ETO’s coverage, including handling of case involving the detention of Hong Kong residents” is set at 1,025. How these indicators are drawn up and what factors are taken into account in the formulation?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

Currently requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in the Mainland are handled by the Immigration Department and the Beijing Office. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) will, in 2006-07, cover five provinces/regions, i.e. Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan, and will provide practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in areas within its coverage. Having regard to the average number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents originating from these five provinces/regions handled by the Immigration Department and the Beijing Office in 2004 and 2005, it is estimated that 1,025 cases would be handled by the Immigration Team of GDETO from April (the target date for setting up the team) to December 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak
Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 026

Question Serial No.

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

1852

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What are the justifications for the establishment of the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

Since reunification, exchange and communication between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Mainland has been more frequent in various aspects. The Mainland provides Hong Kong with many opportunities in trade, business and employment. Moreover, important measures such as the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement and the Individual Visit Scheme also greatly strengthened exchanges and ties between the HKSAR and the Mainland. In addition, more and more Hong Kong people are going to the Mainland for business, vocation, study and sight-seeing purposes.

2. To sustain the economic development of Hong Kong, we must grasp the opportunities arising from the rapid economic growth of the Mainland. We are also committed to strengthening our cooperation and exchanges with the Mainland under different regional cooperation mechanisms.

3. To coordinate more effectively our efforts to strengthen liaison with the Mainland, and to facilitate exchanges and cooperation with provinces/regions in various aspects, we will set up a Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, with the following main functions -

- (a) to formulate overall strategies and direction regarding cooperation between the HKSAR and Mainland, and to oversee the progress of cooperation initiatives;
- (b) to oversee the general liaison work between the Mainland authorities and HKSAR's offices in the Mainland; to formulate in conjunction with these offices, workplans to strengthen our relations with the

Mainland. The MALO will also oversee the resource management, personnel arrangements and administrative work of these offices;

- (c) to facilitate collaboration between bureaux/departments of the HKSAR and our Mainland offices as regards strengthening relations with the Mainland; and
- (d) to provide secretariat services for the Hong Kong side regarding regional cooperation initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 027

Question Serial No.

1853

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect of general departmental expenses, the estimated provision for 2006-07 is nearly six times higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. What are the apparent reasons for the increase?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The main reasons for the increase in the general departmental expenses from \$8.645M to \$56.126M are as follows :

- (i) additional provisions for the two new Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai (\$13.904M) and Chengdu (\$8.570M), and provisions for the expanded Guangdong ETO (\$17.22M, of which \$9.9M has been transferred from Head 96 "Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices") to cover four more provinces/regions and to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress;
- (ii) additional provisions (\$0.25M) for the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) which will be established in April 2006 under Constitutional Affairs Bureau;
- (iii) provisions (\$1.17M) for the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU). HKGCCU is currently under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary" and will be subsumed under the MALO in 2006-07;
- (iv) increased provision (\$5.75M) for stepping up the promotion of Basic Law (net increase is \$2M, as this replaces \$3.75M of non-recurrent expenditure in 2005-06);

- (v) increased provision (\$0.35M) for the cooperation activities related to the Pan-Pearl River Delta region.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 028

Question Serial No.

2176

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect to the package of proposals for the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2007 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2008, please provide information on the detailed breakdown of expenditure and the total expenses incurred by the Government regarding the formulation, promotion and publicity of this package. What grounds has the Government for not offering an alternative package of proposals?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The Constitutional Development Task Force (the Task Force) published its Fifth Report in October 2005, which put forth a package of proposals for the methods for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) in 2007 and for forming the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2008. During the 2005-06 financial year, the Bureau provided support to the work of the Task Force. A dedicated team was set up within the Bureau to serve as its secretariat. One directorate officer at D2 level, 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I, and 2 supporting staff were temporarily on loan to the Bureau to support the Task Force Secretariat. One Administrative Officer and 2 supporting staff were also redeployed within the Bureau for this purpose.

2. In addition, expenditure of \$1.4M was incurred on the work related to the Task Force. The main expenditure items were:

- (i) publication of the Fifth Report and other miscellaneous expenses (\$1.1M);
- (ii) maintenance of a dedicated website on constitutional development and hiring of one temporary staff to support the Task Force Secretariat (\$0.26M); and
- (iii) other expenses, including postage, stationery and other miscellaneous items (\$0.04M).

3. The Government's proposals as set out in the Fifth Report of the Task Force were put to the Legislative Council in December 2005. The proposals did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority support by all the Members of the Legislative Council and therefore could not be taken further forward. In accordance with the Interpretation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 6 April 2004, the 2007/08 elections will be held on the basis of existing electoral arrangements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 029

Question Serial No.

2177

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Chief Executive Election Ordinance is amended to address a number of legal and technical issues so as to facilitate the smooth conduct of the Chief Executive Election. In this connection, please provide the staffing requirement and detailed breakdown of expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

In the 2006-07 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes amending the Chief Executive Election Ordinance to address a number of legal and technical issues so as to facilitate the smooth conduct of the 2007 Chief Executive election. This is being dealt with within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 030

Question Serial No.

2178

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the study on the possibility of further developing the existing political appointment system through creating new non-civil service positions (such as assistants to Directors of Bureaux), what is the estimated number of non-civil service posts to be created? On what terms will they be appointed? What is the expenditure on emolument? Please list in detail the post titles, functions and number of non-civil service posts established through the existing political appointment system. What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

To strengthen political support for politically appointed Principal Officials, the Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address that the Administration would consider creating a small number of positions dedicated to political affairs. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the relevant bureaux are looking into the matter and will formulate a package of proposals in conjunction with senior civil servants. We will launch consultations with the Legislative Council, the civil service and the community at large in the second half of the year. Subject to the outcome of the consultations, we will consider how and when to implement the proposals.

2. In the context of introducing the Accountability System for Principal Officials in July 2002, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the creation of 15 non-civil service positions, namely three Secretaries of Department, 11 Directors of Bureau, and the Director of Chief Executive's Office. The Secretaries of Department and Directors of Bureau assume overall responsibility for matters relating to their respective policy portfolios, while Director of Chief Executive's Office assists the CE in overseeing the operation of the CE's Office and the Executive Council Secretariat. The remuneration for the holders of these non-civil service positions are separately provided for under the heads of the respective bureaux/departments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 031

Question Serial No.

2179

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect of providing support to the Commission on Strategic Development in examining issues relating to the electoral methods and a roadmap for attaining universal suffrage for electing the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council in accordance with the Basic Law, please provide information on the staffing requirement and detailed breakdown of expenditure. What are the details of work undertaken by the Government in collecting public opinion on the two electoral methods and the roadmap for universal suffrage? Has any public opinion surveys been conducted in the past? If so, please provide information on the objectives and target groups of these surveys, the names of responsible institutes and expenditures involved. If no, will opinion survey be conducted in the future and what is the estimated expenditure for a large scale survey or general survey?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

In the 2006-07 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage. One directorate officer at D2 level and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau to carry out the work. One Senior Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will also be redeployed within the Bureau for this purpose.

2. The aim of the Commission on Strategic Development is to conclude discussions on the principles and concepts relating to universal suffrage by mid-2006, and on the design of a universal suffrage system for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by early 2007. The Commission has not conducted any public opinion survey in relation to its work. However, all papers discussed by the Commission are made public to facilitate discussion of the issue

within the community. Conclusions made by the Commission will also be made public. There is no plan to conduct any opinion survey at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 032

Question Serial No.

1153

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 : In respect to Programme (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices, please provide information on the respective expenditures on the establishment of the Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs as well as the expansion of the Guangdong ETO. What are the staffing requirements and annual operational expenses of these three offices? Are they of similar setup?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The estimated expenditures for establishing the two Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu and expanding the functions and coverage of the Guangdong ETO for 2006-07 are detailed as follows :

	<u>Establishing Shanghai ETO</u> (\$M)	<u>Establishing Chengdu ETO</u> (\$M)	<u>Expanding GDETO</u> (\$M)
Estimated Expenditures			
<u>Recurrent Operational Expenses</u>			
Personal Emolument (Civil Servants) and Departmental Expenses	19.937	13.312	10.297
<u>Non-recurrent</u>			
One-off Setting Up Cost	9.5	7.9	2.239
<u>Capital</u>			
Purchase of Office Car	0.5	0.5	-
Total :	29.937	21.712	12.536

2. The Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs are planned to commence service in the latter half of 2006. For budgetting purpose, the estimated Recurrent Operational

Expenses in respect of the personal emoluments of these two ETOs as well as the expansion of Guangdong ETO cover nine months expenditure.

3. The staffing support and the annual operational expenses of the three Mainland ETOs are detailed as follows :

	<u>Shanghai ETO</u>	<u>Chengdu ETO</u>	<u>GDETO</u>
Staffing Support			
Civil Service Establishment	7*	6*	12
Locally Engaged Staff	8	8	17
Total :	15	14	29
Annual Operational Expenses	(\$M)	(\$M)	(\$M)
<u>Recurrent Operational Expenses</u>			
Personal Emolument (Civil Servants) and Departmental Expenses	21.993	14.934	30.340

* including one Executive Officer post for each ETO which is time-limited for two years only for setting up the new office. These two posts will be deleted for 2008-09.

4. Among the three Mainland ETOs, Guangdong ETO has a larger establishment given its inclusion of a team to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress and the need for staffing resources to handle the close economic and trade links between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province. Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs have a similar establishment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 033

Question Serial No.

1154

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 : In respect to Programme (2) Constitutional Affairs, please provide information on the staffing requirement and annual operational expenses of the new Mainland Affairs Liaison Office in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address the plan to establish the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) under the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) and to set up ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu. As the MALO will also take up matters relating to Hong Kong/Guangdong cooperation, the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU) under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary" will be subsumed under the MALO.

2. The staffing requirement of the new Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) is 26 staff, 13 of whom are from the existing CAB establishment. A total of 13 directorate and non-directorate posts will be created for the MALO, which will be offset by deleting 7 posts under Head 142. The annual operational expenses of the Office are \$27.856M, comprising \$16.356M personal emoluments and \$11.5M departmental expenses. With effect from 2006-07, provision under Head 142 previously designated for HKGCCU (\$7.7M in 2005-06) will no longer be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 034

Question Serial No

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

2206

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

- Question : 1. What are the respective staff establishments of the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Chengdu and Shanghai?
2. What are the details of work in investment promotion to be undertaken by these ETOs in 2006?
3. What is the staff establishment of the Immigration Section under Guangdong ETO?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Guangdong ETO is now headed by an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B level, and supported by 19 non-directorate staff, including 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Information Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 1 Investment Promotion Project Officer, 2 Trade Officers, and 13 locally engaged officers. To meet demand arising from its extended coverage, 1 Trade Officer post will be created and 3 additional local supporting personnel will be engaged. In addition, an Immigration Team will be established in GDETO to provide assistance for Hong Kong residents in distress within its coverage (details in part 6 below).

2. The Shanghai ETO will be headed by an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B level, and supported by 14 non-directorate staff. Five of the 14 non-directorate positions will be filled by civil servants on a permanent basis, including 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers. One time-limited Executive Officer I post will also be established for two years to assist in the setting up of the new ETO. Another 8 supporting personnel will be engaged locally to provide support in various areas of work.

3. The Chengdu ETO will be headed by an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C level, and supported by 13 non-directorate officers. Four of the 13

non-directorate positions will be filled by civil servants on a permanent basis, including 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Senior Information Officer, 2 Trade Officers. One time-limited Executive Officer I post will also be established for two years to assist in the setting up of the new ETO. Eight local supporting personnel will be engaged.

4. Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) will strengthen investment promotion work in the Mainland. In particular, we will promote the advantages presented by Hong Kong's investment environment and the advantage of using Hong Kong as a springboard for Mainland enterprises to expand overseas. One of the main features of InvestHK is to attract direct investments to Hong Kong.

5. In 2006-07, the Investment Promotion Units (IPUs) of the Mainland ETOs will work closely with InvestHK headquarters in promoting Mainland investment into Hong Kong. Activities include conducting seminars and other promotion activities in major Mainland cities, identifying and meeting with potential investors, and arranging delegations to Hong Kong.

6. The Immigration Division of GDETO will comprise 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers. Besides, 1 supporting personnel will be engaged locally to provide clerical support.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 035

Question Serial No.

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

2246

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide information on the detailed plan and estimated expenditure on the promotion of Basic Law and conduct of publicity in 2006-07. Does it include subsidy for related projects organised by non-governmental organisations. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2006-07, CAB has allocated a total provision of \$7 million for Basic Law promotion. Major promotional activities to be organized in 2006-07 include a Basic Law carnival cum student flag raising ceremony in early April, a roving show in different districts to promote the Basic Law, TV and radio programmes, competitions for students and public, production of publications and TV announcements of public interest, and promotion activities jointly organised with community and youth organisations, etc.

2. In 2006-07, we will continue to step up the co-operation with community organizations and provide sponsorship to activities organized by these organizations. To this end, we are prepared to provide assistance and sponsorship to community organizations for organizing Basic Law promotional activities. The amount of provision for this purpose is yet to be decided at this stage. We will also seek to jointly organize some of the promotional activities with the community organizations, such as competitions and TV promotional programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 036

Question Serial No.

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

2247

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect of demonstration of the success in implementing the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, please provide information on the detailed plan and estimated expenditure in 2006-07.

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. In 2006-07, we will demonstrate to visitors from abroad the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, and will continue to brief them on the latest development in Hong Kong through visits to Government bureaux and departments. Similar visit programmes for visitors from the Mainland, Macao, and Taiwan will also continue to be organized.

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

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

5. We will deploy existing resources to carry out the above work in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 037

Question Serial No.

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 2265

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for 2006-07 is \$6.1 million higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. According to the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, this is mainly due to the operating expenses for the establishment of the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office and increased requirement for promotion of Basic Law. Please elaborate on –

- (a) the specific work of the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office and expenditure involved;
- (b) the reasons for the increase in provision for the promotion of Basic Law and the detailed breakdown of expenditure and workplan.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

To coordinate more effectively our efforts to strengthen liaison with the Mainland, and to facilitate exchanges and cooperation with provinces/regions in various aspects, a Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) will be established in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, with the following functions -

- (a) to formulate overall strategies and direction regarding cooperation between the HKSAR and Mainland, and to oversee the progress of cooperation initiatives;
- (b) to oversee the general liaison work between the Mainland authorities and HKSAR's offices in the Mainland; to formulate in conjunction with these offices, workplans to strengthen our relations with the Mainland. The MALO will also oversee the resource management, personnel arrangements and administrative work of these offices;

(c) to facilitate collaboration between bureaux/departments of the HKSAR and our Mainland offices as regards strengthening relations with the Mainland; and

(d) to provide secretariat services for the Hong Kong side regarding regional cooperation initiatives.

2. The annual operational expenses of the Office amount to \$27.856 million, comprising \$16.356 million personal emoluments and \$11.5 million departmental expenses. As Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU) will be subsumed under CAB as part of the process of the establishment of MALO, provisions for HKGCCU to Head 142 (\$7.7 million in 2005-06) will no longer be required with effect from 2006-07.

3. In 2006-07, CAB has increased the total provision for promoting the Basic Law to \$7 million, to enhance the public's awareness and understanding of the Basic Law by strengthening the promotion efforts.

4. Major promotional activities to be organized in 2006-07 include a Basic Law carnival cum student flag raising ceremony in early April, a roving show in different districts to promote the Basic Law, TV and radio programmes, competitions for students and public, production of publications and TV announcements of public interest, and promotion activities jointly organised with community and youth organisations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 039

Question Serial No.

2267

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 Government will examine the possibility of creating new non-civil service positions (such as assistants to Directors of Bureaux) in 2006-07. What is the specific work plan and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

To strengthen political support for politically appointed Principal Officials, the Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address that the Administration would consider creating a small number of positions dedicated to political affairs. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the relevant bureaux are looking into the matter and will formulate a package of proposals in conjunction with senior civil servants. We will launch consultations with the Legislative Council, the civil service and the community at large in the second half of the year. Subject to the outcome of the consultations, we will consider how and when to implement the proposals.

2. The study will be conducted with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 040

Question Serial No.

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

2268

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect to the indicators on commercial relations, the Bureau expects the number of visits to various provincial and municipal governments and trade organisations in the Mainland will increase sharply from 153 in 2005 to 225 in 2006-07. What are the reasons for the increase? Please provide information on the detailed plan and agenda of these visits.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

In 2005, the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) made a total of 153 visits to government departments and trade organisations. To further promote our exchanges and cooperation with the eastern and the south-western regions of the Mainland, we will set up two new Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Chengdu and Shanghai, which are targeted to commence service in the latter half of 2006. The coverage of GDETO will also be extended from April 2006 to cover four more provinces/region. The estimated total number of 225 calls for 2006 reflects efforts by GDETO and the two new Mainland ETOs in calling on local authorities and trade organisations in a total of 14 provinces/region and 2 municipalities, for promoting Hong Kong's linkages with them.

2. The visits will be arranged by GDETO and the two new Mainland ETOs to develop economic and trade relations and to enhance mutual understanding between Hong Kong and relevant areas. These visits will also help promote cooperation on various fronts, and provide opportunities to encourage local enterprises to invest in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 041

Question Serial No.

2269

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Constitutional Affairs Bureau will create 38 permanent posts in 2006-07. Please provide the details of the posts and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address the plan to establish the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) under the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) and to set up Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu. The existing ETO in Guangdong will also be expanded to cover four more provinces/regions and provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. As the MALO will also take up matters relating to Hong Kong/Guangdong cooperation, the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU) under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary" will be subsumed under the MALO. The Guangdong ETO under Head 96 "Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices" will also be transferred to CAB, in line with the new arrangement for the MALO to oversee the Guangdong ETO.

2. To effect the changes mentioned above, a total of 38 directorate and non-directorate posts will be created in 2006-07. The 38 posts will be offset by deleting 7 posts under Head 142 "Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary" and 7 other posts under Head 96 "Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices". Details of the post titles and annual salary cost are as follows :

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
<u>MALO</u>		
(i) 2 x Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Directorate 2)	1,360,800	1 post of the next higher rank (i.e. Directorate 3) under Head 142 “Government Secretariat : Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary” will be deleted in 2006-07.
(ii) 2 x Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	3 posts of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iii) Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Chief Executive Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iv) Senior Executive Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Senior Executive Officer)	681,180	
(v) Executive Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Executive Officer I)	481,020	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vi) 2 x Personal Secretary I to PAS(CA) (Personal Secretary I)	275,880	1 post of the same rank under Head 142 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vii) 2 x Clerical Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Clerical Officer)	275,880	
(viii) 2 x Assistant Clerical Officer (Constitutional Affairs) (Assistant Clerical Officer)	162,180	
<u>Guangdong ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Guangdong (Directorate 3)	1,580,400	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 “Government Secretariat : Overseas Economic and Trade Offices” will be

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
		deleted in 2006-07.
(ii) Deputy Director, Guangdong ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iii) Head, Investment Promotion Division, Guangdong ETO (Investment Promotion Project Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(iv) Head, Commercial Relations Division, Guangdong ETO (Principal Trade Officer)	929,220	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(v) Principal Information Officer, Guangdong ETO (Principal Information Officer)	773,100	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vi) Commercial Relations Manager, Guangdong ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(vii) 2 x Investment Promotion Manager, Guangdong ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	1 post of the same rank under Head 96 will be deleted in 2006-07.
(viii) Principal Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Principal Immigration Officer)	1,008,480	
(ix) Chief Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Chief Immigration Officer)	747,960	
(x) 2 x Immigration Officer, Guangdong ETO (Immigration Officer)	383,100	

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
<u>Shanghai ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Shanghai (Directorate 3)	1,580,400	
(ii) Deputy Director, Shanghai ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	
(iii) Principal Trade Officer, Shanghai ETO (Principal Trade Officer)	929,220	
(iv) 2 x Trade Officer, Shanghai ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	
(v) Senior Information Officer, Shanghai ETO (Senior Information Officer)	622,440	
(vi) Executive Officer, Shanghai ETO (Executive Officer I)	481,020	Time-limited post for two years.
<u>Chengdu ETO</u>		
(i) Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Chengdu (Directorate 2)	1,360,800	
(ii) Deputy Director, Chengdu ETO (Senior Administrative Officer)	929,220	
(iii) 2 x Trade Officer, Chengdu ETO (Trade Officer)	681,180	
(iv) Senior Information Officer, Chengdu ETO (Senior Information Officer)	622,440	

Post Titles (Rank)	Annual Salary Cost/Officer (\$)	Remarks
(v) Executive Officer, Chengdu ETO (Executive Officer I)	481,020	Time-limited post for two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 042

Question Serial No.

2363

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

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Chief Executive has stated in the 2005-06 Policy Address that the SAR Government will forge closer ties with NPC deputies and CPPCC members so that they may better play their role. In this connection, what role will the Constitutional Affairs Bureau play? What will its work for 2005-06 be? Has any work target or indicator been set? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Chief Executive (CE) met Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) and Hong Kong members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on 23, 24 and 27 February. They exchanged views on a wide range of issues, including the role of Hong Kong in the development of the Mainland, economic and social issues in Hong Kong, and enhancing communication channels. The CE stated that he had good discussion with the attendees, and he hoped that he could meet the local NPC deputies and CPPCC members more often in the future.

2. At future meetings between the CE and the local NPC deputies and CPPCC members, CAB and other relevant bureaux/departments will provide input and support to the CE as necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 043

Question Serial No.

2364

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

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : On exploring the possibility of further developing the political appointment system, please provide the schedule for the exercise. What arrangement for consultation on this subject will be made before the completion of the exercise?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

To strengthen political support for politically appointed Principal Officials, the Chief Executive announced in the 2005-06 Policy Address that the Administration would consider creating a small number of positions dedicated to political affairs. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the relevant bureaux are looking into the matter and will formulate a package of proposals in conjunction with senior civil servants. We will launch consultations with the Legislative Council, the civil service and the community at large in the second half of the year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 044

Question Serial No.

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

2365

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Under Programme 2, what is the amount of additional provision required for the promotion of Basic Law in 2006-07? Please provide the work details or specific plans for the promotion of Basic Law in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

In 2005-06, we have allocated a total provision of \$5 million for promoting the Basic Law. With a view to further enhance public's awareness and understanding of the Basic Law by strengthening the promotion efforts, the total provision for promoting the Basic Law has been increased to \$7 million in 2006-07.

2. We have organized in 2005-06 a number of large scale events such as a student flag raising ceremony, a carnival, a roving exhibition, a radio drama competition, a speaking contest and a debate competition. We have also produced television and radio programmes, and jointly organized promotional activities with community organizations.

3. In 2006-07, major promotional activities that we planned to launch include a Basic Law carnival cum student flag raising ceremony in early April, a roving show in different districts to promote the Basic Law, TV and radio programmes, competitions for students and members of the public, production of publications and TV announcements of public interest, and promotion activities jointly organised with community and youth organisations, etc. We will step up our co-operation with community organisations and, through the network of these organisations, strengthen our promotion efforts among different sectors of society particularly, students and the youth.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 045

Question Serial No.

2366

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

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide the details of the staffing structure of the Immigration Section to be established in the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Immigration Section of the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office will be headed by a Principal Immigration Officer, who will be supported by one Chief Immigration Officer and two Immigration Officers. In addition, one Clerical Assistant will be engaged locally to provide clerical support to the Section.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 046

Question Serial No.

2367

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

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Does the Administration have any plan to enhance the functions of the Chengdu and Shanghai Economic and Trade Offices to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress? If yes, what are the details of the plan? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

According to available statistics, about 80% of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland reside in the Guangdong Provinces. Moreover, in the past few years, the majority of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland received by the Immigration Department originated from the Guangdong Province. Thus our plan is to deploy Immigration Officers to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong to render relevant assistance within its coverage. Distress cases in the remaining provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities will continue to be handled by the Immigration Section of the BJO. After the setting up of the Shanghai and Chengdu Economic and Trade Offices, we will review in due course their role in the provision of such assistance.

Signature _____

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

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 047

Question Serial No.

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

2368

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The terms of reference of the new offices to be established in Chengdu and Shanghai will not include providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress or seeking assistance while the Beijing Office will continue to take up the work. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

According to available Statistics, about 80% of Hong Kong residents in the Mainland reside in the Guangdong Provinces. Moreover, in the past few years, the majority of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland received by the Immigration Department originated from the Guangdong Province. Thus our plan is to deploy Immigration Officers to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong to render relevant assistance within its coverage. Distress cases in the remaining provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities will continue to be handled by the Immigration Section of the BJO. We will, after the setting up of the Shanghai and Chengdu Economic and Trade Offices, review in due course their role in the provision of such assistance.

Signature _____

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

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 048

Question Serial No.

2369

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What are the details of the “practical” assistance that the Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong will provide to Hong Kong residents in distress or seeking assistance in the Mainland?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Immigration Team, to be set up in the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) in 2006-07, will provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the five provinces/ region within its coverage, namely, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan. Assistance rendered usually covers the following scenarios:

- (a). **Loss of identity documents:** upon verification of the identity of Hong Kong residents who have lost their identity documents, GDETO would facilitate their early return to Hong Kong;
- (b). **Loss of monies:** GDETO will contact the Hong Kong residents' family members for rendering financial assistance to the concerned assistance seekers.
- (c). **Accidents, injuries or sickness:** practicable assistance to be provided include –
 - (1) notifying as soon as possible, relatives of the parties concerned;
 - (2) contacting family/travel agencies to arrange for the early return of the injured persons to Hong Kong for treatment;
 - (3) facilitating entry of the injured persons at control points in Hong Kong;

- (4) if medical treatment is required in the Mainland, where practicable providing information on medical services available for reference; and
 - (5) assisting relatives of the deceased in completing the application procedures for death certificates and for transporting the bodies back to Hong Kong.
- (d). **Arrest or detention:** GDETO will gather details of the case from the assistance seekers and explain to them the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages of investigation, prosecution, trial or imprisonment, etc. GDETO would also advise the assistance seekers that they may employ Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. At the request of the assistance seekers, GDETO would pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. It would maintain close contact with the assistance seekers and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention, time limit and ways for lodging appeal and further appeals, etc.) according to the development of the case.
- (e). **Information on legal services:** Where required, GDETO can provide to the Hong Kong residents or their family members concerned information on the contact details of law societies in the concerned provinces within its coverage, so that they may consider seeking appropriate legal representation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 049

Question Serial No.

2370

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : With regard to the handling of cases involving the detention of Hong Kong residents, what are the details of the assistance that the Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong will provide to Hong Kong residents in detention?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

In handling requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents being detained in the Mainland, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) will explain to assistance seekers the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages, e.g. under investigation, prosecution, trial or imprisonment, etc.

2. The GDETO will also remind the assistance seekers that they may employ Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. At the request of the assistance seekers, the GDETO will pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. It will maintain close contact with the assistance seekers and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention, time limit and ways for lodging appeal and further appeals, etc.). Such information includes booklets entitled "Criminal Procedure Law in the Mainland" and "Criminal Law and Application of Regulations in the Mainland Relating to Detention and Arrest" published by the Security Bureau and the Beijing Office.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 050

Question Serial No.

2371

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What are the estimated establishments of the Mainland Offices in Chengdu and Shanghai? What is the establishment of the Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The staffing support of the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Chengdu, Shanghai is detailed as follows :

	Chengdu ETO	Shanghai ETO
Civil Service Establishment	6*	7*
Locally Engaged Staff	8	8
Total :	14	15

* including one Executive Officer post for each ETO which is time-limited for two years only for setting up the new office.

2. The staffing support of the ETO in Guangdong is detailed as follows :

Guangdong ETO Staffing Support	Existing	Newly Added	Total
Civil Service Establishment	7	5	12
Locally Engaged Staff	13	4	17
Total :	20	9	29

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

CAB 051

Question Serial No.

2372

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In 2006-07, how will Constitutional Affairs Bureau publicize the assistance provided by the Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland in 2006-07. Please list the details of each publicity programme and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The following measures will be taken to publicize the role of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) in assisting Hong Kong residents in distress:

- (a) The leaflet “Guide to Assistance Services to HK Residents in the Mainland” (the Guide) published by the Immigration Department, which outlines the scope of assistance that can be provided by the HKSAR Government to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland, will be updated to include the address and contact number of GDETO.
- (b) The guide will be distributed to the travel industry and the traveling public with the assistance of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Guangdong Boundary Crossing Bus Association Company Ltd; and
- (c) GDETO will make available to interested parties copies of “the Guide” and the booklets entitled “Criminal Procedure Law in the Mainland” and “Criminal Law and Application of Regulations in the Mainland Relating to Detention and Arrest” published by the Security Bureau and the Beijing Office to the public. These pamphlets/booklets are also available at Immigration Department, Home Affairs Department, and the Beijing Office.

- (d) The Constitutional Affairs Bureau will publicize through the press the services to be provided by GDETO to Hong Kong residents in distress when the GDETO's function is expanded in April 2006.
- (e) GDETO is also planning to publish an information booklet on various services available to Hong Kong residents living or working in provinces/region within its coverage. The booklets will be uploaded to GDETO's website and distributed at GDETO, boundary checkpoints, trade associations as well as Hong Kong organizations in Guangdong.

2. The estimated expenditure for the above initiatives is about \$0.134 million for 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 052

Question Serial No.

2400

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 any financial provision been made for facilitating the Bureau's liaison and cooperation with the various committees under the Commission on Strategic Development?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

In the 2006-07 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Committee on Governance and Political Development of the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage. One directorate officer at D2 level and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau to carry out the work. One Senior Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will also be redeployed within the Bureau for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 053

Question Serial No.

2401

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 an earlier discussion on the positioning of Hong Kong in its political development, the Executive Committee under the Commission on Strategic Development concluded that Hong Kong could act as an ambassador to promote peaceful diplomacy in the course of our country's development and therefore proposed that the HKSAR Government should consider setting up a new department to take charge of co-ordinating and implementing external policies. Since the proposal falls under the purview of this Programme, would the Administration please advise if any study on this issue has been conducted. If so, please give a detailed breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The paper on "Roles and Responsibilities of Hong Kong in Our Country's Economic, Social and Political Development" was put forth by the Central Policy Unit. This was discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee under the Commission on Strategic Development in February 2006. At this stage, there is no proposal to establish a new department to take charge of co-ordinating and implementing external policies.

2. Under Article 13 of the Basic Law, the Central People's Government (CPG) shall be responsible for the foreign affairs relating to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the HKSAR is authorized by the CPG to conduct relevant external affairs on its own in accordance with the Basic Law. The HKSAR has been actively participating in external affairs and has been an important player in the international community.

3. Constitutional Affairs Bureau will continue to facilitate the conduct of the HKSAR's external affairs and act as a focal point of contact between the

Government of the HKSAR and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

CAB 054

Question Serial No.

2402

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : One of the aims of the Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) is to encourage and attract investments to Hong Kong. In this regard, have the Mainland ETOs promoted the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme on the Mainland? If yes, please provide the details of each promotion programme and the expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Capital Investment Entrant Scheme is not applicable to Mainland residents. In such circumstances, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) has not been engaged in the promotion of the Scheme in the Mainland.

Signature _____

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

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 055

Question Serial No.

2403

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Guangdong Economic and Trade Office will not only expand its manpower but also enhance its functions to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. Out of the additional provision, what is the expenditure related to the above functions? Please provide specific details of the work in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The new Immigration Team will provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the provinces/ region within the coverage of the Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong. Assistance rendered usually covers the following scenarios:

- (a) **Loss of identity documents:** upon verification of the identity of Hong Kong residents who have lost their identity documents, GDETO would facilitate their early return to Hong Kong;
- (b) **Loss of monies:** GDETO would contact the Hong Kong residents' family members for rendering financial assistance to the concerned assistance seekers.
- (c) **Accidents, injuries or sickness:** practicable assistance to be provided include –
 - (1) notifying as soon as possible relatives of the parties concerned;
 - (2) contacting family/travel agencies to arrange for the early return of the injured persons to Hong Kong for treatment;
 - (3) facilitating entry of the injured persons at control points in Hong Kong;

- (4) if medical treatment is required in the Mainland, where practicable providing information on medical services available for reference; and
 - (5) assisting relatives of the deceased in completing the application procedures for death certificates and for transporting the bodies back to Hong Kong.
- (d) **Arrest or detention:** GDETO would gather details of the case from the assistance seekers and explain to them the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages of investigation, prosecution, trial or imprisonment, etc. GDETO would also remind the assistance seekers that they may employ Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. At the request of the assistance seekers, GDETO would pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. It would maintain close contact with the assistance seekers and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention, time limit and ways for lodging appeal and further appeals, etc.) according to the development of the case.
- (e) **Information on legal services:** Where required, GDETO can provide to the Hong Kong residents or their family members concerned information on the contact details of law societies in the concerned provinces within its coverage, so that they may consider seeking appropriate legal representation.

2. In 2006-07, we estimate that the setting up of Immigration Team in the GDETO will incur an expenditure of \$8.354 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 056

Question Serial No.

2404

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In its work report released earlier this year, the Guangdong Provincial Government pledged to press ahead with the implementation of CEPA and step up the promotion of cooperation and development in the Pan-PRD region. In this connection, has the Guangdong ETO liaised and communicated with the Guangdong Provincial Government and its relevant departments on the work report? Will initiatives to take forward the work report be included in its talks or visits to promote external trade and public relations scheduled for 2006?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

Since its establishment in 2002, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) has been in close contact with Guangdong authorities, with a view to enhancing economic cooperation and strengthening business and trade links. The “Work Report of Guangdong Provincial People’s Government” has highlighted the importance of consolidating the implementation of CEPA. GDETO has captured the relevant information in the GDETO Newsletter issued on 3 March 2006. The newsletter was circulated to major chambers of commerce and quasi-governmental organisations in Hong Kong, and also uploaded to GDETO's homepage. In addition, GDETO will work closely with relevant authorities in Guangdong on the practical problems in the implementation of CEPA, with a view to facilitating Hong Kong enterprises to capitalize the benefits under CEPA.

2. The geographical coverage of GDETO will be extended to cover four more Pan-PRD provinces/region from April 2006. GDETO will thus play a greater role in promoting cooperation between HKSAR and Pan-PRD region, such as to explore cooperation opportunities with local authorities and the private sector, to liaise with parties concerned, and to monitor progress of implementing relevant initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement C H Mak

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 057

Question Serial No.

2210

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding the handling of cases by the Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (Guangdong ETO) involving Hong Kong residents in distress and seeking assistance in the Mainland, please provide information on the following since the establishment of the Guangdong ETO:

- (a) the types of cases;
- (b) the number of cases handled so far and the number of cases being handled;
- (c) the details of assistance provided.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

- (a) and (b) Between July 2002 (when the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) was set up) and February 2006, GDETO received a total of 182 requests for assistance. Amongst these requests, most are related to commercial or property disputes, whereas 42 cases are related to Hong Kong residents in distress (e.g. loss of travel documents, accidents, injury etc.), with breakdown as follows:

Nature of Requests for Assistance from Hong Kong Residents in Distress	Number of Cases
(i) Loss of travel documents or monies	11
(ii) Hong Kong residents in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured or passed away in the Mainland	22

(iii) Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland	9
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(c). As GDETO has yet to set up an Immigration Team, requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress received were referred to the Immigration Department in Hong Kong or the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing (BJO) for follow up. The assistance rendered usually covers:

- (i) **Loss of identity documents:** upon verification of the identity of Hong Kong residents who have lost their identity documents, we would facilitate their early return to Hong Kong;
- (ii) **Loss of monies:** we would contact the Hong Kong residents' family members for rendering financial assistance to the concerned assistance seekers.
- (iii) **Accidents, injuries or sickness:** practicable assistance to be provided include –
 - (1) notifying as soon as possible relatives of the parties concerned;
 - (2) contacting family/travel agencies to arrange for the early return of the injured persons to Hong Kong for treatment;
 - (3) facilitating entry of the injured persons at control points in Hong Kong;
 - (4) if medical treatment is required in the Mainland, where practicable providing information on medical services available for reference; and
 - (5) assisting relatives of the deceased in completing the application procedures for death certificates and for transporting the bodies back to Hong Kong.
- (iv) **Arrest or detention:** we would gather details of the case from the assistance seekers and explain to them the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages of investigation, prosecution, trial or imprisonment, etc. The assistance seekers would also be reminded that they may employ Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. At the request of the assistance seekers, we could help pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. We would maintain close contact with the assistance seekers and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention, time limit and ways for

lodging appeal and further appeals, etc.) according to the development of the case.

- (v) **Information on legal services:** Where required, we can provide to the Hong Kong residents or their family members concerned information on the contact details of law societies in the concerned provinces within its coverage, so that they may consider seeking appropriate legal representation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 058

Question Serial No.

2221

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 661 Minor plant,
vehicles and
equipment (block
vote)

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

- Question : (a) Does the Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Guangdong have any official car?
(b) If yes, please advise us on the year of purchase of the car and the vehicle-mileage.
(c) Please explain why the ETO needs to purchase another car and the main differences between the car to be purchased and the existing one.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

GDETO has hired a 5-seater sedan at present for official use;

2. The sedan has been hired since July 2002. Up to February 2006, the total distance travelled exceeds 120,000 km ;

3. GDETO needs another 8-seater vehicle in 2006-07 to cope with the substantial increase in workload in view of the expansion of GDETO's functions to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. A vehicle that can accommodate more passengers could facilitate the performance of this function.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 059

Question Serial No.

2312

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

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : (a) Regarding the requests for assistance received by the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office in 2005-06, please provide a breakdown according to the reasons for requests and the success rates of handling these requests.

(b) Of these request cases, what are the handling procedures taken by the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office and the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

As the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) has yet to set up an Immigration Team, requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress received by GDETO would be referred to the Immigration Department in Hong Kong or the Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing (BJO) for follow up. For other requests, GDETO will follow up as specified in (3) below. The breakdown of requests received by GDETO in 2005 and January to February of 2006, for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress as well as assistance of other nature is set out below:

Nature of Request	Number	
	2005	2006 (Jan –Feb)
a. Loss of travel documents or monies	3	4
b. Hong Kong residents involved in traffic accidents, injured or passed away in the Mainland	5	7
c. Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland	1	2
d. Private commercial disputes	12	1

e. Real estate disputes	9	0
f. Complaints against Mainland Government departments	10	8
g. Complaints against trade and commercial polices or related legislation	3	5
h. Others	4	8
Total	47	35

2. Having regard to the circumstances of each case, GDETO would refer the case to relevant authorities for follow up action as appropriate. Since the nature of the cases varies, it is not practical to compile a success rate. However, GDETO would attend to each case and if assistance-seekers raise further requests for follow up actions, GDETO would provide practicable assistance and follow up as appropriate.

3. On requests for assistance relating to trade, commerce or complaints, GDETO would refer the cases to Mainland authorities, bureaux/departments of the HKSARG, or non-governmental organisations for follow up actions. For cases requiring further action, GDETO would also follow up on them in the light of their nature and experience gained in handling similar cases. This may entail the arrangement of meetings between assistance-seekers and relevant authorities under practicable circumstances, or direct coordination with Mainland and Hong Kong authorities to follow up on the cases.

4. For cases of private commercial disputes not involving authorities of Mainland or the HKSAR, GDETO would suggest assistance-seekers to resort to legal means for redress.

5. The work involved in handling requests for assistance is shared by offices of GDETO as part of their functions. Resource input for such function cannot be singled out and quantified.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement C H Mak

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB060

Question Serial No.

0168

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

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

Regarding the creation of 34 temporary posts and one permanent post in 2006-07, please provide information on:

- a) the number of permanent posts in the Information Technology Management Unit at present; the reason for creating the new permanent post and the scope of its work;
- b) the duration of the 34 new temporary posts; and the total emoluments incurred.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The proposal to create a permanent Systems Manager post for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) is to rationalise the existing arrangement under which an officer has been on loan to the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer since May 2005. The Systems Manager acts as the head of the ITMU who is responsible for managing and coordinating all IT-related activities within REO and developing REO's e-business and e-government programmes. At present, there is one permanent Clerical Assistant post in the ITMU of REO. Other members of the ITMU are Non-Civil Service Contract Staff.
- (b) We will create 58 time-limited civil service posts in 2006-07 for the preparation and conduct of the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2007 Chief Executive election, the supervision of the 2007 Village Representative elections, and the preparation for the 2007 District Council election. Twenty-four of these posts will lapse towards the end of 2006-07. There will be a net creation of 34 time-limited civil service posts in 2006-07. The duration required for these 34 time-limited civil service posts will be 12 months, straddling the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years. The total estimated staff cost for these 34 time-limited posts will be about \$18.7 million.

Signature	
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB061

Question Serial No.

1024

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 are the reasons for the estimated expenditure for 2006-07 to increase substantially by 1.4 times?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The increase in the provision for 2006-07 is mainly due to the additional resources required for the conduct and supervision of the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2007 Chief Executive election, the supervision of the 2007 Village Representative elections, and the preparation for the 2007 District Council election.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB062

Question Serial No.

1025

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 :

Is there any supplementary provision required for the by-elections conducted in 2005-06? If yes, please provide the total expenditures and the breakdown of expenses for the by-elections.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The expenditure required for the by-elections conducted in 2005-06 was met from the approved provision of the Registration and Electoral Office. We have not sought any supplementary provision for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB063

Question Serial No.

1026

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 the total expenditure and breakdown of expenses for the preparation of elections in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

A total of \$73.8 million, \$13.2 million, \$12.3 million and \$1.8 million has been included in the 2006-07 draft Estimates respectively for the preparation and conduct of the 2006 Election Committee (EC) subsector elections, the 2007 Chief Executive (CE) election, the preparation of the 2007 District Council (DC) election, and the supervision of the 2007 Village Representative (VR) elections. A breakdown of the expenses is as follows –

(A) Provision in 2006-07 for the 2006 EC subsector elections	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	40.9
(2) 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)	29.9
(3) Publicity	3.0
<hr/>	
Total	73.8

(B)	Provision in 2006-07 for the 2007 CE election	\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	8.7
(2)	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)	3.5
(3)	Publicity	1.0
<hr/> Total		13.2
(C)	Provision in 2006-07 for preparing the 2007 DC election	\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	9.7
(2)	Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation on demarcation of District Council constituencies, printing, postage, and other electoral expenses, etc)	2.6
<hr/> Total		12.3
(D)	Provision in 2006-07 for the 2007 VR elections	\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	1.7
(2)	Other Expenses (including the printing costs and other operating expenses)	0.1
<hr/> Total		1.8

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB064

Question Serial No.

1034

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 number of seats in some District Councils will increase, what are the expenses involved for the preparation of the 2007 District Council election?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

Expenditure for the 2007 District Council election will be incurred in the 2006-07 and the 2007-08 financial years. We anticipate that the impact of the proposed addition of five elected seats on the total expenditure for the 2007 District Council election will be limited.

The estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2006-07 for preparing the 2007 District Council election is about \$12.3 million, comprising –

	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	9.7
(2) Other Expenses	2.6
(including the costs for conducting public consultation on demarcation of District Council constituencies, printing, postage, and other electoral expenses, etc)	
<hr/>	
Total	12.3

The bulk of the expenditure for the 2007 District Council election will be incurred in the 2007-08 financial year. The amount of provision required will be worked out when the Draft Estimates of the Registration and Electoral Office for the 2007-08 financial year is prepared in due course.

Signature	
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB065

Question Serial No.

1098

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

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

Regarding Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, how much provision will be allocated for the promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise to prepare for the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections? What is the plan and the target set?

Asked by : Hon. Howard YOUNG

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) receives and processes applications for voter registration and updating of particulars of registered electors throughout the year. A voter registration campaign will take place between 10 April 2006 and 16 May 2006 to encourage eligible persons of all age groups to register as electors. As the Election Committee (EC) subsector elections will be held in end-2006, the REO will also conduct publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as voters of the EC subsectors. Further, publicity activities will be carried out between 10 April 2006 and 29 June 2006 to remind registered electors who have changed their registration particulars to update their records with the REO.

The publicity measures to be introduced will include television and radio announcements of public interest, advertisements in newspapers and trade journals of umbrella organizations, setting up registration counters in selected Registration of Persons' Offices of the Immigration Department, distribution of application forms in district offices, banks, schools and utilities, sending of appeal letters to potential electors (who, according to our knowledge, have not been registered), placing of posters and easy pull stands in umbrella organizations and other selected locations.

The planned provision for the various publicity activities of the 2006 voter registration campaign is about \$2.5 million. Of this provision, an amount of about \$0.9 million is earmarked for publicity activities encouraging eligible voters of EC subsectors to register. The planned provision relating to the processing of forms received, the compilation and publication of the provisional and final voter registers, and other operational expenses throughout the year is about \$8.9 million.

We stated in the draft Estimates that our performance indicator is to register 35 000 new electors and to update the records of 440 000 registered electors during the 2006 calendar

year. The figures include all types of electors. We do not have a separate target for EC subsector voter registration. We will be taking active steps through the various activities mentioned above to register as many new electors and to update as many elector records as possible.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB066

Question Serial No.

2220

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 the political reform package voted down and thus no up-coming expansion in membership of the Election Committee, what is the provision for the preparation for the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections? What are the expenditure breakdown figures and how do they compare with those of the last exercise of Election Committee subsector elections?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

A provision of \$73.8 million has been included in the 2006-07 draft Estimates for the preparation and conduct of the 2006 Election Committee (EC) subsector elections. A breakdown of the expenses is as follows-

	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	40.9
(2) 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)	29.9
(3) Publicity	3.0
<hr/>	
Total	73.8

The staff cost and publicity expenditure for the 2000 Legislative Council election also cover the staff cost and publicity expenditure for the 2000 EC subsector elections. We do not have separate breakdown of the expenses for these two items for the 2000 EC subsector elections.

The amount of "other electoral expenses" (i.e. aside from staff cost and publicity expenditure) incurred for the 2000 EC subsector elections was \$15.4 million. Having regard to the increased number of registered voters of the EC subsectors and rising public

interest and participation in elections, we have budgeted a provision of \$29.9 million for “other electoral expenses” for the 2006 EC subsector elections, representing an increase of \$14.5 million as compared to the actual expenditure for the 2000 EC subsector elections for this purpose. The additional provision is mainly required to cover the costs relating to electoral arrangements such as free mailing for candidates, printing cost, postage, hire of venue, etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ LAM Man-ho
Post Title	_____ Chief Electoral Officer
Date	_____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
(in Bold type)

CAB067

Question Serial No.

2243

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 :

- (1) Regarding the estimated provision of \$174,100,000 for 2006-07 being 148.7% higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06, will the Administration provide a detailed breakdown on the amounts allocated respectively for –
- (a) conducting and supervising the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections;
 - (b) supervising the 2007 Chief Executive election;
 - (c) supervising the 2007 Village Representative elections; and
 - (d) preparing for the 2007 District Council elections?
- (2) Will the Administration also provide the detailed work plans for the above items?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

(1) A total of \$73.8 million, \$13.2 million, \$12.3 million and \$1.8 million has been included in the 2006-07 draft Estimates for the preparation and conduct of the 2006 Election Committee (EC) subsector elections, the 2007 Chief Executive (CE) election, the preparation of the 2007 District Council (DC) election, and the supervision of the 2007 Village Representative (VR) elections respectively. A breakdown of the expenses is as follows –

(A) Provision in 2006-07 for the 2006 EC subsector elections	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	40.9
(2) 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)	29.9
(3) Publicity	3.0
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 73.8

(B) Provision in 2006-07 for the 2007 CE election	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	8.7
(2) 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)	3.5
(3) Publicity	1.0
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 13.2
(C) Provision in 2006-07 for preparing the 2007 DC election	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	9.7
(2) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation on demarcation of District Council constituencies, printing, postage, and other electoral expenses, etc)	2.6
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 12.3
(D) Provision in 2006-07 for the 2007 VR elections	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	1.7
(2) Other Expenses (including the printing costs and other operating expenses)	0.1
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 1.8

(2) For the 2006 EC subsector elections and the 2007 CE election, the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will assist the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) in carrying out the following preparatory work -

- (a) to make amendments to the existing EAC subsidiary legislation. Such amendments include amendments consequential to the Chief Executive Election and Legislative Council Election (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2006 and amendments to align the electoral procedures for EC subsector elections, where appropriate, with those for LegCo elections;
- (b) to conduct a voter registration drive for the EC subsectors;
- (c) to carry out appropriate publicity activities for the elections;

- (d) to review the EAC electoral guidelines for the elections, conduct public consultation exercises on the revised guidelines, and issue updated guidelines; and
- (e) to plan and make detailed logistical arrangements for the conduct of the elections.

In preparation for the 2007 DC election, the REO will assist the EAC in carrying out the following work in 2006-07 –

- (a) to review the demarcation of DC constituency areas (DCCAs);
- (b) to consult the public on the demarcation proposals;
- (c) to refine the proposals in the light of the views collected;
- (d) to submit the demarcation report to the CE; and
- (e) based on the approved DCCAs, to start work on allocating the registered electors to the relevant DCCAs.

For supervising the 2007 VR elections, the REO will assist the EAC in carrying out the following work –

- (a) to review and update the EAC electoral regulations and guidelines relating to the conduct of VR elections;
- (b) to deal with election-related complaints;
- (c) to review the conduct of the elections; and
- (d) to prepare a report on the elections for submission to the CE.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB068

Question Serial No.

2248

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 create 34 temporary posts in 2006-07. What are their duties and what are the costs involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

We will create 58 time-limited civil service posts in 2006-07 for the preparation and conduct of the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2007 Chief Executive election, the supervision of the 2007 Village Representative elections, and the preparation for the 2007 District Council election. Twenty-four of these posts will lapse towards the end of 2006-07. There will be a net creation of 34 time-limited civil service posts in 2006-07. The total estimated staff cost for these 34 time-limited posts will be about \$18.7 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB069

Question Serial No.

2249

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 are the details of the specific plans for the promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise in 2006-07? What are the costs involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) receives and processes applications for voter registration and updating of particulars of registered electors throughout the year. A voter registration campaign will take place between 10 April 2006 and 16 May 2006 to encourage eligible persons of all age groups to register as electors. As the Election Committee (EC) subsector elections will be held in end-2006, the REO will also conduct publicity measures to encourage eligible persons to register as voters of the EC subsectors. Further, publicity activities will be carried out between 10 April 2006 and 29 June 2006 to remind registered electors who have changed their registration particulars to update their records with the REO.

The publicity measures to be introduced will include television and radio announcements of public interest, advertisements in newspapers and trade journals of umbrella organizations, setting up registration counters in selected Registration of Persons' Offices of the Immigration Department, distribution of application forms in district offices, banks, schools and utilities, sending of appeal letters to potential electors (who, according to our knowledge, have not been registered), placing of posters and easy pull stands in umbrella organizations and other selected locations.

The planned provision for the various publicity activities of the 2006 voter registration campaign is about \$2.5 million. The planned provision relating to the processing of forms received, the compilation and publication of the provisional and final voter registers, and other operational expenses throughout the year is about \$8.9 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB070

Question Serial No.

2250

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 breakdown of election expenses for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

A total of \$73.8 million, \$13.2 million, \$12.3 million and \$1.8 million has been included in the 2006-07 draft Estimates for the preparation and conduct of the 2006 Election Committee (EC) subsector elections, the 2007 Chief Executive (CE) election, the preparation of the 2007 District Council (DC) election, and the supervision of the 2007 Village Representative (VR) elections respectively. A breakdown of the expenses is as follows –

(A) Provision in 2006-07 for the 2006 EC subsector elections	\$M
(1) Staff Cost	40.9
(2) 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)	29.9
(3) Publicity	3.0
<hr/>	
Total	73.8
 (B) Provision in 2006-07 for the 2007 CE election	 \$M
(1) Staff Cost	8.7
(2) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public	3.5

(2)	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)	3.5
(3)	Publicity	1.0
<hr/> Total		13.2
(C) Provision in 2006-07 for preparing the 2007 DC election		\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	9.7
(2)	Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation on demarcation of District Council constituencies, printing, postage, and other electoral expenses, etc)	2.6
<hr/> Total		12.3
(D) Provision in 2006-07 for the 2007 VR elections		\$M
(1)	Staff Cost	1.7
(2)	Other Expenses (including the printing costs and other operating expenses)	0.1
<hr/> Total		1.8

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB071

Question Serial No.

2282

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

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

In view of the chaos during the 2004 Legislative Council election, please provide details of the staffing arrangements and provisions for the preparation of the 2007 District Council election.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

Expenditure for the 2007 District Council (DC) election will be incurred in the 2006-07 and the 2007-08 financial years. A provision of \$12.3 million has been included in the 2006-07 draft Estimates for the preparation of the 2007 DC election. The preparatory work to be carried out in 2006-07 includes:

- (a) Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) to review the demarcation of DC constituency areas (DCCAs);
- (b) EAC to consult the public on the demarcation proposals;
- (c) EAC to refine the proposals in the light of the views collected;
- (d) EAC to submit the demarcation report to the Chief Executive; and
- (e) based on the approved DCCAs, Registration and Electoral Office (REO) to start work on allocating the registered electors to the relevant DCCAs.

The bulk of the expenditure for the 2007 DC election will be incurred in the 2007-08 financial year. The actual arrangements of the 2007 DC election will only be finalized at a later stage. The amount of provision required will be worked out when the Draft Estimates of the REO for the 2007-08 financial year is prepared in due course.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the 2007 DC election, the REO will implement appropriate improvement measures having regard to the recommendations put forth in the Electoral Affairs Commission Reports on the 2004 Legislative Council election and the report published by the Independent Committee of Experts, including stepping up training on polling and counting arrangements, providing crisis management training, drawing up more comprehensive contingency plans, stationing more senior officers (including the Chief Electoral Officer) at the Central Command Centre to strengthen the command structure, and ensuring that thorough testings of electoral equipment are conducted etc.

Signature	
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB072

Question Serial No.

2300

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 :

Will the Administration consider adopting information technology system like the electronic voting system in elections so as to save expenses such as those on vote-counting staff and printing of ballot papers? If yes, what are the details? If no, why?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

In view of the large number of choices to be counted on each ballot paper of a Election Committee (EC) subsector election (a subsector can have as many as 41 vacancies), it is not practicable to adopt a manual mode of vote counting in a EC subsector election. As in the 2000 EC subsector election, we will employ computerized Optical Mark Recognition technology to count the votes in the 2006 EC subsector election. A provision of \$5.4 million has been included under Head 710 Subhead A007GX for this purpose. We will continue to adopt manual voting in the 2006 EC subsector election.

As for the use of electronic voting system for other elections, the Electoral Affairs Commission needs to give further and careful consideration to a number of factors, including -

- (a) the cost effectiveness of making substantial capital outlay for the use of information technology in the polling and counting processes given the fast advancement of information technology and the fact that Legislative Council and District Council elections are conducted only once every four years;
- (b) the problem in connection with the prevention of vote buying if remote voting technology is employed;
- (c) the transparency of the vote casting and counting processes and the acceptance of such by the public and the candidates;
- (d) the need to cater for the need of some electors who are less apt at using computers; and
- (e) technical considerations such as the availability of technical support for setting up computerized voting systems at over 500 polling stations shortly before the polling day, and the availability of proper information technology infrastructure to support the use of computer systems in all the polling stations, including those in remote areas.

Signature	
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	9 March 2006