

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

**ETWB(W)044**

Head : 60 Highways Department    Subhead :

Question Serial No.

2098

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

The increase in provision of \$5.3 million is mainly due to the increased provision for enhancement of the excavation permit conditions prescribed in the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance. However, the estimated number of cases to be processed in 2006 is 40 000, which is lower than the actual number of cases processed in 2004, i.e. 42 741. Why is the provision on the increase in spite of the decreasing number of cases?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase in provision of \$5.3 million under Programme (2) District and Maintenance will mainly be used to continue the work of a dedicated enforcement team from 2006-07 to 2010-11 to ensure compliance with requirements under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance by permit holders so as to minimise disturbance to the public. There is no direct relationship between the number of permits issued and the enforcement manpower as only some of the permits have to undergo enforcement actions. Enforcement actions carried out by the Department include investigation, collection of evidence, interviewing suspects and preparation for instituting prosecutions of offenders. These duties were carried out in 2005-06 by re-deploying manpower from the department's existing resources. Since it is not feasible to permanently re-deploy civil service posts for this purpose, additional provision has been obtained to continue the enforcement duties.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **MAK CHAI KWONG** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director of Highways** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **11 March 2006** \_\_\_\_\_