

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)018

Question Serial No.

0537

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please account for the difference of over \$25 million between the revised estimate of \$68.039 million and the original estimate of \$93.800 million for general departmental expenses in 2012-13, and explain why such expenditure has been increased again to the level of \$97.243 million in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply

The 2012-13 revised estimate for general departmental expenses is \$25.761 million less than the original estimate mainly because of the adjusted schedule in employing non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff and the postponed commencement of a service contract for enhancing road inventory.

The 2013-14 estimate for general departmental expenses is \$97.243 million. The increase of \$29.204 million as compared with the 2012-13 revised estimate is mainly for the employment of NCSC staff in accordance with the abovementioned revised schedule, the implementation of the aforementioned service contract for enhancing road inventory and the commencement of a service contract for tree data collection.

Name in block letters: K K LAU
Post Title: Director of Highways
Date: 3.4.2013