

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)231****(Question Serial No. 5300)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 56):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 of this Programme, the Administration stated that it will commence the investigation and detailed design for a footbridge along Yuen Long Town Nullah between the West Rail Long Ping Station and Kau Yuk Road. In this connection, will the Administration inform us:

- (1) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the afore-mentioned matter in the 2014-15 estimates?
- (2) What are the estimated costs for the afore-mentioned project?
- (3) Earlier on, the Tai Ho Road footbridge in Tsuen Wan experienced cost overrun and a delay in opening, how can the Administration ensure that these will not recur in this project?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) The Highways Department (HyD) is planning to engage a consultant to carry out further investigation and detailed design for the proposed footbridge along Yuen Long Town Nullah between the West Rail Long Ping Station and Kau Yuk Road. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$4 million. The HyD deploys existing staff to oversee the implementation of the project.
- (2) The estimated cost for the project will be determined at the detailed design stage.
- (3) The Tai Ho Road footbridge in Tsuen Wan was completed and fully open for public use in April 2013. The delay in opening was due to the additional time required for carrying out remedial works to defects identified under the quality assurance procedures. No additional expenditure was incurred by the Government with respect to the remedial works. Indeed, there were many footbridges completed on time and within budget, for example, the footbridges constructed at the Tuen Mun town centre recently. The HyD will follow the established mechanism to closely monitor the implementation of future projects to ensure that they are completed on time and within budget.