

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO085

(Question Serial No. 4135)

Head: (706) Capital Works Reserve Fund - Highways

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

The construction at the site of the project 6173TB was once forced to suspend due to its vicinity being occupied. Please advise on:

- (1) Whether the progress of works was affected? Can the project be completed according to the schedule?
- (2) Has the project cost increased as a result of the suspension?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 98)

Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill.

Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund do **not** form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are **not** relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.

That said, our replies to the questions are as follows –

- (1) The project was grounded to a halt due to public demonstration activities along Harcourt Road and Tim Mei Avenue between late September and mid-December 2014. Subject to weather conditions during the remaining construction period, the anticipated project completion date has been revised to end November 2015, vis-à-vis the original anticipated project completion date of June 2015 so stated in the submission to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. We have reported the latest situation to the Legislative Council Commission.

- (2) While we are still assessing the cost claims submitted by the Contractors, based on our preliminary estimate, we anticipate that the total expenditure of the project should be within the approved project estimate of \$74.3 million in money-of-the-date prices.

- End -