

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)253

(Question Serial No. 4145)

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:

As noted, four works contracts were not commenced according to the agreed programme in 2014. What were the reasons for this? Will it affect the final cost and date of completion for the works?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (Member Question No. 3126)

Reply:

As indicated in the Controlling Officer's Report of the Highways Department (HyD), in 2014, four out of 13 works contracts were not commenced according to the agreed programme.

One of the contracts is the Road Improvement Works for the West Kowloon Reclamation Development (Phase 1) project. The funding proposal of the project was endorsed by the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 9 January 2015 and approved by the Finance Committee on 27 February 2015. The Approved Project Estimate is \$845.8 million. The contract was awarded in March 2015 at a contract price of \$650 million. The original plan was to commence construction works in July 2014 for completion by 2017. However, due to the longer-than-expected time for securing funding approval for the project, the construction works can only commence in March 2015 for completion by mid-2018.

The remaining three contracts are for the construction of infrastructure and building works for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF). Of these three contracts, two were awarded in February 2015 and March 2015 at contract prices of \$2,259.6 million and \$7,657.2 million respectively; and one is being tendered.

As indicated by the Secretary for Transport and Housing at the LegCo Panel on Transport on 16 January this year, the Joint Works Committee of the Three Governments (JWC) had

advised that it would be very difficult for the entire HZMB project to be completed by end 2016. The JWC and the HZMB Authority will further conduct an in-depth and objective analysis on the programme of the project. Besides, Mr Li Chun-hong, the Director of the Guangdong Development and Reform Commission, advised at the press conference of the third session of the 12th Guangdong Provincial People's Congress held on 10 February this year that, as the HZMB project encountered many unforeseen difficulties and technical problems, it appeared to be very difficult to commission the HZMB by end 2016.

As for the local projects in Hong Kong, according to the current progress, the HKBCF and the Hong Kong Link Road projects may not be completed in time by end 2016. The HyD is reviewing the anticipated completion dates.

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