

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)025**

**(Question Serial No. 3206)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In this Programme, the expenditure on highways maintenance has increased from \$921 million in 2015 to \$1,054 million in 2016 while 36 posts will be created in 2016-17. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) the reason for the substantial increase in expenditure on highways maintenance; and
- (b) the post titles, duties and full year estimated expenditure for the 36 posts.

Asked by: Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

- (a) The increase in expenditure on highways maintenance is due to –
  - (i) cost escalation, especially for works-related costs; and
  - (ii) the commissioning and handing over of new highway and associated facilities to the Highways Department (HyD) for maintenance.
- (b) Thirty-six non-directorate posts will be created in 2016-17 in the HyD. The ranks, annual staff costs (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary) and duties of these new posts are summarised below –

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Annual Staff Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Duties</b>
Senior Engineer	1	1,309,080	To strengthen the capability of the New Territories Regional Office in dealing with district and maintenance matters.
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	1	702,060	
Inspector of Works	1	621,660	
Assistant Inspector of Works	1	390,720	
Works Supervisor I (Civil)	2	642,840	
Works Supervisor II (Civil)	1	258,600	

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Annual Staff Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Duties</b>
Senior Engineer	1	1,309,080	To assist in the taking over and maintenance of the Eastern Harbour Crossing.
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	1	702,060	
Inspector of Works	2	1,243,320	
Assistant Inspector of Works	2	781,440	
Works Supervisor I (Civil)	4	1,285,680	
Senior Engineer	1	1,309,080	To strengthen the capability of the Urban Regional Office in dealing with district and maintenance matters.
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2	1,404,120	
Inspector of Works	2	1,243,320	
Assistant Inspector of Works	1	390,720	
Works Supervisor I (Civil)	5	1,607,100	
Works Supervisor II (Civil)	4	1,034,400	
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	1	702,060	To support the delivery of projects related to local traffic improvement and connectivity enhancement under the Energising Kowloon East initiative.
Assistant Inspector of Works	1	390,720	
Assistant Supplies Officer	1	372,240	To strengthen the support in the Supplies Section for procurement and supplies matters.
Motor Driver	1	202,680	To strengthen transport services for staff.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17,902,980</b>	

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