

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)225****(Question Serial No. 6305)**

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:

What are the works progress, expenditure and manpower involved and the date of completion of the reclamation works for the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB)? What are the works progress, expenditure and manpower involved, and the anticipated date of completion for the entire HZMB project?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 225)

Reply:

According to the agreement of the three Governments, the HZMB Authority jointly set up by the three Governments as a legal entity in accordance with Mainland laws is responsible for the construction, operation, management and maintenance of the HZMB Main Bridge. The HZMB Authority has to report the progress of the works to the three Governments from time to time. As for the HKBCF, the Hong Kong Link Road (HKLR) and the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL), the supervision of works is carried out by consultants engaged by the Highways Department (HyD). The HyD has been deploying existing staff to oversee the implementation of these projects.

The approved project estimate for the construction of the various projects of the HZMB is as follows:

Project	Approved project estimate (\$ million)
HZMB Main Bridge (within Mainland waters)	9,280 (Hong Kong side's contribution)
HKBCF	35,895
HKLR	25,047
TM-CLKL ^{Note}	46,708

Note: This comprises the Public Works Programme (PWP) Item 6846TH TM-CLKL – detailed design, site investigation and advance works, and the PWP Item 6857TH TM-CLKL – construction works.

The HZMB Main Bridge project, as well as related projects in Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao, have all encountered difficulties in construction and in meeting the programme schedule. With safety and quality assurance being the major premise, the HZMB Authority and the three governments have been reviewing the progress of the various projects as well as means to overcome the difficulties concerned.

Having regard to the latest situation of the HZMB Main Bridge and the related projects of the three sides, the three Governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao as well as the HZMB Authority further compiled and assessed the works programme at the end of last year. It was concluded that it would not be feasible for the HZMB project (including the Main Bridge project) to be completed for commissioning by end-2016. This has been reported to the Task Force of the HZMB, chaired by the National Development and Reform Commission and attended by officials from the three Governments, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, and the HZMB Authority. The Task Force attached great importance to the HZMB project and requested the Joint Works Committee of the three Governments to conduct a final assessment with a view to reporting the consolidated revised target commissioning date of the entire HZMB project to the Central People's Government. This final assessment is ongoing.

For the works progress of the HKBCF and the HKLR, in view of the construction difficulties and challenges such as the unstable supply of materials, shortage of labour, constraints in construction due to height restriction, the environmental protection requirements and the slower-than-expected consolidation rate of reclamation works, the HyD anticipates that the local projects can only be completed by the end of 2017. As of end-February 2016, about 86% of the reclamation works of the HKBCF of the HZMB has been completed. The anticipated completion date of the reclamation works for the HKBCF is end-2016. As for the TM-CLKL, it involves the Southern Connection and the Northern Connection. The completion date of the Southern Connection will tie in with that of the HZMB Main Bridge whilst the Northern Connection is targeted for completion in 2018.

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