

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)246

(Question Serial No. 6517)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In this Programme, the funding for 2017-18 is higher than the revised estimate of 2016-17 by \$277.3 million (19.3%). Expenditure for highways maintenance increases from \$956 million of 2016 to \$1,046 million of 2017, with a net increase of \$90 million. 25 posts will also be created in 2017-18. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following –

- (a) what are the details of the operational expenses concerning workshop services which the increase in the estimate is involved?
- (b) what are the reasons for the significant increase in the expenses for highways maintenance?
- (c) what are the titles, duties and full year estimated expenditure of the 25 posts created?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 304)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure on workshop services in 2017-18 is \$149.4 million. It is mainly used for the following costs associated with the Service Level Agreement made with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund –
 - (i) Electrical, mechanical and air-conditioning services for, among others, footbridges and subways, Siu Ho Wan Government Maintenance Depot and Shenzhen Bay Bridge;
 - (ii) Provision of comprehensive maintenance services (including preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance, defect rectification and handling of public complaints) for special lighting facilities including footbridge and subway lighting, underpass lighting, high mast lighting and high bay lighting at public transport interchanges;

- (iii) Provision of consultancy, technical support and monitoring services for the electrical and mechanical equipments at bridges and roads in Tsing Sha Control Area;
- (iv) Provision of maintenance services for the vehicles of the Highways Department (HyD) to keep them in good and safe conditions to meet operational needs.
- (b) The increase in the estimated expenditure on highways maintenance in 2017 is due to:
- (i) cost escalation, especially for works-related costs (e.g. workers' wages for civil works contracts); and
- (ii) the commissioning and handing over to the HyD of new highway and associated facilities for maintenance, including the Hong Kong Link Road and the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, improvement works on pedestrian link facilities in Tsz Wan Shan, Kai Tak development - Stage 3A & Stage 4 infrastructure works at north apron area of Kai Tak Airport, development at Anderson Road as well as the lifts and associated facilities under the Universal Accessibility Programme.
- (c) Under Programme (2) District and Maintenance Works, 25 non-directorate posts will be created in the HyD in 2017-18. The ranks, annual staff costs (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary) and duties of the 25 new posts are summarised below -

Rank	Number of Posts	Annual Staff Cost (\$)	Duties
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	1	732,630	To provide technical support to the Energising Kowloon East initiative
Works Supervisor I (Civil)	1	336,480	
Senior Engineer	1	1,363,920	To take over and maintain the highway infrastructures and related facilities of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge local projects (i.e. the Hong Kong Link Road and the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities)
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2	1,465,260	
Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer	1	732,630	
Senior Technical Officer (Civil)	1	566,880	
Technical Officer (Civil)/Technical Officer Trainee (Civil)	2	521,820	
Inspector of Works	1	650,760	
Assistant Inspector of Works	2	818,040	
Works Supervisor I (Civil)	2	672,960	
Works Supervisor II (Civil)	2	541,440	
Electrical Inspector	1	650,760	

Rank	Number of Posts	Annual Staff Cost (\$)	Duties
Assistant Electrical Inspector	1	409,020	
Clerical Officer	1	409,020	
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	255,060	
Clerical Assistant	1	199,080	
Workman II	1	158,280	
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	1	732,630	Taking over and maintenance of Tate's Cairn Tunnel
Senior Clerical Officer	1	541,440	To strengthen clerical support in the Administration Division
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	255,060	
Total:	25	12,013,170	

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