

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)025

(Question Serial No. 2463)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for maintenance and clearance of road network with a view to ensuring safety and serviceability. What is the expenditure of the HyD on handling fallen trees and broken branches caused by Super Typhoon Mangkhut? Have all the clearance work been completed? If not, what are the reasons? The Government stated that individual department will review the response and recovery work, including the adequacy of equipment and machinery, in light of the experience gained in tackling Typhoon Mangkhut. What are the result and details of the review conducted by the HyD?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The total estimated expenditure on tree clearance works after the passage of super typhoon Mangkhut was about \$31 million (up to end February 2019).

The HyD cleared and reopened all strategic roads and the roads leading to/from bus depots on 18 September 2018 (typhoon signal was downscaled to No. 3 at 0520 hours on 17 September). Most other roads blocked by fallen trees were cleared for vehicular traffic on or before 22 September 2018. HyD also removed all blockages to carriageways and cycle tracks by October 2018 and November 2018 respectively. For tree debris on slopes under HyD's purview, due to the large quantities of debris and the substantial preparation required (such as temporary traffic arrangements, deployment of plant and access arrangement), the clearance works had taken a longer time. HyD has already completed about 80% removal of tree debris works and it is anticipated to clear the tree debris on slopes by mid-2019.

After the super typhoon Mangkhut, the contractors under the management of HyD had deployed substantial amount of labour, plant and equipment to handle the emergency recovery and rectification works. HyD is conducting a review with the contractors on the

level of emergency stand-by resources (e.g. labour, plant and equipment) to be provided so as to enhance the response time and handling capacity during the initial recovery stage after a typhoon attack.

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