

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)027**

**(Question Serial No. 0007)**

Head: (60) Highways Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Capital Projects  
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21", the Administration states that it will continue to take forward the provision of barrier-free access facilities for existing footbridges, elevated walkways and subways under the Universal Accessibility (UA) Programme. Please provide the manpower and resources allocated to execute the above policy as well as the number of jobs that will be created as well as the number of citizens that are going to be benefited from this Programme.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Government is pressing ahead with the various phases of the UA Programme. As at 29 February 2020, 153 items were completed, 54 items were under construction and 172 items were under investigation and detailed design.

The Government announced in 2019 Policy Address that the ambit of the UA Programme would be expanded by launching a "Special Scheme" for retrofitting lifts at footbridges, subways and elevated walkways in or connecting to the common areas of three types of housing estates, i.e. estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme and the Buy or Rent Option Scheme, and public rental housing estates with properties divested under the Hong Kong Housing Authority. We will proceed to consult DCs starting from Q2 2020 on the lift retrofitting items for the Special Scheme and the priorities for implementation.

The total expenditure of the UA Programme, which covers the costs for investigation, design and construction, is about \$4.657 billion for the period from 2011-12 to 2019-20. The estimated expenditure of the UA Programme for 2020-21 is \$614.7 million. Existing resources of the Highways Department will be deployed for the implementation of the UA Programme. The works under the UA Programme will create about 1 100 jobs in 2020-21.

In total, the various phases of the UA Programme would provide barrier-free access facilities at over 370 walkways in all 18 districts in the territory to facilitate the access of the public.

- End -