

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: During 2008-09, the Department will continue with the design and construction of the sewerage works under the sewerage master plans. Will these plans include sewers rationalisation to improve their compatibility with the surrounding environment? With the emphasis on the town development planning in recent years, has the Department conducted any studies on rationalisation of sewers? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

Sewers are for the purpose of conveying wastewater and are all enclosed and underground, their compatibility with the surrounding environment is generally not an issue. The public sometimes complain that particular nullahs are not compatible with the environment. Since nullahs are stormwater drains, they are not included in sewerage master plans. However, their improvement works, if any, are implemented under the Public Works Programme.

As announced in the 2005 Policy Address, there are 16 nullahs to be improved in ten years for enhancing the living environment. The works are in progress. Of these 16 nullahs, for instance, the Kai Tak Nullah, is to be improved by a combination of rehabilitation and decking that is compatible with the surrounding environment. In addition to the improvement works of these 16 nullahs, a study for the rehabilitation of Yuen Long Town nullah is in progress, of which the expenditure involved is \$11.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 26 March 2008