Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16

Reply Serial No.

ENB208

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2502)

Head: (704) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Drainage

Subhead (No. & title): (4229DS) North District and Tolo Harbour sewerage, sewage treatment and disposal—high priority works— expansion of Shek Wu Hui sewage treatment works and Ting Kok Road pumping station No. 5

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum-wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding Subhead 4229DS (North District and Tolo Harbour sewerage, sewage treatment and disposal—high priority works— expansion of Shek Wu Hui sewage treatment works and Ting Kok Road pumping station No. 5), funding was approved by the Finance Committee in 2005 for scheduled completion in 2009 (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ea/papers/ea0324cb1-1133-3-e.pdf). However, the project is still one of the budget items. Would the Drainage Services Department advise on:

1) the reasons for the delay in completion of the project;

2) the expected completion date of the project; and

3) whether the project cost will overrun due to the delay.

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill. Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund do **not** form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are **not** relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.

1) The main works of the project under Subhead No. 4229DS were completed in 2009. Subsequently, as some minor improvement works had to be carried out to enhance the daily operation of the sewage treatment works, we grouped such works with other projects into one single works contract for implementation. The relevant works were completed in 2014. The project still needs to be kept in the Estimates of the budget and will only be removed upon account finalisation of the above works contract.

2) All works under the above contract have been completed. We expect to complete the account finalisation in 2016-17 at the earliest.

3) Based on the current assessment, the approved project estimate is sufficient to cover the cost of all the works involved.

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