

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)089**

**(Question Serial No. 1562)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Despite a net decrease of 45 posts in the overall staff establishment, the estimate for “Salaries” under Subhead 000 Operational expenses has increased from the revised estimate of \$1.11 billion for the previous year to the estimate of \$1.138 billion for the coming year.

1. What are the specific reasons for such an increase in salary provision of nearly \$28 million?
2. In the context of a significant reduction in manpower (particularly under Stormwater Drainage), how much additional recurrent provision has the Department earmarked for outsourced cleansing and maintenance contracts in the coming year to maintain day-to-day flood prevention and drainage operations?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. It is anticipated that the establishment of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) will decrease by 45 posts, from 2 028 posts as at 31 March 2026 to 1 983 posts as at 31 March 2027, thereby achieving a reduction in the relevant manpower expenditure. Nevertheless, the DSD will also need to meet additional manpower expenditure arising from other aspects in 2026-27, including the salary expenses for vacancies filled in 2026-27, the full-year effect in 2026-27 for vacancies filled in the preceding year, and salary increments for existing staff. After offsetting the savings achieved in the manpower expenditure due to post reduction, additional provision is still required. The estimate for salary expenses in 2026-27 is hence approximately \$28 million higher than the revised estimate for 2025-26.
2. The DSD has earmarked additional recurrent provision in 2026-27 for contract maintenance, including inspection, clearance and maintenance of additional drainage systems and flood prevention facilities, which represents an increase of approximately \$25 million over the revised estimate for 2025-26, to meet the growing demand for flood prevention and drainage operations in the coming year. Such expenditure is not related to the projected decrease of 45 posts in the DSD in 2026-27.

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