

**Presentation by Secretary for Security
at the Special Meeting of the Finance Committee
on Tuesday, 20 March 2001**

Mr Chairman,

Analysis of Public Expenditure on Security

- In the coming financial year (2001/2002), 9.9% (\$28.8 billion) of total public expenditure will be spent on security. The two policy areas of Internal Security and Immigration under my responsibility will account for \$24.9 billion. The provisions to be allocated to these two policy areas represent real increases of 5.8% and 17% respectively when compared with 00/01.

Enhanced Productivity Program

- We have made significant progress in achieving the goal of EPP. For 2001-02, my Bureau and the departments under my purview will together deliver savings of \$0.4 billion. These savings have been reflected in the 2001-02 draft Estimates. On a cumulative basis, we will achieve the 3% target savings set for 2001-02 and are on schedule to meet the overall target of 5% cumulative savings by 2002-03.
- The EPP has helped reinforce our commitment to ensure value for money. Through critical examination of our operations and services, we will implement measures that will achieve genuine productivity gains without compromising our quality of service. All EPP savings are redeployed to new or improved services and contribute to the major growth areas that we have planned for our policy commitments.

Major Growth Areas

The additional resources will mostly go to funding the following improvements in services in 2001-02:

Law and order

- We will provide an additional 138 police officers to strengthen front-line policing and traffic enforcement in new towns. On equipment side, we have earmarked \$988 million for replacing the existing obsolete command and control communication system to enhance operational efficiency in the deployment of police officers on beat patrol.

Immigration control

- We will create a total of 117 additional posts in the Immigration Department to expedite passenger clearance at the Lo Wu Control Point. We plan to add another 45 posts in the Department for processing judicial review cases arising from right of abode litigation. A new HKSAR identity card system will be implemented for the introduction of a more secure and sophisticated identity card.

Safeguard public safety

- We shall maintain our effective fire fighting and rescue service. The Fire Services Department will have 73 additional staff for new fire stations and another 31 additional staff for ambulance services. We will provide \$26.3 million to the Fire Services Department to carry out fire safety programme for old composite buildings.

Prevent and detect smuggling

- We will provide additional resources to the Customs & Excise Department to strengthen its capability in combating smuggling. 26 additional staff will be provided to handle additional workload from the new Container Terminal No. 9. We also plan to install an Automatic Vehicle Recognition System at the boundary control points to speed up cross-boundary traffic.

Relieving prison overcrowding

- We will have 54 additional staff in the Correctional Services Department for the commissioning of 260 new penal places at the redeveloped Tai Lam Correctional Institution which will help relieve the prison overcrowding problem.