

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

**Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Session No. : 3 File name : S-CAB-e.doc**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 001

Question Serial No.

0005

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by your bureau,

- (1) please provide the following details of the consultancy study for which financial provision have been allocated in 2001-02:

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of the consultancy study	Consultancy fees	Progress and follow-up action (in plan/ in progress/ completed)	Government's follow-up action (if available)

- (2) will there be any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy study in 2002-03? If yes, please provide the following details:

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of the consultancy study	Consultancy fees	Status of the consultancy study (in plan/ in progress/ completed)

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (1) Details of the consultancy study for which financial provision have been allocated in 2001-02 are as follows:

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of consultancy study	Consultancy fees	Progress and follow-up action (in plan/ in progress/ completed)	Government's follow-up action (if available)
Hay Group Limited	To study and make recommendations on an appropriate remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the accountability system	\$1.66 million	Near completion	

(2) Details of the financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy study in 2002-03 are as follows:

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of consultancy study	Consultancy fees	Progress and follow-up action (in plan/ in progress/ completed)	Government's follow-up action (if available)
Hay Group Limited	To study and make recommendations on an appropriate remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the accountability system	\$10,000 (for miscellaneous expenses)	Completed	

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 002

Question Serial No.

0022

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: As regards the arrangement for implementation of the accountability system of principal officials in the coming year, what support service will be provided and what is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by:Hon. Ho Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: Our study on the accountability system, including the support that should be provided to principal officials, is nearing completion. We will shortly put our proposals, including the resources required to the Legislative Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 003

Question Serial No.

0261

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title): 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The provision for 2002-03 is reduced by \$3.1 million, which is mainly due to the decreased requirement in capital expenditure. Please provide detailed information on the items of reduction and the sum involved.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

Provision for 2002-03 is \$3.1 million lower than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to the decreased requirement for Personal Emoluments (\$1,217,000) and the following capital expenditure items :

Subhead	Item	Ambit	Reduction in Requirement in 2002-03
700	001	Promotion of Basic Law	\$15,000
700	004	Basic Law publicity campaign	\$220,000
700	005	Consultancy study on remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the new accountability system	\$1,650,000
Total			\$1,885,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 004

Question Serial No.

0671

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What are the plans of the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs to facilitate continual development of the electoral systems according to the blueprint laid down in the Basic Law and the needs of the community in 2002-03? Please provide information on the details of his plans and their respective expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : As part of our overall efforts to further the constitutional development of Hong Kong, we will, in 2002-03, make preparations for the 2004 Legislative Council elections. We will ensure that the electoral arrangements so formulated will be in compliance with the democratic blueprint as laid down in the Basic Law and be generally acceptable to the community at large. The preparatory work is being handled within existing resources available within the Bureau.

We will also prepare for the 2003 District Council (DC) elections. For example, we will organise a voter registration campaign in early 2003 to encourage eligible persons to sign up as electors so that they can take part in the 2003 DC elections and subsequent elections. Their involvement in the political process will be conducive to the continual development of our electoral system. The Registration and Electoral Office has set aside \$19.49 million for the voter registration exercise and \$20.8 million for the preparatory work in 2002-03 for the 2003 DC elections.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Michael M Y Suen

Post Title : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date: 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB005

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Constitutional Affairs

0672

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

In respect of further enhancement of our working relationship with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of the State Council and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in HKSAR (MFA Office), how many official exchanges between CAB and HKMAO and MFA Office were organized in 2000 and 2001 respectively? What is the topic of discussion of the respective exchanges?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

CAB works closely with HKMAO to cultivate and maintain a constructive working relationship between the HKSAR Government and the Central People's Government (CPG) and other Mainland authorities. These official exchanges are in the form of telephone discussions, correspondence and meetings. In 2000 and 2001, in addition to exchanges by correspondence or telephone, we had six meetings with HKMAO. Subjects discussed include the following broad areas -

- (a) the working relationship between the HKSAR Government and the CPG;
- (b) liaison channels between policy bureaux and departments of the HKSARG and their counterparts on the Mainland;

- (c) matters relating to the interface between the CE election and the appointment of the CE by the CPG;
- (d) the mechanism for amending the Basic Law;
- (e) matters relating to “Home Visit Permits”; and
- (f) visits to the HKSAR by the CPG and provincial/municipal officials.

2. CAB maintains frequent contact with the MFA Office regarding HKSAR’s external affairs and foreign affairs relating to the HKSAR. Such contacts take the form of written correspondence, telephone discussions and meetings. No detailed statistics are kept on such contacts. Matters discussed include -

- (a) the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements between the HKSAR Government and foreign governments;
- (b) the implementation of the PRC’s international obligations applicable to the HKSAR;
- (c) the HKSAR’s participation in international organisations and conferences; and
- (d) the establishment of consular missions and other consular matters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 006

Question Serial No.

0700

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The promotion of the Basic Law has been listed in the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention" in the past three years. Please advise this Council –

- (a) are there any assessments on the effectiveness of the promotional efforts in the past three years? If yes, what are the details? Does public understanding of the Basic Law increase progressively with years?
- (b) apart from launching a TV-based publicity campaign in the coming year, are there other programmes intended for the purpose of enhancing public understanding and awareness of the provisions of the Basic Law? What are the details of these programmes and their respective expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

- (a) CAB conducted an opinion survey in 1999 and in 2000 to assess public awareness of the Basic Law, the sources from which the public obtained information about the Basic Law, the effectiveness of past promotional efforts, and to find out how best to promote the Basic Law.

The 1999 survey showed that about 78% of the general public were aware of the Basic Law. As for the specific target groups of students, teachers and civil servants, the percentages were 88%, 100% and 97% respectively. The 2000 survey revealed that 79% of the general public were aware of the Basic Law. The percentages regarding the three specific target groups were 80%, 100% and 100% respectively. The two surveys showed that there was a slight increase in the level of awareness among the general public, i.e. from 78% to 79%, from 1999 to 2000, and that almost all the teachers and civil servants who had responded indicated that they were aware of the Basic Law. There was however a drop in the student segment, from 88% to 80%. Action has been taken to give students a better understanding of the Basic Law by incorporating suitable materials in the curriculum and producing educational TV programmes, etc.

CAB intends to conduct another survey in the second half of 2002. The objectives of this survey will be the same as those of the previous two surveys and will evaluate, in particular, the effectiveness of the Basic Law publicity campaign undertaken by CAB.

- (b) The Basic Law publicity campaign undertaken by CAB is a one-off exercise to supplement the on-going efforts of various government bureaux and departments, as well as non-government organizations, to promote the Basic Law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Such efforts include the organization of seminars, symposiums, debates, workshops, exhibitions, carnivals, competitions such as webpage and computer screensaver design, game set design and singing competitions, and the production of publicity items, e.g. posters, souvenirs, pamphlets, etc. As the bureaux and departments concerned are still working out promotional plans for 2002-03, the relevant expenditure estimates are not yet available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 007

Question Serial No.

0701

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: As regards the study on the introduction of automatic voter registration system, please advise this Council –

- (a) on the work programme for 2002-03 and the detailed breakdown of expenditure involved;
- (b) will the government conduct public consultation on the implementation of (a) above?
- (c) if the answer for (b) is yes, please provide information on the timetable and the detailed breakdown of expenditure;
- (d) if no, why?

Asked by: Hon. Ip Kwok-him

Reply: In 2002-03, we will continue to study the operational and legal problems associated with automatic voter registration. The study is being handled within existing resources available within the Bureau.

After we have worked out the detailed proposals, we will consult the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 008

Question Serial No.

0702

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: According to the section on "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03", the Bureau will provide support in working out the detailed arrangement under the proposed accountability system. Please advise this Council –

- (a) on the details of the work programme;
- (b) on the detailed breakdown of expenditure;
- (c) will the Bureau monitor the implementation of the system to ensure that it conforms to the Basic Law? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

- Reply:
- (a) As we expect to implement the accountability system on 1 July 2002, the preparatory work remaining to be completed includes preparing the employment contract, working out the remuneration package, employment conditions and the code of practice.
 - (b) The expenditure involved in providing support in working out the detailed arrangements under the accountability system involves the salaries of a Deputy Secretary, a Principal Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and other non-directorate supporting staff, some of whom are working on this in parallel with other duties.
 - (c) In working out details relating to the accountability system, we have closely consulted the Department of Justice to ensure that the new arrangements are consistent with the Basic Law.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB009

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Constitutional Affairs

0703

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

Please advise this Council –

- (a) on the breakdown of items on which this Bureau has advised other policy bureaux and departments regarding the implementation of the Basic Law in the past two years; and
- (b) on the financial provision and work programme for 2002-03 in relation to (a).

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Basic Law. One of the main responsibilities of CAB is to advise other policy bureaux and departments on the implementation of the Basic Law. Since reunification, we have played a co-ordinating and advisory role in matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law. We have to ensure that various Basic Law requirements are fully met. In 2000 and 2001, we have given advice to other policy bureaux and departments in the following areas -
 - (i) the Basic Law requirements relating to the relations between the Central authorities and the HKSAR;

- (ii) the application of national laws to the HKSAR;
 - (iii) the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements between the HKSAR Government and foreign governments in accordance with the Basic Law;
 - (iv) the implementation of the PRC's international obligations applicable to the HKSAR;
 - (v) the HKSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences under the Basic Law;
 - (vi) the establishment of consular missions and other consular matters in accordance with the Basic Law;
 - (vii) matters relating to the new constitutional order of the HKSAR provided for in the Basic Law; and
 - (viii) the promotion of the Basic Law locally and overseas.
- (b) These responsibilities will be discharged within the financial provision available to the Bureau for 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 010

Question Serial No.

1005

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Provision for 2002-03 is 7.8% lower than the revised estimate of the previous year. Why does the staff establishment remain unchanged instead of making a corresponding reduction?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose

Reply:

The financial provision for 2002-03 is 7.8% lower than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to an anticipated decrease in capital expenditure. Staffing resources of this Bureau are already stringent and we cannot make any reduction in 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 011

Question Serial No.

1006

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: It is said in the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03" that the bureau will further enhance the working relationship with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR. What are the details of the work and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose

Reply:

In 2002-03, we will further enhance our working relationship with the HKMAO and the MFA Office in the HKSAR. For example, we will arrange for officials of the HKMAO and the MFA in Beijing to visit the HKSAR to obtain first-hand information about the economic, political and social developments in Hong Kong and to exchange views on matters of mutual interest. For newly arrived officials of the MFA Office in the HKSAR, we will give them briefings to apprise them of developments in Hong Kong and arrange district visits for them to see the daily life of the man in the street and how various social services are provided at district level. These activities will be carried out within the financial provision available to the Bureau for 2002-03. The estimated expenditure of the visits of the HKMAO and MFA officials is about \$170,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 012

Question Serial No.

1007

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: It is said in the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002-03" that the bureau will implement measures to use more technology to improve the electoral arrangements. What are the savings in manpower and expenses thus achieved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose

Reply: As part of our efforts to improve the electoral arrangements through the use of more technology, Registration and Electoral Office (REO) will develop a new computer system to replace its existing Electoral and Registration System in 2002-03. This project was approved by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in January 2002.

The new system, scheduled for completion in end 2003, will be used for preparing the 2004 Legislative Council elections. It will bring about considerable service and efficiency improvements that include higher capacity to handle the growth in the electorate size, automating the delineation of constituency boundaries, and enabling bilingual storage and processing of electors' records.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 013

Question Serial No.

1090

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title): 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: As regards the Non-recurrent of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, why is it that the expenditure in the revised estimate for 2001-02 is much higher than that of the approved estimate of the same year and the estimate for 2002-03? What items of work are involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

As regards the General other non-recurrent items of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, the expenditure in the revised estimate for 2001-02 is much higher than that of the approved estimate of the same year. This is mainly due to the creation of a capital account item for Consultancy study on remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the new accountability system in mid-2001. The expenditure in the estimate for 2002-03 is much lower than the revised estimate 2001-02 because of the reduction in cash flow requirement for the following items of work :

- (i) Promotion of Basic Law;
- (ii) Basic Law publicity campaign; and
- (iii) Consultancy study on remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the new accountability system.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 014

Question Serial No.

1091

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: What is the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 on the consultancy study on the remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the new accountability system? When will the study be completed and the findings be published?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply: The estimated expenditure of the consultancy study on the remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the new accountability system in 2002-03 is \$10,000 for miscellaneous expenses related to the study. We will inform Members of the findings of the study as we brief Members on the detailed arrangements relating to the new accountability system.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 015

Head :144Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :Constitutional Affairs

1149

Controlling Officer :Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary :Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What resources are needed for the study on the introduction of a political party law? What is the progress of the study? When will it be completed?

Asked by :Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The study is being handled within existing resources available to the Bureau. When we have finalised our proposals, we will consult the Legislative Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen _____

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2002 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 016

Question Serial No.

1152

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title): 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: What are the significant differences between “promotion of Basic Law” and “Basic Law publicity campaign”? Please provide information on the resources and manpower involved in the respective items.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

The \$10m under item 001 “Promotion of the Basic Law” was a one-off allocation. The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) was responsible for allocating the money to various government bureaux and departments and local community organizations to organize activities to promote the Basic Law.

Item 004 “Basic Law publicity campaign” is a campaign undertaken by CAB in 2001/02 and 2002/03 to introduce various provisions of the Basic Law to the local community, mainly by producing television clips. This campaign is carried out by CAB staff who are responsible for, amongst other things, overseeing the promotion of the Basic Law and providing secretariat support to the BLPSC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 017

Question Serial No.

1196

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: It is said that the government will continue to provide input and support in working out the detailed arrangements under the proposed accountability system.

- (a) When will the remuneration study for the principal officials under the proposed accountability system be completed? Has the government earmarked financial provisions for appointment of principal officials under the proposed accountability system?
- (b) After the launching of the proposed accountability system, what will be the change of the existing establishment of the senior government officials? How much of the estimated expenditure can be reduced or increased in 2002-03?

Asked by: Hon. Margaret NG

Reply: (a) The consultancy study on the remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the new accountability system is about to be completed. We will inform Members of the findings of the study as we brief Members on the detailed arrangements relating to the new accountability system.

We have not earmarked any financial provisions for appointment of principal officials under the proposed accountability system under Head 144. We will deploy funds under Head 106: Miscellaneous Services, Subhead 251: Additional commitments to meet the necessary costs.

- (b) How the existing establishment of senior government officials will change and whether the estimated expenditure in 2002-03 will be reduced or increased would depend on the detailed arrangements relating to the accountability system. As explained in (a) above, the new accountability system is about to be completed. We will inform Members of the resource implications as we brief Members on the detailed arrangements relating to the new accountability system.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Michael M Y Suen

Post Title Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date 20.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Bureau Serial No.
CAB 018
Question Serial No.
0247

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title): 258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide detailed information regarding the expenses for the voter registration exercise and the updating of the registers of electors in the year 2002-03, and their completion timetables?

Asked by : Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply : For the District Council elections to be held in November 2003, the estimated expenditure for a large-scale voter registration drive to be conducted in early 2003 and for updating the voter register is \$19.49 million. The Final Register will be published not later than 25 May 2003.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters : LI Wing
Post Title : Chief Electoral Officer
Date : 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Bureau Serial No.
CAB 019
Question Serial No.
0248

Head :163 Registration and Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

- (a) Please provide detailed information regarding the manpower and resources required for the preparation of the 2003 District Council elections.
- (b) Please provide detailed information regarding the manpower and resources required in the development of the new Electoral and Registration System. How can this project time in with the 2003 District Council elections, and how the new system may be able to help in terms of enhancing productivity and cutting costs?
- (c) When will public consultation for the delineation of constituencies for District Councils start, and the resources that are expected to be required for this purpose?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

- (a) For the preparation of the 2003 District Council elections, a total of \$40.29 million has been included in the 2002-03 draft Estimates, of which \$10.33 million is for the creation of 19 temporary posts and \$29.96 million for other expenses related to the preparatory work. The latter amount covers the costs of hiring non-civil service contract staff, publicity, printing, postage and other operating expenses.
- (b) The estimated non-recurrent cost of \$62.5 million has been approved under Head 710 Subhead A007ZV for the development of a New Electoral and Registration System, by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 11 January 2002. In addition, \$3.92 million has also been approved for the creation of two time-limited posts from 2002-03 to 2003-04 for coordinating user requirements and supporting system development.

As the new system is scheduled for completion in end 2003, it would not be able to support the 2003 District Council elections. It will be used for preparing the 2004 Legislative Council elections. The new system will bring about considerable service and efficiency improvements that include higher capacity to handle the growth in electorate size, automating the delineation of constituency boundaries, and enabling bilingual storage and processing of electors' records.

- (c) The Electoral Affairs Commission plans to consult the public on its proposed constituency boundaries for the 2003 District Council elections in early September 2002. The consultation period will last 30 days. About \$4.22 million has been set aside for the purpose.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters : LI Wing
Post Title : Chief Electoral Officer
Date : 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Bureau Serial No.
CAB 020
Question Serial No.
0699

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question:

As regards the development of a new Electoral and Registration system by the Registration and Electoral Office, which is one of the matters requiring special attention in the coming year, will the Government inform this Committee:

- a) of the time frame for the official implementation of the system?
- b) of the details of the expenditure incurred with specific breakdown?
- c) Whether regular review and evaluation will be conducted on the specific benefits of the System after its introduction? If yes, the details of such planning? If no, the reasons?

Asked by : Hon IP Kwok-him

Reply :

- (a) The new Registration and Electoral System will be fully implemented in end 2003.
- (b) The estimated non-recurrent cost of \$62.5 million approved under Head 710 Subhead A007ZV for the development of the new system is for -

	<u>Million</u>
(i) Hardware and software	\$20.24
(ii) Site preparation	\$4.19
(iii) Professional service	\$4.80
(iv) Contract staff service	\$27.59
(v) Contingency	\$5.68
Total	\$62.50

In addition, \$3.92 million has been approved for the creation of two time-limited posts from 2002-03 to 2003-04 for coordinating user requirements and supporting system development.

- (c) After its full implementation in late 2003, the system will be used for preparing for the 2004 Legislative Council elections. An evaluation will be conducted in early 2004 after the voter registration exercise and then in late 2004 after the 2004 Legislative Council elections to ensure the new system is cost-effective.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters : LI Wing
Post Title : Chief Electoral Officer
Date : 20 March 2002

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office **Subhead (No. & title) :** 258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As regards the preparation work for the 2003 District Councils election, will the Government inform this Committee of: (a) the specific schedule for all the preparatory tasks; (b) the actual allocation and a breakdown of its purpose.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

(a) The tentative timetable for the preparation of the 2003 District Council elections is as follows:

Preparatory Work for the 2003 District Council elections	Tentative Time Frame
A Demarcation of Boundaries	
• Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) to conduct public consultation on the proposed demarcation of constituency boundaries	Early September – early October 2002
• EAC to submit to the Chief Executive the recommendations on constituency boundaries	End of November 2002
B Voter Registration	
• REO to conduct voter registration	Jan – Mar 2003
• REO to publish Provisional and Final Registers	April and May 2003
C Regulations and Guidelines	
• EAC to consult the public on the proposed guidelines	April 2003
• Regulations to be tabled at the Legislative Council	May 2003
• EAC to issue guidelines	Late September/early October 2003

(b) A total of \$40.29 million has been included in the 2002-03 draft Estimates, of which \$10.33 million is for the creation of 19 temporary posts for undertaking the preparatory work in 2002-03 and the remaining \$29.96 million is for:

	<u>Million</u>
(i) Publicity	\$9.57
(ii) Printing	\$3.95
(iii) Postage	\$4.00
(iv) Other Operating Expenses	\$2.68
(v) Salaries for non-civil service contract staff	\$9.76
Total	\$29.96
	=====

Signature : _____
 Name in block letters : LI Wing
 Post Title : Chief Electoral Officer
 Date : 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-CAB001

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title): 258 Election Expenses

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : How much was incurred for the voter registration drive conducted in 1999?
When compared with the budget for the 2003 voter registration drive, what
are the reasons for the increase in expenditure?

Asked by : Hon Howard YOUNG

Reply : An amount of \$16.90 million was incurred in 1998-99 for the voter registration drive conducted in 1999. When compared with the budget of \$19.49 million in 2002-03 for the 2003 voter registration drive, the increase of \$2.59 million is mainly due to our shouldering the printing cost previously borne by the Printing Department prior to the implementation of inter-departmental charging in 1999-2000, and the additional expenses required for postage arising from a larger electorate.

Signature : _____
Name in block letters : LI Wing
Post Title : Chief Electoral Officer
Date : 2 April 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-CAB 002

Question Serial No.

S001

Head: 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead(No. & title): 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: As regards Reply Serial No. CAB013 (Question Serial No. 1090), please provide the actual reduction in cash flow requirement in respect of the items of work mentioned and their corresponding percentages.

Asked by: Hon. WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply:

As regards Reply Serial No. CAB013 (Question Serial No. 1090), the actual reduction in cash flow requirement in respect of the items of work mentioned and their corresponding percentages are as follows :

Item	2001-02 Revised Estimate	2002-03 Estimate	Reduction in Cash Flow Requirement
Promotion of Basic Law	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$15,000 (- 60%)
Basic Law publicity campaign	\$2,880,000	\$2,660,000	\$220,000 (-7.6%)
Consultancy study on remuneration package for principal officials appointed under the new accountability system	\$1,660,000	\$10,000	\$1,650,000 (-99.4%)
Total	\$4,565,000	\$2,680,000	\$1,885,000 (-41.3%)

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Michael M Y Suen

Post Title _____ Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 3 April 2002