

2 July 2003

Mrs Sharon Tong
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Manpower
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Hong Kong

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Manpower Panel held on 19 June, in the context of the Administration's proposal to create 32 050 short-term jobs and training places at a cost of \$715 million to further relieve high unemployment, the Hon Andrew Cheng sought information on the Administration's plan for job creation for the inspection and maintenance of external drainage pipes of buildings under Team Clean. I undertook to find out the information from the responsible bureau/departments.

To implement the initiative on the inspection and maintenance of external drainage pipes of all private residential buildings, the Buildings Department (BD) will deploy existing resources (including civil servants and non-civil-service staff) as far as practicable. Minimal additional resources will therefore be required. Since May this year, 285 professional and technical staff (mainly the latter grade) have been deployed for this purpose.

BD will soon create 48 new contract technical posts for a year. These staff will follow up the task, conducting audit checks of all private residential buildings and issuing repair orders to those buildings with drainage defects. The responsibility for inspecting private buildings and repairing any defective drainage pipes lies with the individual owners

concerned or their corporations. BD estimates that some 9 000 out of the 30 000 private buildings are likely to be inspected by individual owners or their corporations, and that 4 500 buildings will require repairs of varying degrees. These inspection and repair works will create some 7 000 short-term job opportunities in the private sector in the coming months. These include some 6 300 construction worker jobs and about 700 professional and technician jobs. It should be noted that the construction workers are usually hired and paid on a daily basis while professionals and technicians are employed on a yearly basis.

(Matthew Cheung Kin-chung)
Permanent Secretary for
Economic Development and Labour (Labour)

c.c. SEDL
Director of Buildings
Deputy Head, Team Clean (Mr Warner Cheuk)