

LegCo Panel on Manpower

Position of temporary jobs created in 2000 and 2001 Policy Address

Purpose

This paper briefs members the latest position of the temporary jobs created in 2000 and 2001 Policy Address.

The Initiatives

2. In 2000 Policy Address, the Administration launched the Initiatives for Wider Economic Participation (IWEP) to improve the environment and increase greenery, enhance welfare and hospital services, and implement small environmental improvement and community building projects as well as health campaign. The 2001 Policy Address undertook to accelerate works projects and to enhance property management, education, welfare, health and other services and environmental improvement work. Through these measures, temporary jobs have been created.

Latest Position

3. Up to end-November 2003, a total of 10 460 temporary jobs have been created under the above initiatives. Of these, 8 580 are still ongoing, including 7 846 which will expire before end-March next year.

4. It is worth noting that in respect of the jobs pledged in 2001 Policy Address, not all of them are temporary jobs. These include :

- (a) 20 000 jobs to be created by works projects. These jobs would expire upon completion of the projects. Nevertheless, with a target average annual spending of about \$29 billion in the coming five years (higher than the average expenditure of about \$27 billion per annum in the past five years), the Capital Works Programme as a whole (including minor works) should require an average of about 41 000 construction workers and 4 200 professional/technical staff. These should be able to absorb many of the workers from the lapsed works projects;

- (b) about 5 000 jobs under property management services were created out of the Housing Authority's initiative to change the shift arrangement of security guards from the existing two (12-hour) shifts to three (8-hour) shifts and the provision of security guard service and estate management and maintenance service of public housing estates. These jobs are recurrent in nature as there is continued need for property management service for public housing estates; and
- (c) about 5 700 jobs within the education, welfare, health and other services sectors are funded by recurrent resources and were thus not temporary in nature. Many of these jobs were in fact pitched at the professional and management level.

Way Forward

5. The Government is carefully considering whether these temporary jobs should be extended, having regard to the Government's overall financial position and operational need for extending the jobs.

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Economic Development and Labour Bureau
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