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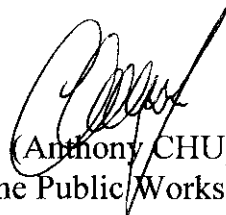
From : Clerk to the Public Works Subcommittee

To : Members of the Public Works Subcommittee

Public Works Subcommittee

Follow-up to meeting on 1 June 2005

At the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee held on 1 June 2005, members requested the Administration to provide a response to their concern about the impact of the Administration's decision to postpone or shelve the 22 school construction projects originally scheduled for submission to PWSC in this legislative session on the progress of the Capital Works Programme, as well as the employment situation in the construction industry. The reply from the Administration is now attached.



(Anthony CHU)
for Clerk to the Public Works Subcommittee

Encl.

c.c. Other members of the Finance Committee

財經事務及庫務局



**FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE
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6 June 2005

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Alice Au)

Dear Ms Au,

**Public Works Subcommittee
Meeting on 1 June 2005**

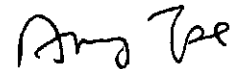
Thank you for your letter of 1 June 2005.

The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) has recently reviewed 41 school projects under planning and presented their initial recommendations to the LegCo Panel on Education on 30 May 2005. No decision has been made. Given the considerable concern over the proposal to suspend or drop 22 projects, EMB will review the individual cases again with a view to coming up with a School Building Programme which is justified with reference to established policy objectives. They will consult the relevant school sponsors in due course.

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Whilst EMB's further review may eventually give rise to individual school projects under planning being suspended or dropped, the concerned sites may still be put to gainful use by re-allocating for other school building purposes such as redevelopment and reprovisioning. As such, it would be premature to assess the impact of those 22 school projects on the Capital Works Programme and the overall infrastructure expenditure.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Amy Tse)
for Secretary for Financial Services
and the Treasury

c.c. Ir Dr Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP, Chairman, Public Works Subcommittee
Mr Y C Lo, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)
Mrs Avia Lai, Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Financial Services
and the Treasury