

I refer to your letter of 8 February 2013 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury regarding the captioned subject．

In discussing the item PWSC（2012－13）49 on 13GB＂Liantang／Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works＂at the captioned meeting， Members requested the Administration to provide information on the total area of cultivated land cleared for the implementation of the proposed river regulation works in connection with the development of the Liantang／Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and whether assistance would be rendered to those affected cultivators for continuation of cultivation activities．

Based on the crop assessment of the Lands Department（LandsD），a total area of about 7000 square metres $\left(\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)$ out of about $12451 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ of resumed private agricultural land involved cultivation activities．Ornamental trees such as peaches and bamboos，fruit trees such as bananas and Longans and common trees such as Elephant Ears and Chinese Hackberry were reported within a total area of about $6000 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ of the private agricultural land．The remaining private agricultural land of about $1000 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ has been cultivating crops such as vegetables，Ginger Lily and Castor－Oil Plant．

Any genuine cultivator certified by Agriculture，Fisheries and Conservation Department（AFCD）may choose to continue cultivation activities elsewhere，and will be eligible for agricultural resite by renting or purchasing private agricultural land to continue cultivation activities．In the latter case，he or she may apply for a short term waiver to permit erection of a 2 －storey domestic structure of a height of 5.18 metres $/ 17$ feet and a maximum roofed－over area of $37.16 \mathrm{~m}^{2} / 400$ square
feet on agricultural land purchased on his own under the prevailing agricultural resite policy. An ex-gratia allowance in the form of Rehabilitation Allowance may also be payable to eligible cultivators based on a standard rate calculated with reference to removal expenses and construction cost of a replacement temporary building. However, LandsD has not received any such application for short term waiver from cultivators affected by the project up to end February 2013.

In addition, AFCD will provide various forms of technical assistance to cultivators upon request, such as technical advice on crop production and tractor cultivation service for farm rehabilitation.

I should be pleased if you would kindly relay the above information to Members of the Finance Committee for reference.

Yours sincerely,<br><br>(C S LIU) for Secretary for Development

Encl.
c.c. Chairman of the Public Works Subcommittee, Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Attn.: Ms Joyce HO)
Director of Civil Engineering and Development

