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22 June 2015

Ms Alice LEUNG
Clerk to Home Affairs Panel
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Tamar
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Leung,

**Panel on Home Affairs
Follow up to Meeting on 10 April 2015**

The Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) discussed the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) projects of Wong Tai Sin District, Sham Shui Po District, Tsuen Wan District and Sha Tin District at its meeting on 10 April 2015. At the meeting, the Hon WU Chi-wai requested a breakdown of the \$200 million earmarked for use by the Home Affairs Department Headquarters (HAD HQ) and 18 District Offices (DOs) for implementation of SPS. Our response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

When we rolled out SPS, we consulted the HA Panel on our proposal at its meeting on 18 February 2013. Amongst others, we explained that a one-off allocation capped at \$100 million would be earmarked for each district's SPS project(s) (i.e. a total of **\$1,800 million** for all of the 18 districts). Furthermore, another **\$200 million** would be set aside to finance pre-construction works and undertake other preparatory and supporting work prior to obtaining funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council for individual projects. The detailed breakdown of how

the \$200 million would be deployed is as follows –

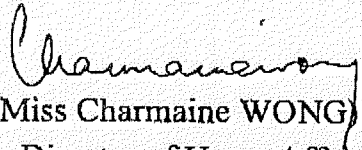
- (a) *about \$70 million* would be set aside to fund the requisite pre-construction works on works components of SPS projects proposed by District Councils (DCs). In compliance with the prevailing Capital Works Reserve Fund requirements in project planning and implementation, pre-construction works (e.g. conducting Technical Feasibility Studies, site investigation, topographical and tree surveys, underground utility mapping, drainage and traffic impact assessment, building services survey, detailed design, making submissions in accordance with the statutory requirements, as appropriate) have to be completed prior to seeking funding approval from FC for individual SPS projects. Such pre-construction works are necessary to confirm the project scope and technical feasibility, and determine the estimated cost and construction duration of the projects;
- (b) *about \$116 million* would be set aside for the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff for DOs (around 55%), the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) (around 27%) and the HAD HQ Central Team (around 18%) to provide the necessary manpower to support DCs in carrying out the necessary preparatory and supporting work, including processing the proposals and providing technical support to the implementation of the SPS projects; and
- (c) *about \$14 million* would be set aside for the 18 DCs to implement preparatory public engagement activities with a view to encouraging public participation in the SPS projects.

Following funding approval is obtained from FC for individual SPS projects, all related project expenses will be charged to the \$100 million allocation reserved for each district, instead of the \$200 million allocation mentioned above.

Up to 31 May 2015, the actual expenditure on the aforesaid items (a), (b) and (c) are \$29.8 million, \$45 million and \$4 million respectively. We will continue to monitor closely and review the spending of the \$200 million to

ensure prudent use of public funds.

Yours sincerely,


(Miss Charmaine WONG)
for Director of Home Affairs

c.c. HAB (Attn.: AS(2)2)