

民政事務總署
香港灣仔軒尼詩道一百三十號
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6 May 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

**Letter from Hon TANG Ka-pui
on the progress of the Signature Project Scheme projects**

We refer to the Hon TANG Ka-pui's letter to the Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs (the Panel) dated 20 April 2015 expressing concerns about the progress of the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) projects. Our response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

The 18 District Councils (DCs) proposed a total of 27 SPS projects following extensive consultation with local residents and organisations. SPS projects comprising works components are required to comply with the prevailing Capital Works Reserve Fund requirements in project planning and implementation.

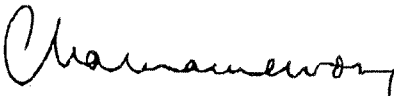
In accordance with the above paragraph, prior to seeking funding approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo), pre-construction works (e.g. conducting Technical Feasibility Studies, site investigation, topographical and tree surveys, underground utility mapping, drainage and traffic impact assessment, building services survey, detailed design, making submissions in accordance with the statutory requirements, as appropriate) have to be completed for the individual SPS projects. Such pre-construction works are necessary in order to confirm the project scope and the technical feasibility, the estimated cost and construction duration of SPS projects. All these works would facilitate project implementation and completion in a satisfactory manner at the later stage, thereby ensuring prudent use of public funds. The progress of the pre-construction works of the SPS projects meets our expectation.

We plan to submit a total of six SPS projects for the Panel's consideration at its meeting on 11 May 2015. Subject to Members' support, 19 out of 27 projects will have secured the Panel's support. Another project will also be submitted to the Panel within the 2014-15 legislative session. Of these 20 projects, funding approval from the LegCo Finance Committee (FC) has been obtained for three SPS projects, including the project of the Kwai Tsing District and one each of the Wong Tai Sin District and the Sham Shui Po District.

We appreciate Hon TANG's concern about the progress of SPS projects. We are working closely with all relevant parties with a view to obtaining FC's funding approval and completing the SPS projects as soon as possible such that the public could reap the benefits of the SPS at the earliest opportunity. To this end, we have grouped those SPS projects which have completed the pre-construction works at about the same time for submission to the Panel and Public Works Subcommittee under one discussion item. We hope that this will facilitate Members' deliberations and FC's scrutiny and approval of the funding applications.

We would like to thank the Hon TANG again for his support for SPS projects.

Yours sincerely,


(Miss Charmaine WONG)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

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DEVB (Attn.: CAS(W)1)
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