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本署檔號 Our Ref.: (68) in LD ACQ PF/13(URBAN)(17-18) PT 2
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Please quote our reference in response to this letter.

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19/F., NORTH POINT GOVERNMENT OFFICES
333 JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG

Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Anita Sit)

By Email

15 March 2017

Dear Ms Sit,

Enquiry from the Hon Eddie CHU Hoi-dick
Information on Individual Items under the Block Allocations of
the Capital Works Reserve Fund :
Land Acquisition Expenditures of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Project

The Hon Eddie CHU Hoi-dick wrote to the Chairman of the Finance Committee (FC), the Secretary for Transport and Housing and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury on 23 February 2017 requesting for information of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Project. Part (1) of the Hon CHU's letter concerning the land acquisition expenditures of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was referred to this Department for follow up action. The response is provided in the following paragraphs.

The land acquisition items under the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Project include "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road" (N000001465) and "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (phase 1)" (N000002063).

The estimated expenditures under Head 701 Subhead 1100CA for the aforesaid two items mainly include the payment of compensation and ex-gratia allowances to eligible affected parties for resumption of private land, creation of easements and other rights, creation of rights of temporary occupation of land. The land resumption and related expenditures of the concerned items were assessed according to the provisions under the relevant Ordinances and the mechanisms approved by the FC and were charged under Head 701. Up to the 4th quarter of the 2016-17 financial year, Government has paid \$920,000 (\$0.92 million) for "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road" and no expenditure has been incurred for "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (phase 1)". Government has already reached agreement with the interested parties on the compensation amount. All compensation payment for these two items is expected to be settled in 2016-17 and thus, there is no estimated expenditure for 2017-18.

When preparing the annual estimates, Government would in the middle of the current financial year refer to the compensation payment progress to work out the estimated expenditures for the coming year and to revise the estimates of that year. For example, for 2016-17 estimates, the Government in the 3rd quarter of 2015, based on the then progress, estimated that all compensation expenditures would be settled in 2015-16 and thus there was no estimated expenditure for 2016-17. Subsequently, since compensation agreement could not be reached with the interested parties, when preparing the 2017-18 estimates in the 3rd quarter of 2016, Government followed up with a revision of the 2016-17 revised estimates.

The original estimated expenditures for "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (phase 1)" were assessed having regard to the extent of land affected and the relevant lease conditions. Subsequently, the land owner submitted compensation claims in accordance with the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370), and provided supplementary information to substantiate the use and the value of the land interests affected. After considering the claims in accordance with the relevant Ordinances, agreement was subsequently reached with the interested parties. Therefore, the revised estimate for the subject item in 2016-17 was updated to \$135,000,000 (\$135 million).

In fact, in the 4th quarter of each year, the relevant departments would update and review the expenditure position of the block allocations under the "Capital Works Reserve Fund" of the preceding financial year, new items and items that had been deferred, etc. The updated information would be compiled into an annual report, which could allow Legislative Council members to understand the actual operation situation of the block allocations in the preceding financial year.

Yours sincerely,



(Joyce S.Y. NG)
for Director of Lands

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Attn: Ms HSIA Mai-chi)
Secretary for Transport and Housing (Attn: Ms CHUNG Sui-kei)
Director of Highways (Attn: Mr CHUI Wing-wah)