

UNUSUAL SETTLEMENT AT TSEUNG KWAN O

Motion: **The motion passed by LegCo Panel on Housing on 4 May 2000 urges the Administration to provide an interim report on the investigation of the site settlement problem in Tseung Kwan O by 31 May 2000.**

Response: We have obtained some field data from the consultants, but the data are highly technical and yet to be refined and analyzed. It will be inappropriate to release any report at this stage as the information obtained so far is insufficient to enable any conclusive findings to be drawn on the unusual settlement. The release of such information could be taken out of context or wrongly interpreted. We expect that a report can be ready by the end of this year.

In the interim, we shall provide the updated settlement records to LegCo Members at a bi-monthly interval until a report on the causes of unusual settlement at Tseung Kwan O is finalized.

Motion: **The motion passed by LegCo Panel on Housing on 4 May 2000 urges the Administration to review and improve the existing policy and methodology of reclamation so as to prevent recurrence of the problem of site settlement.**

Response: Settlement is a normal phenomenon in newly reclaimed land and cannot be eliminated totally. In fact, land has been

reclaimed in Hong Kong for over 100 years without serious problems. Based on the recent trend of reduction in rate of settlement at Tseung Kwan O, we do not expect the unusual settlement to affect the safety of the reclamation.

As regards reclamation design, the choice of methodology is determined by a number of design considerations as follows:

- the planned use and development programme of the reclaimed area,
- the geological properties of the materials underlying the seabed,
- the type of filling materials available for reclamation,
- the contamination level of marine mud on the seabed and environmental implications for dredging and disposal.

Since the design considerations vary from case to case, we review and determine the methodology for reclamation on a project-by-project basis. In the course of working out the most appropriate method for an individual reclamation project, we always seek to incorporate improvements to, inter-alia, reduce residual settlement having regard to up-to-date technological know-how, past experience, cost and time implications.