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28 April 2000

Clerk to Panel
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn : Miss Irene MAN)

Dear Miss Man,

LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Further to my letter to you dated 6 April 2000, I would like to provide the following information on the progress of slope upgrading and maintenance works undertaken by relevant departments -

(i) General

The targets for stabilization and maintenance works of government slopes have been stated in the 1999 Policy Address – Slope Safety for All. By March 2000, targets have been met. Details are depicted in the following paragraphs.

(ii) Stabilization Works of Substandard Government Slopes

a. Upgrading Substandard Government Slopes by LPM Programme

Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) aims to increase the current average annual Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) output by 40% throughout the next ten years. The target is to upgrade 250 substandard government slopes per year from 1999 onwards. At present, the progress in delivering this target is satisfactory and the GEO has completed upgrading works for 251 slopes in

1999/2000. By year 2010, about 4,000 substandard slopes will have been upgraded under the LPM Programme.

b. Upgrading Slopes Affecting Public Housing Estates

Following the Shek Kip Mei incident, the Housing Department (HD) and GEO have completed the preliminary assessment of 400 slopes affecting public housing estates. About 200 of them were identified for further study. The HD is maintaining these slopes and they are of no immediate danger. The HD and GEO aims to complete the necessary improvement works to these slopes by September 2001.

(iii) Maintenance Works of Government Slopes

a. Slope Maintenance Responsibility Information System

A computerized Slope Maintenance Responsibility Information System has been set up for public access in Lands Department in December 1999. The allocation of maintenance responsibility of 54,000 slopes have been completed/updated in March 2000.

b. Improving Roadside Government Slopes Not Covered by the LPM Programme

The Highways Department (HyD) aims to improve 90 smaller substandard roadside government man-made slopes every year from 1999 onwards. At present, the HyD is on programme to complete the improvement works for 90 slopes in 1999/2000. The target will be increased from 90 to 95 for the coming year.

c. Maintenance Works by the Seven Maintenance Departments

The seven maintenance departments, including Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Architectural Services Department, Drainage Services Department, Highways Department, Housing Department, Lands Department and Water Supplies Department are regularly maintaining government slopes adjoining or affecting their facilities. Apart from routine inspection and maintenance, these departments aim to conduct comprehensive inspections by professional engineers to 95% of all the government slopes by September 2002 and to implement medium-scale improvement works to their slopes as much as possible. The next milestone is to complete the Engineer Inspection on 12,000 government slopes by March 2001. So far maintenance departments are making good progress towards these targets. For the year 1999/2000, the maintenance departments have expended about \$400 million on maintaining their slopes and in addition, about 560 slopes (including 90 slopes mentioned in paragraph (b.) above have been improved by these departments.

(iv) Dangerous Hillside Orders

a. Safety-Screening Studies of Private Slopes

We aim to complete safety-screening studies of 300 man-made private slopes per year from 1999 onwards. 304 slopes have been completed in 1999/2000.

b. Compliance Rate of Dangerous Hillside Orders Issued

The percentage of the Dangerous Hillside Orders that were being complied with by private slope owners was 37.8% in January 1997, rising to 67.7% in February 2000. For the remaining orders, they are either pending appointment of Authorised Persons by the owners (13.3%), or pending appointment of consultants by BD (8.2%), or being handled by default action (9.3%) or pending appeal or clarification (1.4%).

Yours sincerely,

(W S Chan)
for Secretary for Works

b.c.c. DCE (Attn: Mr J B Massey & Mr M C Tang)