

**Speaking Points of the Secretary for Development  
for the Special Finance Committee Meeting (Works)  
on 11 April 2019 (Thursday)**

Chairman,

- In the new financial year, we will focus on four priority tasks.
- Firstly, we will take forward work related to Lantau Tomorrow. Based on the recommendations put forward by the Task Force on Land Supply, we have initiated the process of seeking funding from the Legislative Council (LegCo) so as to commence, in the latter half of 2019, studies on the artificial islands near Kau Yi Chau and the related major transport infrastructure. We also plan to seek funding approval from LegCo in the latter half of 2019 for studies on projects in Lung Kwu Tan, the coastal areas of Tuen Mun, Sunny Bay and Siu Ho Wan. In carrying out the studies, we will carefully consider the views of LegCo, District Councils and the public. To uphold the principle of “conservation to precede development”, we are seeking funding approval from LegCo to set up a \$1 billion Lantau Conservation Fund with a view to enhancing the conservation of Lantau as early as possible.
- Secondly, we will continue to develop Kowloon East into the second core business district, which includes enhancing connectivity, improving the environment, unleashing development potential and taking forward smart city initiatives. On the public works projects in this aspect, we have commenced improvement works at Hoi Bun Road Park, and are making preparations for seeking LegCo’s funding approval for improvement of Lam Wah Street Playground, construction of an additional footbridge connecting the Mass Transit Railway Kowloon Bay Station and the future East Kowloon Cultural Centre, and implementation of the Tsui Ping River project. Moreover, we have just commenced a technical feasibility study on advance works in the Kwun Tong Action Area.
- Thirdly, we will continue our efforts in cost control for public works. To further uplift the performance of public works projects, we will upgrade the Project Cost Management Office and rename it the Project Strategy and Governance Office. We will also implement Construction 2.0 by advocating innovation, professionalisation and revitalisation, so as to lead the construction industry in making

changes aimed at strengthening cost management and uplifting the performance of public works projects. In addition, we are gearing up for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders to instil in public officers an innovative mindset and equip them with enhanced leadership skills for delivering public works projects. We are also promoting the digitisation of the works supervision system so as to enhance project governance, quality and safety performance through innovation and technology.

- Fourthly, we will address the challenges of labour shortages and an ageing workforce in the construction industry, and continue to promote a culture of “safety first”. In view of the keen demand for skilled workers arising from short-to-medium term infrastructure development projects, the Financial Secretary has proposed to allocate \$200 million to strengthen the training of construction workers. Furthermore, we will adopt various measures to effectively reduce the number of accidents associated with public works projects. We will collaborate with the Construction Industry Council and the industry to explore ways to further enhance site safety through the application of advanced technology and innovative construction methods.
- I would also like to brief Members on our work on three issues which may be of public concern. In December last year, we secured funding approval from LegCo to implement a \$2.5 billion Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS), which aims to offer subsidies for the modernisation of about 5 000 aged lifts with a higher priority over the next six years. A committee comprising representatives from the Development Bureau, the Urban Renewal Authority and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has been set up to oversee the scheme. The first round of applications under LIMSS has been open since 29 March this year, and the results are due to be announced in the fourth quarter of this year.
- The second issue is tree care. The Financial Secretary has proposed to set up a \$200 million Urban Forestry Support Fund, under which a number of new initiatives will be rolled out to strengthen public education and promotion on proper tree care and uplift the professional standards of practitioners in the arboricultural and horticultural industry.

- The last issue is about drinking water. To safeguard drinking water safety and encourage the public to conserve water, we propose to amend the Waterworks Ordinance to enhance the regulatory control of the construction and installation of internal plumbing systems and water supply for fire services installations. Public consultation will be conducted in 2019. We will submit the amendments to LegCo for consideration in due course.
- Chairman, the above is a brief account of the work under the Works portfolio. My colleagues and I will be happy to answer any questions that Members may wish to raise. Thank you.