

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)154**

**(Question Serial No. 1806)**

Head: (91) Lands Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Land Administration  
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 661):

Regarding the New Development Areas (NDAs) in the North East New Territories, please advise:

1. whether it is against statutory procedures for the Lands Department (Lands D) to announce the commencement of the freezing survey for the Fanling North and Kwu Tung North NDAs when the overall planning of the project has yet to be approved by the Town Planning Board;
2. whether it is against statutory procedures for the Government to conduct the freezing survey ahead of the announcement by Lands D to resume land under the relevant legislation;
3. the revised provision for the freezing survey in the preceding financial year and the expenditure in the next financial year together with the staffing level involved; and
4. the progress of the freezing survey and its completion date.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

1. and 2. The Lands Department conducted the freezing survey in relation to the proposed Fanling North and Kwu Tung North New Development Areas (NDAs) in early 2014. The conduct of the freezing survey is a standard administrative process in planning development projects requiring land resumption and clearance. It is not against any statutory planning or land resumption procedures. It is in line with the general principle of conducting a freezing survey as soon as practicable after the Government has announced a proposed development project and broadly established the proposed areas to be affected.

3. The freezing survey was conducted within the financial year of 2013-14 through temporary redeployment of existing staff. No separate provision is made in the Estimates for this specific purpose.
4. The freezing survey was completed in January 2014. We are consolidating and verifying the information collected, as well as following up with those occupants who could not be contacted during the survey.