

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 5518)

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. 77):

According to the recommendations by Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Report No.61 concerning "Direct land grants to private sports clubs at nil or nominal premium" in order to ensure the proper and effective use of the private recreational leases (PRLs) sites, PAC urges the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Lands Department to (a) clearly define the scope and responsibility between them in conducting inspections on PRL sites and to formulate plans on how such inspections should be conducted on a routine basis; and (b) draw up a set of assessment guidelines to ensure that only a reasonable proportion of the land on the PRL sites will be used for social and ancillary facilities. Will the Administration inform this Committee the Lands Department's work plan for the two tasks for 2014 with the provision and manpower to be deployed and the estimated date of completion of the two tasks? On the other hand, how will the Lands Department collaborate with HAB to facilitate the two tasks?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

In the course of the comprehensive review of the policy on Private Recreational Leases (PRLs), the Lands Department (Lands D) will work with the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to strengthen the enforcement of lease conditions through inspections, to define the scope and responsibility between the Lands D and HAB on enforcement, and to assist HAB in drawing up guidelines regarding the proportion of the land on PRL sites that can be used for ancillary facilities.

In the meantime, apart from conducting site inspections in the context of processing lease renewals, Lands D will advance the inspection of sites where lease renewals are not yet due. The work related to the above tasks is absorbed by the existing staff of Lands D as part of their overall land administration duties, and hence we are unable to provide a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved solely for the tasks.