Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2020-21

Reply Serial No. DEVB(PL)292

CONTROLLING OFFICER’S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5600)

Head: (91) Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

(Item 801 Development of Three-dimensional Digital Map)

Programme: (2) Survey and Mapping

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Thomas CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What are the estimated expenditure and work plan for the new item of “801 Development of Three-dimensional Digital Map”? Why is it necessary for submitting the funding bid in the context of the Appropriation Bill? Even if the above is not a new arrangement, why is it not submitted separately to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for approval?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 807)

Reply:

In 2020-21, we will commence development of a high-quality territory-wide three-dimensional (3D) digital map. Specifically, we will create progressively 3D digital maps showing topographical and exterior features of terrain, buildings and infrastructures, as well as 3D pedestrian network that will eventually cover the whole territory, as well as 3D indoor layout of accessible interior of 1 250 landmark buildings and structures in phases. The estimated expenditure for 2020-21 is $46.5 million.

The arrangement to include in the draft Estimates funding proposals for creating commitments or increasing expenditure ceilings for approved commitment items under the General Revenue Account for scrutiny and approval by the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the context of the Appropriation Bill is in line with the requirements under sections 5 and 6 of the Public Finance Ordinance. The Government explained the relevant arrangements to the Finance Committee in early 2015. In this particular case, before the funding proposal for 3D digital map was included in the draft Estimates, we briefed the LegCo Panel on Development in June 2019, supplemented by further written information in February 2020.
We have included the necessary provision for this proposal under the respective heads and sub-heads of expenditure, as well as provided appropriate information in the Controlling Officer’s Report for Members’ consideration.

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