

**Replies to supplementary questions  
raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25**

**Home Affairs Department**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">S-HYAB001</a>	S009	CHAN Yuet-ming	63	(2) Community Building (3) Local Environmental Improvements

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-HYAB001**

**(Question Serial No. S009)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building; (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

When I reviewed the rural works under discussion in the District Council (DC), I found that it takes 6 months to complete some simple works such as installing a letterbox. Since the new DC term has begun and District Officers have taken up the role of DC Chairmen, will the new term DCs make better use of the executive-led structure in districts to improve the efficiency of district works?

Since the setting up of the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) in districts, quite a number of rural committees have been more actively involved in district affairs. Many village representatives will also help with the work of Care Teams. Besides, with the development of the Northern Metropolis, greater involvement of rural bodies and rural representatives in district co-ordination work is expected. Will active consideration be given to reviewing the current level of subsidy on administrative expenses for rural bodies?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming

Reply:

As the Chairman of a District Council (DC), the District Officer leads the DC in executing its statutory functions, and coordinates communication between government departments and the DC to enhance the efficacy of district governance. District Offices (DOs) have maintained close liaison with residents and various district organisations, and carried out different community building projects based on district needs. DOs will continue to listen to district views and actively take forward works projects for the benefit of the local community under the District Minor Works programme and Rural Public Works programme.

The Government attaches great importance to rural affairs. Over the years, monthly subventions have been granted to Heung Yee Kuk New Territories and rural committees (RCs) to cover their daily operating expenses, such as electricity and water charges, costs of stationery and so on. Besides, the rates and Government rents of RCs are paid in full by the Government, and accountable subsidies are provided to village offices to meet their recurrent expenditures. Reviews are conducted and adjustments are made by the Government from time to time with reference to changes in the Composite Consumer Price Index.