

\$89.2m in additional spending

The Financial Secretary, Mr Philip Haddon-Cave, obtained approval for supplementary provisions totalling \$89.2 million for the second quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year.

He said the sum was quite small compared with previous years and reflected the Government's determination to keep a tight grip on public expenditure.

The supplementary provision would only add \$26 million to approved expenditure for the year.

Of the total sum sought, \$18.8 million was for public works resulting from more rapid progress on a number of existing projects and projects recently upgraded or included for the first time in Category A of the Public Works Programme.

Other provisions included \$26 million to meet additional unforeseen expenditure. One of these was \$20 million due to China for the imbalance of surface mail exchanged between Hongkong and China.

Other items: \$4.9 million for payment of rates for Group B estates, \$3.5 million for traffic diversion to enable the construction of the Mass Transit Railway to proceed, \$1.5 million for remedial work to damage caused by rainstorms and \$1.5 million associated with detention of Vietnamese refugees.