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## **/\$1.45bn approved for airport projects**

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**I**n a move set to anger China, legislators yesterday approved \$1.45bn to build various government facilities for the Chek Lap Kok airport.

China has consistently criticised the Hong Kong government for seeking Legislative Council approval for funds to build the airport without first securing an overall financial agreement on the entire airport programme.

The Government secured the funding only after reducing the amount to be approved from \$3.87bn to \$1.45bn to cover the more urgent items.

The money will pay for 14 projects including air traffic control facilities and meteorological radar equipment.

The granting of the funds came after a debate among

legislators over how much information on the tenders for the various projects should be disclosed for public scrutiny.

The United Democrats' airport spokesman, Albert Chan, said the Government had provided too little information on the cost of each item included in the package and proposed that it make public the details of the tenders.

The Government has refrained from setting out the projects in greater detail to avoid disclosing commercially sensitive information.

In order for legislators to ensure the tendering process was "fair and reasonable", the names of all bidders and details of their bids should be disclosed, Chan said.

His Liberal Party counterparts were opposed to the suggestion.