(Question Serial No. 6538)

Head: (100) Marine Department
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Maisie CHENG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:
What are the estimated expenditures and work plans for the new items, namely “replacement of patrol launch ‘Marine 28’”, “replacement of patrol launch ‘Marine 30’”, “replacement of patrol launch ‘Marine 203’” and “replacement of hydrographic survey launch ‘Hydro 3’”? Why the funding for them has to be sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2019 rather than by seeking approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on its own?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 3021)

Reply:

The estimated cost of the patrol launches ‘Marine 28’, ‘Marine 30’ and ‘Marine 203’ is $41.91 million each and that of hydrographic survey launch ‘Hydro 3’ is $15.1 million. They are expected to be commissioned in 2021.

It is not a new 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 in the context of the Appropriation Bill. The Government explained the relevant arrangements to the Finance Committee in early 2015. We have also included the necessary provision for these proposals under the respective head and sub-head of expenditure for Members’ consideration.