

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

DEVB(W)099

Question Serial No.

3470

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The occurrence of a serious flooding incident which resulted in a fatality at Sha Po Tsai Village in Tai Po years ago is alleged to have been caused by the drainage works carried out by the Department. Please advise on the measures to be taken by the Department to ensure that the above situation will not happen to other drainage works, in order to allay the concerns of residents living in the vicinity of such works.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

According to the result of an investigation carried out after the flash flood incident at Sha Po Tsai Village, which occurred on 22 July 2010, the incident was caused by a combination of several extreme and highly unlikely events, and not due to the drainage works carried out by government. The result of the investigation was subsequently confirmed by an independent review conducted by a professor of a local university. On 21 April 2011, the Coroner's Court at its inquest into the flooding incident accepted the professor's independent review of the investigation.

To allay the concerns of residents living in the vicinity of stream courses, Drainage Services Department has already put in place a series of measures. These measures include (a) issue of weather warning messages to strengthen the advice to people living near rivers which are vulnerable to flooding; (b) engagement of a consultant to carry out a study to address the flood risk to people living along rivers to supplement previous flood studies; and (c) completion of a review of its on-going river improvement works in various parts of the territory so as to ensure that the flow capacities of these rivers will not be adversely affected by any construction works during heavy downpours.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 15 March 2012