

Legislative Council Question No. 7

(Written Reply)

Asked by : Hon Albert CHAN

Date of Meeting : 19 June 2002

Replied by : Secretary for Economic Services

Question:

It has been reported that River Trade Terminal Company Limited, which operates the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal, is suspected of having breached the land grant conditions by conducting at the terminal a sideline business of cargo handling services for ocean-going vessels, and the Hong Kong Port and Maritime Board ("PMB") has issued a final notice ordering the company to terminate such services. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the deadline PMB has set for the company to terminate such business and details of the notice;
- (b) whether the company has now terminated such business;
- (c) whether the Government will take legal actions against the company for breaching the land grant conditions; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (d) whether the land grant conditions have set out penalty terms for breach of the provisions therein; if so, of the details of such penalty terms; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (e) whether the Government has assessed the impact of such business conducted by the company on the ocean cargo handling industry as a whole, and if such conduct is unfair to other lawful business operators?

Reply:

Madam President,

My reply to all five parts of the question asked by the Hon Albert CHAN is as follows :

The relevant authority has written to the Hong Kong River Trade Terminal (RTT) Co. Ltd. in early 2002. We are now seeking legal advice on the issue and are closely monitoring their operations. When we have the legal advice, we will consider how to treat this case.

- Ends -

Economic Services Bureau
19 June 2002