Ref : SC/CR/25/2/1 Pt 10

26 June 2003

Mrs Percy Ma
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Administration
 of Justice and Legal Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
HONG KONG

Dear Mrs Ma,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Panel on Manpower

Operation of the Labour Tribunal

At the joint meetings of the Panels on 19 June 2003, Members made various comments and observations on the operation of the Labour Tribunal, and requested the Judiciary to : (a) consider implementing short-term measures to improve the existing operation of the Labour Tribunal; and (b) conduct an overall review on the practice and procedures of the Labour Tribunal and report to the Panels on the result of the review.

2.   The Chief Justice has been briefed on Members' comments and requests. Having considered them, the Chief Justice has decided to set up an internal Working Party to conduct a review.

3.   The terms of reference of the Working Party are : "To review the operation of the Labour Tribunal and to recommend improvements thereto". The Working Party will be chaired by Madam Justice Carlye Chu, and comprises 4 other judges and judicial officers. They are Deputy Judge Johnson Lam, Chief Magistrate Mr Patrick Li, Master Queeny Au Yeung and Mr Josiah Lam. The Chief Justice has asked that the Working Party should aim to submit a report to him by the end of the 2003. It is anticipated that the Panels would be informed of the outcome of the review in early 2004.

4.   The Chief Justice has instructed that comments and observations made by Members on the operation of the Labour Tribunal should be brought to the attention of the Working Party, and asked the Working Party to consider the various points raised by Members in the course of the review.

Yours sincerely,

(Wilfred Tsui)
Judiciary Administrator

c.c.   Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung, JP
       Permanent Secretary for Economic
        Development and Labour (Labour)

b.c.c.   Madam Justice Carlye Chu
       Deputy Judge Johnson Lam
       Chief Magistrate Mr Patrick Li
       Master Queeny Au Yeung
       Mr Josiah Lam
       DJA(O)
       DJA(D)
       PIO(J)