The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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14 January 2009

Ms Anita SIT Clerk to Panel on Development Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road Central Hong Kong

Dear Ms SIT,

Panel on Development and Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Amendments to Land Titles Ordinance

I refer to your letter of 5 January 2009 on the captioned subject.

In respect of the four substantial matters that need to be finalised before the amendment bill is introduced as mentioned in paragraph 5 of the paper for the meeting of the Panel on Development on 19 December 2008 (CB(1)396/08-09(06)), I am pleased to attach a work plan at <u>Annex</u> for Members' reference.

Apart from these substantial matters, the Land Registry and this Bureau will continue to work on other outstanding preparatory work, including preparation of subsidiary legislation i.e. Land Titles Rules, Land Titles Court Rules, Indemnity Fund Rules and Land Titles Fees and Levies Rules; preparation of conveyancing forms, application forms and other prescribed

forms; revisions to the provisions on overriding interests as well as consequential amendments to Land Registration Ordinance (Cap.128) relating to instruments stopped from registration and standard terms documents, etc. We will keep Members informed of our progress.

Yours sincerely,

(Edward TO)

for Secretary for Development

c.c. Land Registrar (Mr Kim SALKELD)

Amendments to Land Titles Ordinance Work Plan on Substantial Outstanding Matters

Substantial Outstanding Matters	Action	Estimated Timing
1. Relationship between Land Titles Ordinance (LTO) and other Legislation	(a) Discuss with each concerned bureau/department on the interface problems of the respective legislative provisions with the LTO and draft provisions to address the problems	(a) & (b) within 2009
	(b) Revise and draft provisions on statutory charges and rights under enactments in consultation with bureaux/departments	
	(c) Consult the Law Society of Hong Kong (Law Society), Government bureaux/departments and other stakeholders on revised draft of Land Titles (Amendment) Bill (LT(A)B) including consequential amendments to other legislation	(c) early 2010
	(d) Analyse comments collected in (c), revise and agree with concerned parties to finalise draft bill	(d) mid 2010
2. Arrangements for updating land boundaries	(a) Prepare and draft consequential amendments in LT(A)B to amend Land Survey Ordinance (Cap.473)	(a) within 2009
	(b) Consult Law Society and other stakeholders on draft in (a) and finalize amendments	(b) to dovetail with the timetable of other amendments to the LT(A)B

3. Rectification and Indemnity Provisions	(a) Consult stakeholders and public on proposed amendments	(a) January to March 2009
	(b) Analyse comments received, propose and agree on necessary amendments within Administration	(b) mid 2009
	(c) Revise draft LT(A)B	(c) mid to late 2009
	(d) Consult and discuss with Law Society and other stakeholders on this aspect of the revised draft bill	(d) early 2010
	(e) Analyse comments in (d) and further revise draft bill if necessary	(e) mid 2010
4. Conversion Mechanism	(a) Consult stakeholders and public on proposed amendments	(a) January to March 2009
	(b) Analyse comments received, propose and agree on necessary amendments within Administration	(b) mid 2009
	(c) Revise draft LT(A)B	(c) mid to late 2009
	(d) Consult and discuss with Law Society and other stakeholders on this aspect of the revised draft bill	(d) early 2010
	(e) Analyse comments in (d) and further revise draft bill if necessary	(e) mid 2010