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

Joint Subcommittee on Amendment to Land Titles Ordinance

**Resources spent by the Legislative Council Secretariat
on servicing the Bills Committee on Land Titles Bill**

Purpose

This paper provides information on the amount of resources spent by the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat on servicing the Bills Committee on Land Titles Bill (the Bills Committee).

Background

2. At the meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on Amendment to Land Titles Ordinance (the Joint Subcommittee) on 21 April 2009, members noted that substantial amendments to the provisions in the Land Titles Ordinance (Cap. 585) (LTO) concerning conversion and rectification were under contemplation and consultation with stakeholders by the Administration. Members recalled that the Bills Committee set up to scrutinize the Land Titles Bill introduced into LegCo in December 2002 had held numerous meetings and examined the Bill in great detail. After discussion, members agreed that --

- (a) The Clerk to Joint Subcommittee and the Administration should provide information on the amount of resources, in terms of the amount of time spent and the salaries of staff/officials attending the meetings of the Bills Committee on the Land Titles Bill 2002 and working on the Bill etc., that had been expended on the part of the LegCo Secretariat and the Administration respectively;
- (b) The Chairman would write on behalf of the Joint Subcommittee to the then responsible Director of Bureau to ask for a full explanation as to whether it had been a mistake to approve the system under the

present LTO in 2004 and how such a serious mistake had come about; and

- (c) The Secretary for Development would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to advise on the Administration's policy stand as well as the future direction.

3. This paper is prepared pursuant to the decision set out in (a) above. As for the decisions set out in (b) and (c) above, the Chairman wrote to Mr Michael SUEN Ming-yeung, the former Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, and Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, the Secretary for Development, on 28 April 2009. The letters were issued to members for information on 29 April 2009.

Resources spent by the LegCo Secretariat in servicing the Bills Committee

4. The Bills Committee held 39 meetings during the period from March 2003 to June 2004, and the total meeting time is 91 hours and 25 minutes.

5. In terms of staff costs, the resources deployed to service the Bills Committee is in the region of \$3 million.

Advice sought

6. Members are invited to note the information provided in this paper.