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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
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HONG KONG

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來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

電話號碼 TEL. NO.: 2810 2302

傳真號碼 FAX. NO.: 2524 3762

來函傳真 YOUR FAX.:

10 August 2009

Mr Raymond Lam  
Clerk to Panel on Security  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lam,

**Amendments to the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60)**

The Panel on Security discussed the proposal to amend sections 4 and 14(A)(6)(b)(iv) of the Import and Export Ordinance (IEO) (Cap. 60) on 29 June 2009 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1984/08-09(05)). The Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on –

- (a) the situation where fishing vessels are modified as cargo vessels and used for smuggling purpose; and
- (b) If the situation is serious, will the Administration amend the relevant legislation to tackle this problem? If not, why?

The supplementary information is set out below.

In recent years some smugglers have been using cargo vessels modified from fishing vessels to smuggle low value cargo, such as frozen meat, used monitors and other e-waste, to the Mainland. When they are intercepted by the Marine Police or Customs, they usually claim that the goods are destined for one of the outlying islands within Hong Kong. They would then proceed to the Public Cargo Working Areas or quiet waters and try to find another opportunity to head across the boundary.

It is observed that such activities have been much reduced, especially after a joint Customs/Police crackdown on a syndicate earlier this year. As enforcement action under the current legislation is effective in dealing with the problem, legislative amendment is considered not necessary. The Marine Police and Customs will continue to monitor the situation and take effective enforcement actions against such activities as appropriate.



(Ms Kathy Lee)  
for Secretary for Security