

香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室轄下行政署



The Government of
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20 March 2012

The Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Chairman
House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miriam,

Proposed Order of Priority in the Scrutiny of Bills

We understand that the House Committee meeting scheduled for 23 March 2012 will consider, inter alia, whether a Bills Committee should be set up to examine the Residential Properties (First-hand Sales) Bill to be introduced on 21 March 2012. In case Members consider it necessary to set up a bills committee for this bill and depending on the number of vacant Bills Committee slot(s) which will become available by then, I would like to propose that priority be accorded to the Residential Properties (First-hand Sales) Bill. Our justifications are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

The purchase of a flat is a major undertaking for most people in Hong Kong. There is a general public view that the existing administrative measures and self-regulatory practices are insufficient and that consumer protection in respect of the sale of all types of first-hand residential properties should be enhanced through legislation.

Following the Chief Executive's announcement in the 2010-11 Policy Address that a Steering Committee would be set up to discuss specific

issues on regulating the sale of first-hand residential properties by legislation, the Transport and Housing Bureau lost no time to start the process. The Legislative Council (LegCo), relevant stakeholders and the public have been calling for the early enactment of the proposed legislation, given the benefits it will undoubtedly bring to the community at large. The feedback during the public consultation exercise on the proposed legislation further confirmed this.

In line with the undertaking of the Administration, we will introduce the Bill for First Reading at the Council meeting on 21 March. If Members consider it necessary to set up a Bills Committee to scrutinise the Bill, we hope that the Bill can be given top priority so that the relevant Bills Committee can be formed and can start its work as soon as possible.

I should be grateful if you would help put forward our proposal for Members' consideration at the House Committee meeting scheduled for 23 March 2012.

Yours sincerely,
Jennifer Mak

(Miss Jennifer Mak)
Director of Administration