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Planning and Lands Branch
Development Bureau
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14 March 2013

Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Chairman
Legislative Council Panel on Development
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

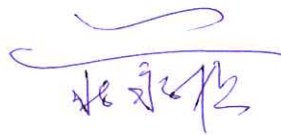
2013-14 Land Sale Programme

I refer to the letter from Dr Hon Kenneth Chan of 4 March 2013 referred to us by the Secretariat of the Panel on Development of the Legislative Council concerning the 2013-14 Land Sale Programme (LSP). I would like to set out the response of the Bureau as follows.

It is the established practice of the Government to formulate and announce the LSP on an annual basis, and to include in the LSP sites that it anticipates can be made available for sale in the market during that year. This arrangement provides the market with information about anticipated land supply and facilitates the necessary preparation by the market. Some of the individual sites in the LSP may not be immediately available pending completion of various processes (e.g. termination of short term tenancy, pending the completion of works project, pending the completion of statutory town planning procedure for amending the relevant Outline Zoning Plan (OZP)), but are anticipated to be available within the year. The departments concerned will accord priority to the relevant tasks and endeavour to expedite the completion of relevant processes so as to ensure land supply.

As with previous LSPs, some sites in the 2013-14 LSP are subject to the termination of short term tenancy, the completion of works project, and/or the completion of statutory town planning procedures for amending the relevant OZP before they can be put up for sale in the market. As the Secretary for Development has explained on various public occasions, for sites subject to the statutory town planning procedures for amending the relevant OZP, the Government will sell such sites in the market only after the completion of relevant procedure. We will continue to announce in advance the quarterly land sale programme and list out the sites planned to be sold in the quarter, providing transparency and certainty for the market. Developers can bid for a site only after the Lands Department has put it up for sale through public auction or tender. It is not for developers to bid anytime they wish for any site in the annual LSP.

Yours sincerely,



(W W Chong)
for Secretary for Development

c.c. Director of Lands
Director of Planning