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15 May 2014

Clerk to the Panel on Development
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms. Sharon Chung)

Dear Ms Chung,

Panel on Development
Follow-up to meeting on 5 May 2014
CB(1)1248/13-14(08)

In considering the paper on the PWP Item No. **19GB** "Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works - site formation and infrastructure works" at the above meeting, Members requested the Administration to advise whether the applications of the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS) for importing workers related to public works projects including the PWP Item No. **19GB** would continue to be submitted to the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) for consideration in future. In response to Members' request, the Administration provides the requested information in the ensuing paragraphs.

Under the SLS, employers with genuine difficulties in recruiting suitable staff locally may submit applications to the Labour Department on a case-by-case basis for importing workers at technician level or below to fill the vacancies. Eligible SLS applications will be submitted to the LAB members for consideration before the Government makes a final decision of either approval or refusal.

The construction industry is facing shortage of skilled workers in the short term. It is required to make full use of the prevailing SLS to import skilled workers in a timely manner. To meet the needs of the industry, on 26 March 2014, the Administration proposed an initiative to the LAB to better prepare for SLS applications related to public sector works. Under this arrangement, the Administration will not bypass the LAB and will not amend the existing SLS mechanism in processing individual applications.

SLS applications, if any, relating to the works of PWP Item No. **19GB** will duly follow the above-mentioned procedures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(C S LIU)
for Secretary for Development

c.c. Director of Civil Engineering and Development