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本局檔號 Our Ref. DEVB(PL-P)50/03/112 Pt.2  
來函檔號 Your Ref. CB1/PL/DEV

CB(1)116/13-14(01)  
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21 October 2013

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

Dear Ms CHUNG,

**Discussion on Policy and Issues Related to Conservation and  
Development of Country Park Land and Country Park Enclaves**

Thank you for your letter of 11 October 2013 regarding the invitation from the Panel on Development (the Panel) to the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Environment Bureau (ENB) to discuss issues related to the conservation and development of country parks and their enclaves. This is a consolidated reply of DEVB and ENB.

**Conservation of Country Parks**

Hong Kong has unparalleled natural endowments. Covering a total area of about 44 239 hectares, which is about 40% of Hong Kong's land area, our country parks and special areas comprise scenic hills, woodlands, reservoirs and coastline in all parts of Hong Kong. Apart from offering protection to our natural landscape and conserving wildlife, these areas also serve the vital purpose of providing education and recreation to the people in Hong Kong. Robust laws are in place to protect country parks. The Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) (CPO) provides a legal framework for the designation, development and management of country parks and special areas.

The Government currently has no intention to change its stance on preserving country parks. We will continue our work in managing and protecting country parks and special areas under CPO for the purpose of nature conservation, recreation, nature based tourism and education. The Government will also enhance biodiversity and promote compatible use of country parks.

The Government currently has no plan to develop country parks for housing purpose. To meet the need of Hong Kong people for housing, we will continue to pursue the overall blueprint for increasing land supply as set out in the 2013 Policy Address, through the 10 initiatives to increase housing land supply in the short- and medium-term, and the various long-term land development projects, coupled with the on-going land use reviews, in order to increase land supply in the short-, medium- and long-term under a multi-pronged approach.

### **Country Parks Enclaves**

There are 77 country park enclaves in the territory, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) prepared under the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) before 2010-11. To meet conservation and social development needs, it was announced in the 2010-11 Policy Address that the Government would either include the remaining 54 enclaves into country parks or cover them by statutory plans.

So far the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has confirmed to incorporate three enclaves, namely Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun into the area of their respective country parks, and has invoked the statutory procedures under CPO. For the remaining enclaves, the Government will consider the priority in assessing their suitability for inclusion in the country parks based on the experience gained from implementing the designation process for Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun.

As regards the inclusion of enclaves into the Development Permission Area (DPA) Plans and the subsequent OZPs, the Government's plan is to cover about half of the 54 enclaves by statutory plans. We have already prepared DPA plans to cover 24 enclaves, and three of these DPA plans have already been replaced by draft OZPs. We intend to complete the preparation of DPA plans for the remaining enclaves within 2013-14.

The above sets out the prevailing policies on the matters of concern to Panel Members. The Secretary for Environment and the Secretary for Development also replied to Members' questions on these matters at the sittings of the Legislative Council on 9 and 16 October 2013 respectively<sup>1</sup>. Since the Government currently has no plan to develop country parks for housing purpose, and will protect country parks and their enclaves in accordance with the established policies, we do not consider it necessary for the Panel to discuss this specific issue at its meeting.

Yours sincerely,



( Kevin Choi )  
for Secretary for Development

**c.c.**

Secretary for the Environment (Attn: Miss Sian LI) Fax 2136 3304

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<sup>1</sup> The replies to the questions concerned are at  
<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201310/09/P201310090471.htm> and  
<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201310/16/P201310160366.htm> respectively.