

Construction Workers Registration Bill

Responses to comments made by Members at the 7th Bills Committee meeting

At the 7th Bills Committee meeting held on 22 March 2004, the Bills Committee discussed the Administration's responses to issues raised by Members at the 6th Bills Committee meeting and also, the qualifying period required by senior workers to seek exemption from trade tests and be registered as a registered skilled worker (transitional). We would like to respond to the two issues raised by Members as follows:

1. Qualifying Period for Senior Workers

In view of the suggestions made by Members on the qualifying period required by senior workers to seek exemption from trade tests, we are consulting the relevant trade associations to solicit their views on the issue. We will report to the Bills Committee when there is further progress in the matter.

2. Early Payment of Registration Fee

Members still considered it an unfair treatment for those workers who were required to pay the registration fee earlier than other workers due to the proposed phased submission of applications. We have given further deliberation to the payment arrangement. To address Members' concern, it is now proposed that the Authority would waive a corresponding amount of the registration fee depending on the time at which the payment is made. For example, if a worker needs to pay the registration fee 8 months earlier than the last batch of workers, the Authority would waive the worker from paying the fee for these 8 months, calculated on a pro-rata basis.

31 March 2004

ETWB