



Daily Information Bulletin

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6. Gazettal of United Nations Sanctions Bill

The Government today (Tuesday) gazetted the United Nations Sanctions Bill, which seeks to empower the Chief Executive, on receiving the directive from the Central People's Government (CPG), to make regulations to implement sanctions decided by the United Nations Security Council.

The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, explained that the application of UN sanctions to the HK Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) was a matter relating to foreign affairs and therefore a matter for the CPG.

The Chief Executive had recently received directives from the CPG to implement the sanctions decided by the UN Security Council against a number of places. Domestic legislation was required to give effect to these directives.

Miss Yue said: "Implementation of UN sanctions is also in the SAR's interest in order to uphold its reputation as a responsible trading partner and not as a conduit for circumventing UN sanctions."

"Previously economic sanctions imposed by the UN were enforced in Hong Kong by UK Orders in Council. Such orders have ceased to have effect after 30 June 1997," she said.

United Nations sanctions vary from case to case but typically include one or more of the followings:

- * restrictions on imports from and exports to a named destinations;

- * restrictions on financial transactions involving the government of a named country or area; and

- * restrictions on aviation links with a named country or area.

To minimise the gap between the lapse of the previous measures and the introduction of the replacement ones to implement UN sanctions, the Government will introduce the Bill to the Provisional Legislative Council tomorrow (Wednesday).

"This fast-track procedure is required in order to minimise any attempt to use Hong Kong to circumvent the UN sanctions in questions," Miss Yue explained.

"Given that the Bill would provide the legislative tool to effect a directive within the prerogative of the CPG, we believe members of the Provisional Legislative Council will understand and will cooperate in ensuring the speedy passage of the Bill," she added.

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