

**Meeting between Members of Legislative Council
and Heung Yee Kuk on 8 November 2007**

Land Development Strategy of the Frontier Closed Area

**Joint Response from the Security Bureau, Development Bureau and
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

In September to November 2006, Security Bureau and Planning Department consulted the relevant parties, namely, Heung Yee Kuk, Town Planning Board, Advisory Council on the Environment, and the relevant District Councils and Rural Committees on the revised boundary of the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) and issues relating to the future land uses of the areas to be released from the FCA. Planning Department has also visited individual villages within the FCA to collect their views on the future uses of the areas to be released from the FCA.

Secondary Boundary Fence

2. The local community generally welcomed the proposed reduction of the FCA coverage. There were suggestions that individual villages and private land should be wholly excised from the FCA, and that the proposed secondary boundary fence (SBF) should be located as far away from the nearby residences as possible. Some parties suggested that the FCA be reduced in phases. As these suggestions would necessitate adjustments to the proposed SBF alignment or even the relocation of the existing boundary patrol road as well as the primary fence, we are examining the policy and the technical issues involved. We understand the aspirations of the local community to open up the FCA. We shall finalize the proposed SBF alignment as soon as possible.

Planning Study

3. Planning Department has embarked on a planning study on the future uses of the areas to be released from the FCA, so as to formulate a planning framework with a view to providing guidance for the conservation and development of such areas. Planning Department has engaged expert consultants to examine the detailed planning of land uses

and carry out the necessary technical assessments (including a strategic environmental assessment). The expert consultants will prepare conceptual plans. We expect that public consultation on the plans can be conducted in the first half of 2008. The whole planning study is expected to be completed by mid 2009.

4. So far, public views on the future development of the areas to be released from the FCA are diverse. While some consider that the rural environment and the natural setting of the areas, in particular the areas of high ecological value, should be preserved, others suggest taking advantage of the geographical location to develop the areas for such uses as convention and exhibition venues, boundary shopping centres, special industrial uses, residential developments and eco-tourism. Some stress that we should strike a balance between development and conservation. We note the concerns of Heung Yee Kuk on the development strategy for the FCA, including the proposals of developing goods and shopping centres, industrial centres and tourism and leisure centres, etc. The various views received would be duly taken into account in formulating the land use proposals, based on the principle of sustainable development. We will continue our dialogue with the local villagers and stakeholders concerned throughout the study process and take their views into account as appropriate in formulating planning proposals.

Security Bureau

Development Bureau

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

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