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28 April 2020

Miss Betty MA
Clerk to Panel on Security
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss MA,

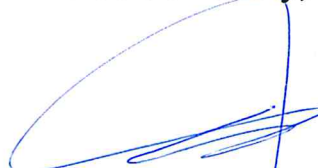
Regulatory Status of “Kratom”

Thank you for your email to this Bureau dated 6 April 2020 requesting our response to the letter from Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki to the Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security (“the Panel”) dated 1 April 2020 on the captioned subject. Our reply is as follows.

The Narcotics Division regularly reports to the Panel on the drug situation in Hong Kong and the anti-drug efforts premised on a multi-pronged strategy, which covers preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and enforcement, external co-operation and research. With regard to legislation and enforcement, the Government has a mechanism in place to monitor local and overseas drug trends as well as international control requirements through the collaboration with relevant departments and organisations, including the law enforcement agencies, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority, etc., with a view to bringing emerging harmful substances under the control of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (“DDO”) (Cap. 134) in a timely manner. This is to ensure that law enforcement agencies in Hong Kong could respond effectively to the latest drug developments.

When considering possible inclusion of emerging harmful substances (such as “Kratom”) under the DDO, the Government will take into account a host of relevant factors, including the international control requirements, uses and harmful effects of the substances, severity of abuse in the local and overseas contexts, advice of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (“ACAN”) and relevant authorities, etc. Once there are concrete proposals on legislative amendments, we will consult the relevant stakeholders and ACAN, and seek the views of the Panel accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop at the top, followed by several horizontal strokes, and a long vertical line extending downwards.

(Shawn LEUNG)
for Commissioner for Narcotics