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By fax and e-mail

20 November 2020

Ms Anita Sit
Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Sit,

**Follow-up Issues Arising from the Finance Committee Meeting
of 13 November 2020**

At the meeting of 13 November 2020, Hon Starry Lee requested the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) to provide key performance indicators and the service pledge (including services rendered in response to appeals from various sectors) of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) Development Office. She also asked for additional information regarding the roles and functions as well as the division of labour between the Greater Bay Area Development Office after its establishment and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong (GDETO) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The CMAB's reply is as follows.

Service Pledge of the Greater Bay Area Development Office

The Greater Bay Area Development Office will strive to drive the work of the HKSAR Government in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area in accordance with the functions and roles set out in paragraphs 12 to 16 of the paper, including –

- strengthening the close liaison with the National Development and Reform Commission, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, municipal governments of key Greater Bay Area cities (such as Guangzhou and Shenzhen), and their respective Greater Bay Area development offices to duly follow up on the overall development of the Greater Bay Area and the announcement and implementation of individual measures;
- coordinating and supporting the HKSAR Government's participation in the plenary and working meetings of the Leading Group for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Leading Group) chaired by Vice Premier Han Zheng;
- strengthening coordination within the HKSAR Government, including coordinating policy proposals from various policy bureaux for the development of the Greater Bay Area, serving as the secretariat of the Steering Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Steering Committee) chaired by the Chief Executive, and ensuring that items discussed by the Steering Committee are effectively pursued; and
- enhancing awareness of the development of the Greater Bay Area and the important opportunities it brings to the people and enterprises of Hong Kong amongst various sectors in society through strategic promotional and publicity efforts. Specifically, we are preparing for the production of new Announcements of Public Interests as well as promotional videos targeting Mainland and overseas markets to enhance the understanding of the Hong

Kong community and overseas stakeholders on the Greater Bay Area policy measures promulgated and the unique role of Hong Kong in the Greater Bay Area. Following our collaboration with Television Broadcasts Limited to produce a series of television specials by the title “The 11 Charms of the Greater Bay Area” at the end of September 2020, we will, through different online and offline platforms as well as making use of social media, continue to disseminate more information to different sectors in the community about how living has become more convenient in the Greater Bay Area for the people of Hong Kong and how markets accessible to Hong Kong enterprises have expanded under the development of the Greater Bay Area. We shall also organise larger-scale local and overseas promotional activities again having regard to the pandemic situation.

The Greater Bay Area Development Office will bolster its external relations efforts and enhance cooperation at both government and industry/sector levels. Through exchanges with chambers of commerce, professional associations, quasi-government/statutory bodies, and social organisations, it will gauge their views on the opportunities and the associated policy measures for taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area to ensure that relevant measures would better meet the needs of different sectors of society, contributing to the recovery of the economy, as well as bringing more convenience and choices to the general public in their everyday lives.

Furthermore, we shall report progress to relevant panels of the Legislative Council at suitable junctures. By so doing, we can introduce the latest situation in the development of the Greater Bay Area to different sectors of society and explain to them the opportunities brought about by various policy measures, whilst at the same time gauging the public’s expectations of and suggestions for the development of the Greater Bay Area through Council representatives. This would be similar to the arrangement made on 19 March 2019 when the CMAB briefed the Panels on Commerce and Industry, Economic Development, Financial Affairs, and Information Technology and Broadcasting on the *Outline Development for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Outline Development Plan)* and the HKSAR Government’s work at a joint meeting. Upon the establishment of the Greater Bay Area Development Office, we will report the progress of the HKSAR Government’s efforts in taking

forward the development of the Greater Bay Area to the Panel on Commerce and Industry or a joint meeting involving relevant panels at suitable junctures.

Work Indicators

The development of the Greater Bay Area involves many major policy areas, and the Greater Bay Area Development Office needs to conduct in-depth coordination and liaison work within and outside the Government on different policies. As the complexity, areas of work involved (for example, measures potentially requiring liaison with relevant central ministries and the governments of Guangdong and Macao), timing of promulgation, impact, etc. of different policies vary substantially, it is difficult to quantify the work involved and the setting of specific key performance indicators may not be practicable.

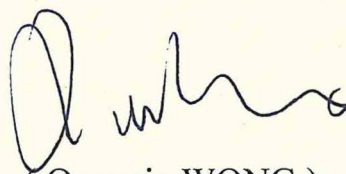
Nonetheless, the objective of establishing the Greater Bay Area Development Office and the key to its work are precisely to strive for policy innovation and breakthrough in various key areas of the development of the Greater Bay Area, so as to identify economic, social and livelihood opportunities for Hong Kong, as well as to take forward Hong Kong's enhanced integration into the overall development of the country. Since the promulgation of the *Outline Development Plan* in February 2019, the HKSAR Government has proposed policies facilitating Hong Kong residents' development in the Greater Bay Area to central ministries and the Guangdong Provincial Government. After the Leading Group meetings of 1 March and 6 November 2019, the Central Government announced 24 new measures, 12 of which benefitted members of the public; 8 were to facilitate young people and professionals from Hong Kong to develop their careers or do business in the Greater Bay Area; and the other 4 were to support Hong Kong's development as an international innovation and technology centre. Upon its establishment, the Greater Bay Area Development Office will continue to follow up on the implementation of the aforesaid measures. This will be accomplished through maintaining close contact with the Office of the Leading Group and relevant ministries, and proactively following up on the implementation details of measures until full implementation. In future, the Greater Bay Area Development Office will carry on its work on this basis, and coordinate and support the efforts of relevant departments of the HKSAR Government in pursuing greater policy innovation and breakthrough in different key areas of the development of the Greater Bay Area.

Role of the GDETO

Although the Greater Bay Area Development Office and the GDETO have their respective work areas, the two offices do have roles that complement one another. As part of the CMAB's Hong Kong Office, the Greater Bay Area Development Office's main responsibility is to drive the work of the HKSAR Government in our participation in the development of the Greater Bay Area from the policy and strategy perspectives.

The GDETO is mainly responsible for taking forward the economic and trade relationship between Hong Kong and 5 provinces and regions (including Guangdong) as well as attracting investment from Mainland enterprises to Hong Kong in accordance with policies and strategies formulated by the HKSAR Government. The GDETO will strengthen its liaison with local governments, non-governmental organisations, people and enterprises from Hong Kong, as well as relevant organisations and chambers of commerce. It will also disseminate information about local business environments, development opportunities and policy measures, and help Hong Kong businesses reflect their views to relevant Mainland authorities. Moreover, the GDETO serves to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the 5 provinces and regions. As the Greater Bay Area develops, exchanges amongst people from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao are expected to become more frequent, and more Hong Kong residents may opt to develop their careers, seek employment or live in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. The CMAB will therefore consider providing additional resources to strengthen the GDETO's role in promoting policy measures, as well as in communicating with and supporting Hong Kong residents in Guangdong.

Yours sincerely,



(Queenie WONG)

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs