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26 May 2021

Mr Lemuel Woo
Clerk to Panel on Administration of
Justice and Legal Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Woo,

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Meeting on 14 May 2021**

Agenda Item III: Mediation Initiatives of the Department of Justice

We refer to the email from the Secretariat dated 14 May 2021 enclosing a list of follow-up actions (the “list”) regarding the captioned meeting. The Department of Justice (“DoJ”)’s response to items (a) and (b) of the list is set out below for Member’s reference.

First of all, we would like to reiterate that eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (“eBRAM Centre”) is an organisation independent from the Government and it exercises autonomy in its operations as well as managing its human and financial resources. On the other hand, given the funding support from the Government, DoJ and eBRAM Centre have entered into a memorandum of understanding, which requires eBRAM Centre to regularly report to the DoJ on information relating to the Covid-19 ODR Scheme (the “Scheme”). As such, the Government is only in possession of the information reported by eBRAM Centre.

- (a) Details of the 200 enquiries received, including the numbers of

cases relating to disputes involving (i) Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area and (ii) foreign countries, and the mechanism for determining whether these enquiries may be established as substantive cases

Regarding the enquiries received by eBRAM Centre, according to eBRAM Centre, as enquirers are not required to provide any background information or details on their enquiries, eBRAM Centre does not have the requested information. eBRAM Centre would actively encourage enquirers to make use of its services under the Scheme when responding to enquiries. When enquirers have filed applications and paid the registration fee, the enquiries would become substantive cases that eBRAM Centre would process in accordance with the Scheme.

(b) The amount of professional charges subsidized by Government funding in the 13 substantive cases

Under the Scheme, a mediator would receive a fixed fee of \$6000 per mediation case, while an arbitrator would receive a fixed fee of \$25,000 per arbitration case.

According to the information provided by eBRAM Centre, as of 24 May 2021, eBRAM Centre received 13 cases under the Scheme. As each case is at a different stage of the process, the related fees involved in each case are yet to be ascertained which are subject to the development and progress of each case.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. James Ding)
Commissioner

Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office