

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)091

Question Serial No.

1134

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to explore measures to further streamline and expedite the processing of lease modifications, land exchanges and premium assessment. Has the Department set any specific target in this regard? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The Pre-construction Task Force established under the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee has commissioned a consultancy study to review the processing of lease modification and land exchange applications and to identify measures to shorten the overall processing time. The study was completed in February 2007. The Department will give detailed consideration to the recommended measures and take forward those that are capable of implementation in the near future with the existing resources. These include:

- (a) promoting closer collaboration among departments involved in the processing of lease modification and land exchange transactions. This includes the reduction in response time from four to three weeks when being consulted by the Lands Department (Lands D) on the proposals received from applicants and the handling of enquiries from the applicants prior to the submission of formal applications to Lands D;
- (b) issuing a checklist of the essential information required to be submitted along with the lease modification or land exchange applications. This includes the drawing up of a standard Application Form to facilitate the applicants;
- (c) informing the applicant, after the lapse of four months from the receipt of a valid application, of the outstanding issues that need to be resolved either by the applicant himself or amongst departments concerned if the case is not yet ready for referral to the inter-departmental District Lands Conference chaired by Lands D to consider the application; and

- (d) enhancing the monitoring of progress made in respect of each application under processing.

We intend to complete the required actions on the above four items by mid-April 2007. Consideration is also being given to two other recommended measures, namely, the setting up of dedicated processing teams in District Lands Offices and centralising the premium assessment work at Lands D Headquarters. However, as these would involve radical changes to the organisational structure and work procedures with resource implications, we need to assess the full implications of these recommended measures before taking any decision on the way forward.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>PATRICK L C LAU</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Lands</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

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