

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee  
Pre-construction Task Force**

***Review of the processing of lease modification  
and land exchange applications***

**Purpose**

This paper reports the progress on the implementation of certain recommendations of the Consultancy Study on the Review of the processing of lease modification and land exchange applications.

**Progress**

2. The Final Report of the Review of the processing of lease modification and land exchange applications was published on 7 February 2007 and it was endorsed by the Pre-construction Task Force at its meeting on 12 February 2007. Since then active action had been taken to implement a number of recommendations according to the plan of the Department. In summary, the followings have been done:

- (a) HPLB and ETWB have jointly asked in writing the relevant bureaux and departments to give priority to land exchange and lease modification and to respond duly to Lands Department's circulation of land transaction proposals within the required time frame. These bureaux and departments have also been asked, among other things, to collaborate in resolving differences in requirements among departments expeditiously.
- (b) Having taken into account the comments of the relevant parties, a Practice Note No. 4/2007 was issued on 16 April 2007 on the Application Checklist for Lease Modification / Land Exchange Applications.
- (c) Enhanced Case Monitoring and Management for Lease Modification and Land Exchange Applications has also been put in place through introduction of new internal guidelines.

- (d) By way of internal guidelines, the concerned District lands Office would inform the applicant after the fourth month from validation of the application with explanations of the issues or causes for the case not being ready for discussion at District Lands Conference (DLC) if it is anticipated that a submission will not be made within the next month.

3. Apart from the implementation of the four quick wins mentioned above as recommended by the Consultant, active action is being carried out in the following aspects:

- (a) assessment of appropriate level of staff requirements for setting up a pilot to test out the dedicated team and centralized valuation approaches and bidding for the required resources; and
- (b) examination on whether any NT DLC can be combined.

4. Other measures internal of the Department for improving the system will be considered from time to time, whilst dialogue with the industry is maintained to keep abreast of its concerns.

Lands Department  
May 2007