

Our Ref: GPD/CHC/gch/2020-1/DoL

Director of Lands
Lands Department
20/F North Point Government Offices
333 Java Road, North Point
Hong Kong

Attention: Mr Thomas Chan, JP

21 February 2020

By Email & Post

Dear Mr Chan

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO HELP THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

On behalf of General Practice Division of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, I write to express our best wishes to you and your colleagues during this challenging period for HKSAR.

It is unfortunate that many businesses are severely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, and we hope for the city to restore economic activities as soon as possible. As and when the Lands Department fully resume services, we request that the frequency of decision-making meetings, such as Valuation Conference/Committee ("VC"), District Lands Conference ("DLC") and Building Committee III ("BCIII"), be increased to clear the growing backlogs since Chinese New Year.

Our request is particularly relevant to DLC, which convenes only once a month in the NT DLO(s). The frequency can be increased to approve various outstanding land applications.

We would also like to suggest the Lands Department to consider offering free 12-month BC extensions to all ongoing development projects since the process of building plan approvals under lease conditions are being disrupted by the partial shutdown of government offices. Furthermore, construction works are being delayed due to a shortage of building materials, while construction workers are also staying away over health concerns. Similar measures were implemented following the SARs outbreak in 2003. You may refer to LAO Practice Note Issue No 5/2003.

We would also welcome an opportunity to meet and discuss the public consultation process, including liaison with the District Council in respect of various land applications.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us should we be of assistance. We appreciate your support and look forward to receiving your favourable reply.

Yours sincerely
For and on behalf of
The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop that starts with a scribble on the left and ends with a small flourish on the right.

Alnwick C H Chan
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cc Hon Tony Tse BBS, Legislative Councilor
Sr Winnie Shiu, President of HKIS
Council Members of HKIS GPD