

Meeting of LegCo Panel on Security on 6 June 2002

Item VI: Issues relating to the judgment of the Court of Final Appeal delivered on 10 January 2002 in respect of appeal cases concerning the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Follow-up action required pursuant to paragraph 47 of the minutes

In September 2001, the Ministry of Public Security relaxed the age limit for Mainland children with no one else to depend on in the Mainland who wish to settle in Hong Kong from 14 to 18. Under the new measure, Mainland children below the age of 18 (but including the day of their 18th birthday) whose parents are both legally settled in Hong Kong may apply for a One-way Permit to settle in Hong Kong. Public Security Bureau offices of the Mainland have been processing relevant applications in accordance with the new measure since 15 October 2001. The new measure only applies to applications accepted after its implementation, and accordingly has no retrospective effect.

Under the new measure, the age of Mainland children with no one else to depend on in the Mainland is counted on the date on which the applicant submits to Mainland public security authorities the relevant application and which was officially accepted for processing. In consequence, an accepted application remains valid even if the age of the applicant subsequently surpasses the stipulated age limit.

Security Bureau
October 2002