

31 March 2011

To **All Authorized Persons,**
Registered Structural Engineers
Registered Geotechnical Engineers
Registered General Building Contractors and
Registered Specialist Contractors

Dear Sir/Madam,

Flood Prevention Measures at Construction Sites

With the advent of the rainy season, I am writing to solicit your concerted support in taking preventive measures proactively to ensure no adverse drainage impacts would be caused by the construction sites under your supervision on the public stormwater drainage systems.

Over the years, a considerable number of flooding incidents during heavy rainstorms have been experienced particularly in the flooding blackspots. Investigations conducted by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) reveal that some incidents have been aggravated or caused by the construction activities nearby. Their maintenance records also indicate that public drains and sewers in the vicinity of construction sites are often susceptible to blockage by silt and mud or other building debris generated from construction activities, thereby causing flooding.

As you may be aware, the government has attached importance to flood prevention. Hence, the DSD has been implementing various flood prevention programmes on improving the existing stormwater drainage systems in the territory. However, silt laden water/debris has still been collected from the public drainage system from time to time, which not only causes damage to the pumps therein but also causes serious pollution to the Victoria Harbour. It is believed that the sources of such silt laden water are mainly from the construction activities nearby.

In this regard, you are obliged to ensure the proper design, maintenance and functioning of temporary drainage for construction sites under your supervision and exercise close monitoring to ensure no discharge of construction debris, silt and sediments or cementitious materials into the public drains or sewers. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

For any improper/illegal discharges arising from construction activities, please report the incidents to the DSD or Environmental Protection Department for follow up.

Yours faithfully,



(C M KOON)

Assistant Director/New Buildings 2
for Director of Buildings