

# Development (Town Planning, Lands and Works) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2023 takes effect today

â€‹The Development (Town Planning, Lands and Works) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2023 takes effect today (September 1).

The Ordinance, which was passed by the Legislative Council in July this year, covers six pieces of primary legislation. The legislative exercise streamlines various development-related statutory procedures including town planning, land resumption, reclamation, roads and railway works, etc, and introduces a number of measures to expedite the development process, such as simplifying procedures relating to plan-making under the Town Planning Ordinance to shorten the planning process, and offering compensation or assistance early to the affected parties to respond to their aspirations for receiving the same early so that the resumption and clearance procedures could be accelerated.

Streamlining the statutory procedures could reduce the time required for turning a piece of "primitive land" into "spade-ready sites" (i.e. sites with formation works completed and ready for construction therein), benefitting various development projects, including the Northern Metropolis and Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands.

In preparation for the commencement of the Ordinance, the Town Planning Board has updated its procedures and guidelines, while relevant departments have also prepared the pertinent administrative guidelines and technical circulars. These guidelines can be accessed on the websites of relevant departments.