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Avenue of Stars decision still looking cloudy

Stakeholders will be consulted over the redevelopment of the Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui, says Secretary for Home Affairs Lau Kong-wah.

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Stakeholders will be consulted over the redevelopment of the Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui, says Secretary for Home Affairs Lau Kong-wah.

But he refused to answer whether the government bypassed the Harbourfront Commission over the decision.

Lau yesterday repeatedly said the government had consulted Yau Tsim Mong District Council and the Town Planning Board about the plan. But he did not mention anything about the commission despite specifically being asked about it by reporters.

A similar attitude was adopted by a Home Affairs Bureau spokeswoman, who said Lau was referring to "all related parties to the project," when asked who would be considered stakeholders.

But she refused to name anyone in particular. "Stakeholders need to be consulted again because there are 10 conditions that came along with the Town Planning Board's approval to the project," she said.

Lau said that as a judicial review has been filed, he would not comment in detail, but he emphasized the plan will benefit the public and will be managed with a nonprofit-making approach.

The Sustainable Foundation Company, a venture under New World Development, was given the project of renovating and expanding the avenue without tendering, sparking outrage.

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