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Notification No. B 15 — The Jurong Town Corporation (Amendment) Bill is hereby published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on the 16th day of September 2013.

Jurong Town Corporation (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 15/2013.

Read the first time on 16th September 2013.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Jurong Town Corporation Act (Chapter 150 of the 1998 Revised Edition) and to make consequential amendments to the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act (Chapter 340 of the 1990 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Jurong Town Corporation (Amendment) Act 2013 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

5 Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Jurong Town Corporation Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the words “is lawfully so used” in the definition of “commercial property”, the words
10 “, and includes any industrial property”;

(b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “flat”, the following definitions:

““industrial property” means —

(a) any building or other premises which is
15 permitted by or under the Planning Act (Cap. 232) or any other written law for use solely for an industrial purpose, or for mixed purposes the predominant purpose of which is an industrial purpose;

(b) any building or other premises used solely
20 for an industrial purpose, or for mixed purposes the predominant purpose of which is an industrial purpose, being a use to which the building or premises was put on 1st February 1960, and the building or premises has not been put to any other use since that date; or

(c) any land zoned in the Master Plan (within
25 the meaning of section 6 of the Planning Act) solely for an industrial purpose, or for mixed purposes the predominant purpose of which is an industrial purpose;
30

“industrial purpose” means —

- (a) general industry, such as the manufacturing, altering, repairing, ornamenting, finishing, cleaning, washing, laundry, packing, canning, adapting, breaking up or demolishing any article or part thereof, the getting, processing or treatment of minerals, or the manufacturing or packing of goods or foodstuff, whether or not the processes carried on are dangerous or offensive; 5
- (b) light industry where the processes in paragraph (a) or the machinery installed for such processes are such as can be carried on or installed in any residential area without detriment to the amenity of the area by reason of noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, soot, ash, dust or grit and are not dangerous or offensive; 15
- (c) warehousing, storage of goods or foodstuff, or freight and logistics operations; 20
- (d) research and development activities, business park activities or science park activities; or 25
- (e) such other activity of an industrial nature as the Minister may, by notification published in the *Gazette*, specify to be an industrial purpose;

“Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore” means the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore established under the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 138A);” and 30

(c) by deleting the full-stop at the end of the definition of “owner” and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following definition:

5 ““Urban Redevelopment Authority” means the Urban Redevelopment Authority established under the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act (Cap. 340).”.

Amendment of section 5

3. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended —

10 (a) by deleting the words “11 other members” in subsection (1)(b) and substituting the words “14 other members”; and

15 (b) by deleting “4” in subsection (2) and substituting the words “4 or one-third of the total number of members in office, whichever is the higher”.

Amendment of section 12

4. Section 12 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting the word “and” at the end of subsection (1)(b);

20 (b) by deleting the full-stop at the end of paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and substituting the word “; and”, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:

25 “(d) to collect, compile and analyse information of a statistical nature relating to industrial property in Singapore, and to publish and disseminate the results of any such compilation or analysis or abstracts of those results.”; and

(c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsections:

30 “(1A) In addition to the functions and duties imposed by this section, the Corporation may undertake such other functions and duties as the Minister may, by notification published in the *Gazette*, assign to the

Corporation and in so doing, the Corporation shall be deemed to be fulfilling the purposes of this Act, and the provisions of this Act shall apply to the Corporation in respect of such functions and duties.

(1B) Nothing in subsection (1) or (1A) shall be construed as imposing on the Corporation, directly or indirectly, any form of duty or liability enforceable by proceedings before any court to which it would not otherwise be subject.”.

Repeal of sections 28 and 29

5. Sections 28 and 29 of the principal Act are repealed.

Amendment of section 33

6. Section 33 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the words “who obstructs”, the words “or refuses to give access to”; and
- (b) by deleting the words “the Corporation is” and substituting the words “the officer or person is”.

New sections 35A to 35D

7. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 35, the following sections:

“Furnishing of information

35A.—(1) The Corporation or any employee thereof authorised by the Corporation in that behalf may, for the purpose of obtaining statistical information in relation to industrial property in Singapore, by notice require any person to furnish to the Corporation or the employee so authorised, within such period as shall be specified in the notice, all such particulars or information relating to all such matters as may be required by the Corporation and as are within knowledge of that person or in his custody or under his control.

(2) Subject to subsection (6), a notice issued under subsection (1) may be served in the following manner:

(a) in the case of an individual —

- (i) by delivering it to the individual personally;
- (ii) by leaving it with an adult person apparently resident at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the usual or last known address of the place of residence of the individual;
- (iii) by leaving it with an adult person apparently employed at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the usual or last known address of the place of business of the individual;
- (iv) by affixing a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place at the usual or last known address of the place of residence or place of business of the individual; or
- (v) by electronic communication, by sending an electronic communication of the notice to the last email address given to the Corporation by the individual as the email address for the service of documents on the individual;

(b) in the case of a partnership other than a limited liability partnership —

- (i) by delivering it to any one of the partners or the secretary or other like officer of the partnership;
- (ii) by leaving it at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the principal or last known place of business of the partnership in Singapore;
- (iii) by sending it by facsimile transmission to the fax transmission number operated at the principal or last known place of business of the partnership in Singapore; or
- (iv) by electronic communication, by sending an electronic communication of the notice to the last email address given to the Corporation by the

partnership as the email address for the service of documents on the partnership; and

- (c) in the case of any limited liability partnership or any other body corporate —
- (i) by delivering it to the secretary or other like officer of the body corporate or, in the case of a limited liability partnership, the manager thereof, or to any person having, on behalf of the limited liability partnership or other body corporate, powers of control or management over the business, occupation, work or matter to which the notice relates; 5
 - (ii) by leaving it at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the registered office or principal place of business of the limited liability partnership or other body corporate in Singapore; 15
 - (iii) by sending it by facsimile transmission to the fax transmission number operated at the registered office or principal place of business of the limited liability partnership or other body corporate in Singapore or elsewhere; or 20
 - (iv) by electronic communication, by sending an electronic communication of the notice to the last email address given to the Corporation by the limited liability partnership or other body corporate as the email address for the service of documents on the limited liability partnership or body corporate. 25
- (3) If the person on whom service is to be effected has an agent within Singapore, the notice may be delivered to the agent. 30
- (4) Any notice issued under subsection (1) which is to be served on the occupier of any premises —
- (a) may be served by delivering it to an adult person on the premises or, if there is no such person on the premises to 35

whom it can with reasonable diligence be delivered, by affixing the notice to a conspicuous part of the premises; and

5 (b) shall be deemed to be properly addressed if addressed by the description of the occupier of the premises without further name or description.

(5) Where any notice issued under subsection (1) and required to be served on any person is —

10 (a) sent by registered post to any person in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person at the time when it would, in the ordinary course of post, be delivered, whether or not it is returned undelivered, and in proving service of the notice, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing the
15 same was properly addressed, stamped and posted by registered post;

20 (b) sent by ordinary post to any person in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom it is addressed on the day succeeding the day on which it would, in the ordinary course of post, be delivered;

25 (c) sent by a facsimile transmission to the fax transmission number operated at the last known place of residence or business or registered office or principal place of business in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom it is addressed on the day of transmission, subject to receipt on the sending facsimile machine of a notification (by
30 electronic or other means) of a successful transmission to the place of residence or business or registered office or principal place of business, as the case may be; and

35 (d) sent by electronic communication to an email address in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom it is addressed at the time of entering the information system addressed to the email address.

(6) Service of any notice under this section on a person by electronic communication may be effected only if the person gives as part of his or its address for service an email address.

(7) Any person who on being required by notice under this section to furnish any particulars or information — 5

(a) wilfully refuses or without lawful excuse (the proof of which lies on him) neglects to furnish the particulars or information within the time specified in the notice; or

(b) wilfully furnishes or causes to be furnished any false particulars or information in respect of any matter specified in the notice requiring particulars or information to be furnished, 10

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both. 15

(8) Nothing in this section authorises the Corporation, or any employee thereof authorised by the Corporation in that behalf, to require the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore or the Urban Redevelopment Authority to furnish to the Corporation or the employee so authorised — 20

(a) any particulars or information in the possession of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore obtained in the performance of any of its functions; or

(b) any particulars or information in the possession of the Urban Redevelopment Authority obtained in the performance of any of its functions. 25

Request for information from Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore and Urban Redevelopment Authority

35B.—(1) For the purpose of obtaining data for statistical purposes relating to industrial property in Singapore, the Corporation may in writing require — 30

(a) the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore to furnish or supply to the Corporation any particulars or information in the possession of the Inland Revenue Authority of

Singapore that it obtained in the performance of its function as an agent of the Government in administering, assessing, collecting and enforcing payment of property tax or stamp duties; or

5 (b) the Urban Redevelopment Authority to furnish or supply to the Corporation any particulars or information in the possession of the Urban Redevelopment Authority —

10 (i) that the Urban Redevelopment Authority obtained pursuant to any notice under section 44 of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act; or

15 (ii) that was collected by the Research and Statistics Unit before 1st September 1989 and transferred to the Urban Redevelopment Authority under section 31 of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act.

20 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Act and the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, respectively, shall furnish the particulars and information required under subsection (1) within such time as may be agreed to between the Corporation and the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore or the Urban Redevelopment Authority, as the case may be.

25 **Preservation of secrecy**

30 **35C.**—(1) Any member, officer or employee of the Corporation shall not disclose any particulars or information which has been obtained by the member, officer or employee of the Corporation in the performance of his duties or the exercise of his function under section 35A or 35B unless —

(a) the disclosure is with the previous consent in writing of the person who furnished the particulars or information under section 35A or the person to whom the particulars or information relate;

- (b) the disclosure is as statistics which do not identify the person who furnished the particulars or information under section 35A or the person to whom the particulars or information relate;
- (c) the disclosure is to the Urban Redevelopment Authority pursuant to its request made under section 44A of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act; 5
- (d) the disclosure is to the Chief Statistician pursuant to his direction under section 6 of the Statistics Act (Cap. 317) where the particulars or information are not exempted under section 6(2) of that Act from being so furnished; 10
- (e) the disclosure is for the purposes of any proceedings for an offence under section 35A(7) or this section or any report of those proceedings; or
- (f) the particulars or information are already in the public domain at the time of its disclosure. 15

(2) The Corporation may, in respect of any particulars or information disclosed to any person under subsection (1)(a), impose conditions as to the use of such particulars or information by notice in writing to that person. 20

(3) Any person who discloses any particulars or information in contravention of subsection (1), or who fails to comply with any condition imposed on him under subsection (2), shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both. 25

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in subsection (1) authorises disclosure of any particulars or information referred to therein to any officer or employee of the Corporation not charged with any duties or function under section 35A or 35B. 30

Entry on premises to obtain statistical information

35D. Any officer of the Corporation authorised by the Corporation in that behalf may, with such assistants as are necessary, at any reasonable time, with the consent of the

occupier of any land or premises or after 6 hours' previous notice to such an occupier, and without involving any search or seizure of any premises, person or thing, enter the land or premises for all or any of the following purposes:

- 5 (a) for or in connection with obtaining statistical information in relation to industrial property in Singapore;
- (b) for the purpose of verifying the accuracy or completeness of any particulars or information furnished by any person pursuant to a notice issued under section 35A(1).”.
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New section 67

8. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 66, the following section:

15 **“Composition of offences**

67.—(1) The chief executive officer of the Corporation or any other officer of the Corporation who is authorised by the chief executive officer of the Corporation may, in his discretion, compound any offence under this Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder which is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following sums:

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- (a) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence;
- 25 (b) a sum of \$5,000.

(2) On payment of such sum of money, no further proceedings shall be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

(3) The Minister may make regulations to prescribe the offences which may be compounded.

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(4) All sums collected under this section shall be paid to the Consolidated Fund.”.

Consequential amendments to Urban Redevelopment Authority Act

9. The Urban Redevelopment Authority Act (Cap. 340) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “former Authority” in section 2, the following definitions: 5

““Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore” means the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore established under the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 138A); 10

“Jurong Town Corporation” means the Jurong Town Corporation established under the Jurong Town Corporation Act (Cap. 150);”;

(b) by deleting the words “section 54(4)” in section 42(b) and substituting the words “section 59(3)”; 15

(c) by deleting subsection (2) of section 44 and substituting the following subsections:

“(2) Subject to subsection (2D), a notice issued under subsection (1) may be served in the following manner:

(a) in the case of an individual — 20

(i) by delivering it to the individual personally;

(ii) by leaving it with an adult person apparently resident at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the usual or last known address of the place of residence of the individual; 25

(iii) by leaving it with an adult person apparently employed at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the usual or last known address of the place of business of the individual; 30

(iv) by affixing a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place at the usual or last known address of the place of residence or place of business of the individual; or

5 (v) by electronic communication, by sending an electronic communication of the notice to the last email address given to the Authority by the individual as the email address for the service of documents on the individual;

10 (b) in the case of a partnership other than a limited liability partnership —

15 (i) by delivering it to any one of the partners or the secretary or other like officer of the partnership;

(ii) by leaving it at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the principal or last known place of business of the partnership in Singapore;

20 (iii) by sending it by facsimile transmission to the fax transmission number operated at the principal or last known place of business of the partnership in Singapore; or

25 (iv) by electronic communication, by sending an electronic communication of the notice to the last email address given to the Authority by the partnership as the email address for the service of documents on the partnership; and

30 (c) in the case of any limited liability partnership or any other body corporate —

35 (i) by delivering it to the secretary or other like officer of the body corporate or, in the case of a limited liability partnership,

the manager thereof, or to any person having, on behalf of the limited liability partnership or other body corporate, powers of control or management over the business, occupation, work or matter to which the notice relates; 5

(ii) by leaving it at, or by sending it by pre-paid registered post to, the registered office or principal place of business of the limited liability partnership or other body corporate in Singapore; 10

(iii) by sending it by facsimile transmission to the fax transmission number operated at the registered office or principal place of business of the limited liability partnership or other body corporate in Singapore or elsewhere; or 15

(iv) by electronic communication, by sending an electronic communication of the notice to the last email address given to the Authority by the limited liability partnership or other body corporate as the email address for the service of documents on the limited liability partnership or body corporate. 20 25

(2A) If the person on whom service is to be effected has an agent within Singapore, the notice may be delivered to the agent.

(2B) Any notice issued under subsection (1) which is to be served on the occupier of any premises — 30

(a) may be served by delivering it to an adult person on the premises or, if there is no such person on the premises to whom it can with reasonable diligence be delivered, by affixing the notice to a conspicuous part of the premises; and 35

(b) shall be deemed to be properly addressed if addressed by the description of the occupier of the premises without further name or description.

5 (2C) Where any notice issued under subsection (1) and required to be served on any person is —

10 (a) sent by registered post to any person in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person at the time when it would, in the ordinary course of post, be delivered, whether or not it is returned undelivered, and in proving service of the notice, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing the same was properly
15 addressed, stamped and posted by registered post;

20 (b) sent by ordinary post to any person in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom it is addressed on the day succeeding the day on which it would, in the ordinary course of post, be delivered;

25 (c) sent by a facsimile transmission to the fax transmission number operated at the last known place of residence or business or registered office or principal place of business in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom it is addressed on the day of transmission, subject to receipt on the sending facsimile
30 machine of a notification (by electronic or other means) of a successful transmission to the place of residence or business or registered office or principal place of business, as the case may be; and
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(d) sent by electronic communication to an email address in accordance with subsection (2), it shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom it is addressed at the time of entering the information system addressed to the email address. 5

(2D) Service of any notice under this section on a person by electronic communication may be effected only if the person gives as part of his or its address for service an email address.”; 10

(d) by inserting, immediately after subsection (3) of section 44, the following subsection:

“(4) Nothing in this section authorises the Authority, or any employee thereof authorised by the Authority in that behalf, to require the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore or the Jurong Town Corporation to furnish to the Authority or the employee so authorised — 15

(a) any particulars or information in the possession of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore obtained in the performance of any of its functions; or 20

(b) any particulars or information in the possession of the Jurong Town Corporation obtained pursuant to any notice under section 35A of the Jurong Town Corporation Act.”; 25

(e) by inserting, immediately after section 44, the following section:

“Request for information from Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore and Jurong Town Corporation 30

44A.—(1) For the purpose of obtaining data for statistical purposes relating to property in Singapore, the Authority may in writing require —

5 (a) the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore to furnish or supply to the Authority any particulars or information in the possession of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore that it obtained in the performance of its function as an agent of the Government in administering, assessing, collecting and enforcing payment of property tax or stamp duties; or

10 (b) the Jurong Town Corporation to furnish or supply to the Authority any particulars or information in the possession of the Jurong Town Corporation obtained pursuant to any notice under section 35A of the Jurong Town Corporation Act.

15 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Act and the Jurong Town Corporation Act, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore and the Jurong Town Corporation, respectively, shall furnish the particulars and information required under subsection (1) within such time as may be agreed to between the Authority and the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore or the Jurong Town Corporation, as the case may be.”;

20 (f) by deleting subsection (1) of section 45 and substituting the following subsection:

25 “(1) Any member, officer or employee of the Authority shall not disclose any particulars or information which has been obtained by the member, officer or employee of the Authority in the performance of his duties or the exercise of his function under section 44 or 44A unless —

30 (a) the disclosure is with the previous consent in writing of the person who furnished the particulars or information under section 44 or the person to whom the particulars or information relate;

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- (b) the disclosure is as statistics which do not identify the person who furnished the particulars or information under section 44 or the person to whom the particulars or information relate;
 - (c) the disclosure is to the Jurong Town Corporation pursuant to its request made under section 35B of the Jurong Town Corporation Act; 5
 - (d) the disclosure is to the Chief Statistician pursuant to his direction under section 6 of the Statistics Act (Cap. 317) where the particulars or information are not exempted under section 6(2) of that Act from being so furnished; 10
 - (e) the disclosure is for the purpose of another member, officer or employee of the Authority carrying into effect the provisions of this Act; 15
 - (f) the disclosure is for the purposes of any proceedings for an offence under section 44(3) or this section or any report of those proceedings; or
 - (g) the particulars or information are already in the public domain at the time of its disclosure.”; and 20
- (g) by deleting the word “All” in paragraph 9 of the Fourth Schedule and substituting the words “Subject to section 35B of the Jurong Town Corporation Act and to section 45, all”.
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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Jurong Town Corporation Act (Cap. 150) for the following main purposes:

- (a) to enable the Jurong Town Corporation (JTC) to assume statistical functions in relation to industrial property in Singapore; and
- (b) to repeal certain obsolete provisions relating to compulsory acquisition of land.

The Bill also makes consequential amendments to the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act (Cap. 340) because the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) also has a statistical function in relation to properties in Singapore.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 amends section 2 by introducing the new definitions of “industrial property” and “industrial purpose”. Both definitions are linked to the planning processes in the Planning Act (Cap. 232).

The term “industrial property” covers buildings and premises as well as land. It refers to buildings and premises which are permitted by or under the Planning Act or any other written law for use and land zoned, solely for an industrial purpose or for mixed purposes, the predominant purpose of which is industrial. It also includes buildings and premises which have been put to use for an industrial purpose or for mixed purposes, the predominant purpose of which is industrial, since 1st February 1960 and has not been put to any other use since that date.

The term “industrial purpose” is defined to cover general or light industry, special industry with dangerous or offensive processes, warehousing, and business parks. The Minister is empowered to expand the meaning of the definition by a notification published in the *Gazette* specifying other activity of an industrial nature.

Clause 3 amends section 5 to raise the maximum number of members of the JTC from 11 to 14, and to change the quorum at meetings from a fixed number of 4 members to 4 or one-third of the total number of members in office, whichever is the higher.

Clause 4 amends section 12 to confer on the JTC a new function to collect, compile and analyse information of a statistical nature relating to industrial property in Singapore, and to publish and disseminate the results of any such compilation or analysis or abstracts of those results. The Minister having oversight of JTC is also empowered to assign new functions to JTC in future, by publishing a notification in the *Gazette*.

Clause 5 repeals sections 28 and 29, which deal with the compulsory acquisition of land for JTC's purposes and the validation of compulsory acquisition of immovable property before 15th April 1983, respectively. Section 28 is redundant because of the Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 152), and section 29 is spent.

Clause 6 amends section 33 to expand the offence of obstructing a JTC officer or person duly authorised by JTC to include refusing access to such an officer or person in the performance of anything which the officer or person is by the Act required or empowered to do.

Clause 7 introduces new sections 35A to 35D, all of which confer powers to enable JTC to discharge its new function of collecting, compiling and analysing information of a statistical nature relating to industrial property in Singapore. The new sections 35A, 35B and 35C are similar to those provisions in the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act on obtaining data for statistical purposes relating to property in Singapore.

The new section 35A confers on the JTC, and any authorised JTC employee, certain powers for the purpose of obtaining statistical information in relation to industrial property in Singapore. The JTC or duly authorised JTC employee can, by notice, request any person to furnish, within such period specified in the notice, such particulars or information on such matters as may be required by JTC and as are within knowledge of that person or in his custody or under his control.

It is an offence if the person required by notice to furnish any particulars or information wilfully refuses or without lawful excuse neglects to furnish the particulars or information within the time specified in the notice, or wilfully furnishes or causes to be furnished any false particulars or information required by the notice to be furnished. The punishment is a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or a jail term not exceeding 6 months or both. This is no higher than the punishment currently prescribed in section 44(3) of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act.

The notices under new section 35A may be served in a variety of ways, including service by fax or email. However, service of any notice by electronic communication on a person may be effected only if the person gives as part of his or its address for service an email address.

The new section 35B is to enable the obtaining of statistical information by JTC from the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) and URA. For the purpose of obtaining data for statistical purposes relating to industrial property in Singapore, JTC is authorised to require IRAS to furnish or supply to it any particulars or information in the possession of IRAS that it obtained in the performance of its function as an agent of the Government in administering, assessing, collecting and enforcing payment of property tax or stamp duties. JTC is further authorised to ask URA to supply it any particulars or information obtained by URA pursuant to any notice under section 44 of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act and any particulars or information that was collected by the

Research and Statistics Unit before 1st September 1989 and transferred to URA under section 31 of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act. The new section also overrides the secrecy surrounding these particulars and information in the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 138A) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act, and provides that IRAS and URA, respectively, must furnish the particulars and information as required to JTC within such time as may be agreed to between JTC and IRAS or URA, as the case may be.

The new section 35C preserves the secrecy of the particulars and information obtained by JTC pursuant to surveys under new section 35A or information-sharing arrangements under new section 35B and sets out a few exceptions for their disclosure.

Under the new section 35C, every JTC member, officer or employee is prohibited from disclosing any particulars or information which he has obtained in the performance of his duties or the exercise of his function under the new section 35A or 35B to any other JTC officer or employee of the Corporation who is not charged with any duties or function under either new section 35A or to any other person. The secrecy extends to other JTC officers and employees because JTC is also in the business of developing industrial sites.

The exceptions for disclosure are similar to those now set out in section 45(1) of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act, viz. with the previous consent in writing of the person who furnished the particulars or information under new section 35A or to whom the particulars or information relate, or as statistics which do not identify any such person. New exceptions have been introduced to deal with the information-sharing arrangements between JTC and URA, and to acknowledge the powers of the Chief Statistician under section 6 of the Statistics Act (Cap. 317) whereby he can direct any public agency to furnish or supply to him any particulars or information in the possession of the public agency.

JTC is also empowered, when disclosing any particulars or information disclosed to any person, to impose conditions as to the use of such particulars or information by notice in writing to that person.

The punishment for disclosure outside of the exceptions or in contravention of any condition as to the use of particulars or information is a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both. The punishment is no higher than the punishment in section 45(2) of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act.

The new section 35D confers power on duly authorised officers of the JTC to enter upon any premises or land during any reasonable time, with the consent of the occupier or after giving 6 hours' notice, for or in connection with obtaining statistical information in relation to industrial property in Singapore.

Clause 8 inserts a new section 67 concerning composition of offences. This provision confers discretion on the JTC's chief executive officer or any other JTC

officer who is authorised by that chief executive officer to compound any offence under the Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder which is prescribed as a compoundable offence. This is to be done by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence, or \$5,000, whichever is the lower. The composition sum is to be paid into the Consolidated Fund. What is a compoundable offence is to be prescribed by the Minister by way of regulations.

Clause 9 makes consequential amendments to the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act to align the provisions in that Act on collection of statistical information with the text of new sections 35A, 35B and 35C, which are inserted by clause 7.

Section 44 of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act is amended to provide for the same modes of service of notices as in new section 35A for the purposes of URA obtaining statistical information.

A new section 44A is introduced and the Fourth Schedule to the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act is amended to enable the obtaining of statistical information by URA from IRAS and JTC. The text of new section 44A mirrors that of new section 35B which is inserted by clause 7.

Section 45 of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act is also amended to set out exceptions to the preservation of secrecy provisions, being exceptions similar to those in new section 35C inserted by clause 7.

Finally, clause 9 corrects an out-dated cross-reference to the Land Titles Act (Cap. 157) in section 42(b) of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Act.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.
