

Glorious Praise Fellowship H.K. Ltd.

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“The Place Where Hurt Turns Into Healing”

Monday, March 04, 2002

Ms. Cyd Ho, Chairman
Subcommittee on Drug Dependent Persons Treatment
And Rehabilitation Centres Licensing Ordinance,

Dear Ms. Ho,

After attending your subcommittee meeting today, I have the following to report with suggestions. First, I would suggest that the Drug Dependent Persons bill be delayed requiring drug treatment centers that have land usage problems to apply to specified departments to try to resolve their problems before the implementation of the law. A deadline for applications could be made. For instance, a period for six to eight months could be given to collect information on land usage and zoning problems to be presented at a similar meeting as the one held today so that all can know what problems are applicable and to see if solutions cannot be arrived at for those organizations with land problems that have been revealed as the result of the applications to the land offices and the town planning board.

It was asked that we submit to you the problems we believe our center has regarding our buildings and land. These are what we believe our problems to be.

1. The government lease expired on our property in July 1997. A new lease was applied for, but the lands department said that a road had to be built up our mountain side so a 20 ton fire truck could access the property. The buildings are having way up a mountain side which would make it impossible to build such a road. Also the lands department wrote saying that \$6000.00 a month rent would be changed on the land if the lease were renewed. Therefore, the application for the lease was delayed. Therefore, we have to apply for a short term government lease on the property hoping to get a \$1.00 a year rent.

2. We are in a green zone, but there are 30 village houses around us making what we think to be a residential area rather a green belt area.
3. Next, our buildings are forty years old, and it seems that organization that built them built them without a building permit. They are all built of reinforced concrete.
4. The main building was built as a home for the aged. However, it was never used for this purpose because of being way up on a mountain side. So, we have to get the usage changed to be used for a drug rehabilitation center.
5. We feel the main upgrading that needs to be done is with our dining hall and an overhanging canapé that that runs the full length of our main building that is made of asbestos roofing. An overall redecoration of all the buildings needs to be done to improve appearances.
6. Finally the buildings need rewiring and upgrading with the proper fire prevention equipment.

All our buildings are in good condition being very solid concrete structures. This property was donated to us by several Christian organizations in Hong Kong in 1999, but we were not aware of all the problems involved with the land until I started investigating these when we heard of what the licensing bill would require.

Sincerely Yours,

Charles McKnelly, Director