

By fax and mail (2591 6002)

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25 March 2002

Mr W K LAM, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs
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Wanchai
Hong Kong

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Po Leung Kuk (L.N. 36)

At the House Committee meeting on 22 March 2002, Members decided to form a subcommittee to study the Resolution of the Board of Directors of Po Leung Kuk (L.N. 36) which was gazetted on 15 March 2002 and will be tabled in Council on 10 April 2002.

This Resolution enables Po Leung Kuk to undertake charitable work outside Hong Kong with the prior approval of the Secretary for Home Affairs. Members have expressed concern about the policy that charitable organisations which receive public funding/donations, such as Po Leung Kuk, can undertake charitable work outside Hong Kong.

As the Resolution already came into operation on the day of publication in the Gazette, i.e. 15 March 2002, Members are also concerned whether Po Leung Kuk would undertake charitable outside Hong Kong before the Legislative Council concludes scrutiny of the Resolution. As you are aware, amendment may be made by Members by 8 May 2002, or 15 May 2002 if the scrutiny period is extended by resolution of the Council.

Members have therefore instructed to me to convey to you their concern and request that Po Leung Kuk would not undertake charitable work outside Hong Kong, pending scrutiny of the Resolution by the Council.

(Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee)
Chairman
Legislative Council House Committee

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4 April 2002

The Hon Mrs. Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP
Chairman
Legislative Council House Committee
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8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Po Leung Kuk (L.N. 36)

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2002.

The purpose of the Resolution of the Board of Directors of Po Leung Kuk (L.N. 36) is to enable the Kuk to undertake charitable work outside Hong Kong with my prior approval. The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals also has a similar provision.

When considering whether approval should be given to Po Leung Kuk to conduct charitable work outside Hong Kong, I will have regard to the following principles -

- (a) the charitable work to be undertaken by the Kuk outside Hong Kong should have the general support of the Hong Kong community;

- (b) where funds are raised by the Kuk for charitable work outside Hong Kong, people donating money should be clearly informed of the purpose of the fund-raising activity beforehand; and
- (c) the existing funds of the Kuk should not be used to fund charitable work outside Hong Kong unless explicit permission has been given by the people who donated the money in the first place.

We have notified the Kuk that I will not give approval for any proposed charitable work outside Hong Kong until the Legislative Council has concluded its scrutiny of the Resolution. The Kuk has, in turn, undertaken not to initiate any charitable activity outside Hong Kong pending the Council's scrutiny of the Resolution.

My Bureau will work closely with the Subcommittee to study the Resolution and will provide all necessary assistance.

(W.K. LAM)
Secretary for Home Affairs

