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Dr. TANG Siu-tong (HK Progressive Alliance, NTW)
Chairman, LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Room 2A, OTB Building
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Yuen Long
New Territories
Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Tang,

11th July 2002

Yung Shue Wan Development Phase Two

I write to seek your assistance with regard to the Government's plan to (inter alia) reclaim a substantial part of the Yung Shue Wan harbour.

The Government has, quite rightly, been promoting the outlying islands as a tourist destination. The main attraction of Yung Shue Wan is its old world character and village charm. It is an escape from the crowded urban concrete jungle of Hong Kong. The proposed development plan will result in an artificial harbour front bereft of character or charm. The completed first phase of the development plan has resulted in the other side of the harbour looking very much like an abandoned parking lot; a poignant contrast to the original picturesque coastline.

A bilingual survey was carried out between December 2000 and June 2001 with 1,300 respondents.

- 100% of foreign tourists were against the proposed development,
- 98% of local tourists were against the proposed development, and
- 93% of local residents were against the proposed development.

The Government's plan will detract from Yung Shue Wan's appeal as a tourist destination (and as a place for local residents to live). It will be counter-productive to enhancing tourism on the island and will hurt the local community. Moreover, it is not what the local residents or the residents in the rest of Hong Kong (or, indeed, the tourists) have clearly stated that they want. The Government should respect and respond positively to the wishes of its people and should reconsider the proposed implementation of phase 2 before it is too late.

Progressive is inevitable. If Yung Shue Wan is to undergo a development programme, efforts should be made to ensure that such development is as unobtrusive as possible and preserves the undeveloped village atmosphere of Yung Shue Wan which residents and tourists have come to love and enjoy.

Please let me know your views on the proposed phase 2 development and, if you too are concerned about the proposed development, whether you will be taking any action to try to ensure that this (in the public's opinion) unwanted and insensitive development plan is not implemented.

Yours sincerely

Jason Chan