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20 June 2006

The Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Joan MAK)
(Fax No.: 2509 9055)

Dear Ms MAK,

District Open Space in Area 107 in Tin Shui Wai

I refer to the draft minutes of the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) held on 12 May 2006. In response to the enquiries raised by the members of the HA Panel (the Members) at the meeting in relation to the captioned project, we have consulted the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Architectural Services Department and would like to provide the information below.

It is stated in para. 24 of the draft minutes that the Administration was requested to spell out, in writing, what actions would be taken to expedite the implementation of the captioned project. We would like to inform the Members that the previous target commencement date and completion date of the construction works of the project were October 2007 and June 2009 and have subsequently been advanced to March 2007 and December 2008 respectively. Due to the large area of the project site, it is considered not possible to further advance these dates. Please note that only one vehicular access is available for the whole project site as construction access. The same vehicular access will be shared by two adjacent Government sites until end of 2008. It is considered not suitable to open part of the site of the captioned project earlier to the public with the vehicular access running through the site until end of 2008.

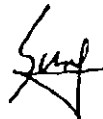
It is stated in para. 25 of the draft minutes that the Administration was requested to provide information detailing what actions it would take to provide more public open space in New Territories West including Yuen Long District. We

would like to inform the Members that the provision of open space in New Territories West (NTW) is adequate, except in Yuen Long District. As a reference, the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines suggests a provision of about 108.9 hectares of open space for the current population of around 544,500 in Yuen Long District. At present, there are about 95 hectares of open space provided in Yuen Long District, including 44.6 hectares of local open space provided by the Housing Department.

The Administration has already taken the necessary steps to increase the provision of open space to cope with the demand for recreation and sports facilities in Yuen Long District, as well as other Districts. A total of 14 projects, including 2 capital works projects (Local Open Space in Areas 25, 25A and 25B Tin Shui Wai and District Open Space in Area 107 Tin Shui Wai) and 4 minor building works projects (a 7-a-side Soccer Pitch in Area 107 Tin Shui Wai, 4 Basketball Courts in Area 107 Tin Shui Wai, District Square in Areas 33A and 29 Tin Shui Wai and Local Open Space at Hung Tak Road, Hung Shui Kiu) in Yuen Long District, are under construction or under active planning in NTW. Upon completion of the projects, the provision of open space in NTW would be enhanced by some 56.6 hectares. The LCSD will continue their efforts to provide additional open space in the Districts in consultation with relevant District Councils.

It is stated in para. 30 of the draft minutes that the Administration was requested to provide a concrete timetable on providing four soccer pitches in Area 107 in Tin Shui Wai, before the captioned project was to be put forward to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) for consideration. We would like to inform the Members that after studying the relevant views collected from the Members and the Culture, Recreation and Sports Committee (CRSC) of Yuen Long District Council, we decided to put forward the captioned project to the PWSC during the meeting on 21 June 2006 to avoid delaying the implementation of the project. The Administration will consult the CRSC on the proposed scope of the project of the remaining parts of Area 107 Tin Shui Wai as soon as possible. If the CRSC supported it, the Administration will take necessary follow up action including preparation of timetable. We will provide relevant information to the Members after consulting the CRSC on the proposed scope.

Yours sincerely,



(Danny SUNG)

for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Attn.: Peter KAN) (Fax No.: 2695 3886)
Director of Architectural Services
(Attn.: Mrs Celina KWOK) (Fax No.: 2123 9024)