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20 December 2006

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and  
Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
(Attn: Miss Flora Tai)  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central  
Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss Tai,

**Meeting of the Legislative Council  
on 13 December 2006**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on 13 December 2006, the Hon. Wong Kwok-hing alleged that the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) had outsourced the skilled services at Fu Shan Crematorium (FSC) and Kwai Chung Crematorium (KCC). We would like to inform the Council that EMSD has advised that this allegation is unsubstantiated.

EMSD has advised that it started the open recruitment exercise for craftsmen in September 2006 for the following skilled services of FSC and KCC-

- (a) Reception of coffin at the Service Hall;
- (b) Delivery of coffin to the cremator;

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- (c) Handling of cremated bone; and
- (d) Handling of chemical waste.

In parallel, EMSD has engaged a company to provide general cleansing service. As EMSD was not sure in November about the number of suitable applicants that would accept offer of appointment for carrying out the skilled services in (a)-(d) above, and in view that the department will take up the full operation of FSC and KCC on 1 January 2007, EMSD engaged workers at FSC and KCC through the company to familiarise with the skilled work in December as a contingency measure. EMSD has subsequently secured the number of skilled workers it needs for FSC and KCC and the workers on familiarization have already left the two crematoria.

Yours sincerely,

*(signed)*

(Vincent Liu)  
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

c.c.

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DFEH	(Attn. : Ms Julina Chan)	Fax: 2524 8719