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Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Colin CHUI)

26 March 2007

Dear Mr CHUI,

**Progress of the Leisure and Cultural Services (LCS) Projects
in Sai Kung District**

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary for Home Affairs dated 26 February 2007 in which you forwarded to us the invaluable opinions put forth by Members of the Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) at the meeting with Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 11 January 2007. In Addition to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)'s reply given to you on 1 March 2007, we are writing to respond as follows:

- (a) *Confirmation of the project on the construction of a public library and an indoor sports centre in Area 74S Tiu Keng Leng with the provision of relevant information. The project should also be given priority for implementation. The project on the construction of a district open space in Area 37 may be deferred if so required.*

In response to the aspirations of the SKDC, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has given priority to the project on the construction of a district open space, a sports centre and a library in Area 74, Tseung Kwan O and is now proceeding with the related planning work. We consulted the respective District Council (DC) about the proposed facilities to be built under the project on 31 June 2006 and 1 August 2006. A draft Project Definition Statement (PDS) has been completed for submission to HAB for approval. If the PDS is approved, we will request the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to conduct a technical feasibility study and draw up an implementation schedule, and will also apply for funding to be earmarked for the project.

To tie in with the population growth in Tseung Kwan O New Town and meet the local community's demand for leisure facilities, we consulted the SKDC on the proposed facilities to be provided under the project on the construction of a district open space in Area 37, Tseung Kwan O on 18 January and 1 February 2007 in order to proceed with further planning work.

(b) *Early Implementation of the Project on the Sports Centre in Area 45B, Tseung Kwan O and Provision of Details of the Project as well as Provision of more Leisure and Cultural Facilities under the Project*

The LCSD is now actively developing large-scale leisure and sports facilities in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O, including the project on Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, a venue where major international athletic events can be staged. The Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground is expected to be completed in 2009. In addition, the LCSD consulted the SKDC on the proposed facilities to be provided under the projects on an indoor velodrome-cum-sports centre and a town park in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O on 1 February 2007. The SKDC supported the Department in developing a town park and an indoor velodrome-cum-sports centre that meets the required standards for international cycling competitions and training purposes under the Public Works Programme and in providing appropriate facilities in the sports centre for organising various leisure and cultural activities. We are now drafting the PDS for submission to the HAB for approval. If the PDS is approved, we will request the ArchSD to conduct a technical feasibility study and draw up an implementation schedule, and will also apply for funding to be earmarked for the projects. We will also liaise closely with the Transport Department on the supporting transport facilities and on vacating the site currently used as a temporary fee-charging goods vehicles carpark for implementation of the project.

(c) *Expediting the construction of Tseung Kwan O Complex in Area 44, Tseung Kwan O*

The project on Tseung Kwan O Complex in Area 44, Tseung Kwan O, which is among the 25 municipal projects identified for priority implementation in the Chief Executive's 2005 Policy Address, has been upgraded to Category B of public works. The ArchSD is now carrying out detailed design for the Complex and will consult the respective DC in due course on the preliminary conceptual design of the project. At present, our target is to advance the commencement date of the project to early 2009 for completion in late 2011, about 2 years ahead of the original schedule.

2. In response to the concern of the SKDC and the aspirations of the local residents, the LCSD frequently reviews the LCS projects within the district and

consults the DC on the priority of the projects. District Officer (Sai Kung) said that he would continue to ensure co-ordination and handle the problems arising out of the implementation of the project through the District Facilities Management Committee and the inter-departmental task force, which comprises representatives from the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the ArchSD, the Lands Department, the Transport Department, the Highways Department and the Hong Kong Police Force. Government departments will continue to work closely with each other to facilitate the construction of the LCS facilities and expedite the development of the LCS facilities in Tseung Kwan O as far as possible so as to meet local residents' demand.

3. As regards the issue on increasing the funding provision for DCs, District Officer (Sai Kung) explained that as there were presently separate funds to be allocated for carrying out minor works and facility improvement works in the district, and the planning as well as implementation procedures involved also differed in these two types of works, district needs could not be met in a timely and effective manner. In view of this, in the 2007-08 financial year the Government will create a dedicated capital works block vote under the Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRF) to provide a total funding of \$20 million to the four DCs (including the SKDC) covered by the pilot scheme. With the funding provision, these pilot districts can initiate and implement minor works projects in the districts and the departments concerned can implement the decisions of the DCs and better support the DCs. When the scheme to involve DCs in the management of district facilities is fully implemented in all districts in 2008-09, an annual funding of \$300 million will be provided for implementation of minor works projects in the districts.

4. We will work jointly with the ArchSD to closely monitor the progress of various LCS projects with a view to expediting their completion so that the facilities can be made available to the residents as early as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Terence LAU)

c.c.

Secretary for Home Affairs

District Officer (Sai Kung)

Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Director of Architectural Services

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