

# Paul Mak & Associates Ltd.

Suite 1524, Prince's Building, 10 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 2525 5211 Fax: (852) 2868 1613  
e-mail: pma@pmassociates.com.hk

3 July 2009

## **STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

The Legislative Council  
Hong Kong

Dear Sirs

### **Additional five racedays of the Hong Kong Jockey Club**

We are a provider of recruitment services and have a productive history going back many years of working with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. In recent years, we have assisted them in filling a number of senior positions. As part of this relationship, we have gained privileged insight into the role horseracing plays in Hong Kong.

We are writing to express our full support for the proposal of adding five racedays to the racing season because we firmly believe this would benefit Hong Kong and our community as a whole. Some of our reasons are as follows:

- \* Horseracing activities in Hong Kong generates much economic activity. Apart from HKJC's own businesses and activities, they directly deal with a large number of firms across many industries. On racedays every year, other businesses are indirectly and positively affected as well. Extra racedays would provide extra business for many more companies than just HKJC.
- \* HKJC is one of Hong Kong's largest employers with over 4,800 full time and 20,000 part time staff. Despite the economic downturn, they have been striving to help its staff keep their jobs. They are one of the few employers to continue providing job opportunities and investing in human resources during difficult times. They understand the importance of trust and loyalty in employee relationships.
- \* HKJC is the largest single taxpayer in Hong Kong. In the 2007/08 season, they contributed over \$13 billion to the public purse. Extra racedays would help with the figure for this year, especially as commercial taxes from other sectors would probably shrink this year.
- \* HKJC contributes their financial surpluses to charitable causes across Hong Kong and their annual charity donations exceed \$1 billion, helping the city in many ways. In the current economic conditions, our community increasingly needs such charities and HKJC would be proud to continue its contributions. Extra racedays would have a direct impact on funding multiple charities.

Through taxes and charitable contributions, the HKJC has always been a conduit for redistributing resources from individual punters to the wider population. Both HKJC's broader operations and its activities specific to racedays benefit a wide range of small businesses. At a time when our city is finding ways to boost the economy and help those who are hit by the recession, HKJC's role in society is invaluable.

We are concerned that the decline in horse racing turnover will have adverse effects on the HKJC's wide ranging beneficial impacts and contributions to the Hong Kong community.

We trust that the Legco and the Hong Kong Government understand that the HKJC is particularly useful to the community in this recession and that you will take decisive steps to allow the Hong Kong Jockey Club to maintain this role.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul K.K. Mak', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Paul K.K. Mak  
Managing Director

Encl.  
BB/tl