3 July 2009

To whom it may concern

Dear Sirs,

I am Roland, Chan Ka Hong, an ex-employee of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. I joined the Club in 1978 and retired in 2006 as the Human Resources Manager (Corporate Services) in the Human Resources Department. I am writing to express full support to the proposal for an additional of five racedays each year. I truly believe that the proposal can maximize the social and economic contribution that horse racing makes to the Hong Kong community.

HKJC operates in a not-for-profit basis and it is well-known that its surplus goes back to the community. Over the past decades, the Club donated an average of one billion Hong Kong dollars every year to hundreds of charities and community projects, in particular the young, elderly, sick and less able. The Club aims to bring a better quality of life to the people of Hong Kong and immediate relief to those most in need. Upon the approval of five extra racedays with more revenue, I am sure HKJC would proactively put more efforts on identifying and generating more projects that anticipate future community and social needs.

HKJC is one of the largest employers in Hong Kong. It hires over 20,000 part time staff and nearly 5,000 full time staff. Facing the onslaught of the financial tsunami, the unemployment rate is raising. If HKJC is allowed to add five extra race meetings per year, more employment opportunities can be created through its race meeting operations.

In addition, HKJC is the largest single tax players in Hong Kong. According to HKJC records, revenue from horse betting has shrunk sharply due to structural decline and Macau competition. If more race meetings are allowed, the Government revenue will increase through the Club's tax contribution. It would definitely be a long term benefit to Hong Kong.

The Club is also one of the largest racing organizations in the world. Horse racing is the most popular spectator sport in Hong Kong. The prestigious international horse races like the Hong Kong Derby, the Queen Elizabeth II Cup and the Hong Kong International Races attracts lot of visitors to Hong Kong every year. I believe more racedays can make contribution to Hong Kong tourism and promote Hong Kong as a destination worldwide.

I fully support and agree HKJC's proposal of adding five extra race meetings per year. In view of social and economic considerations as mentioned above, I believe it will be a loss to Hong Kong if the Government would not take this decisive step to ensure the Club's sustainable development in future.

Yours sincerely,

Roland K.H. Chan