

Sent by e-mail

The Hon Ip Kwok-him
Chairman
Home Affairs Panel

July 7, 2009

Re: Hong Kong Jockey Club's proposals on extra race days and simulcasts

I am writing in my capacity as a horse enthusiast and proud owner of *Asali Victory* and *Congrats* to share my opinion on the captioned proposal with members of the Home Affairs Panel.

I have been a racing fan for many years and have witnessed with great pride the growth of horse racing in Hong Kong and its elevation to the highest international standards over the years. The decision of the IOC (International Olympic Committee) to stage last year's Olympic equestrian competition in Hong Kong is a strong testament to the quality of racing and world class racing facilities and infrastructure we have in Hong Kong.

The proposal to increase 5 race days and the simulcasts of major international races is something the Government and the community should support as this would align Hong Kong with other leading racing jurisdictions in the world. The Australian Government for example has, within its administration, a Ministry for Racing to promote horse racing, devote resource and formulate policies to help enhancing the sustainability of the business. It should be generally agreed that horse racing does bring benefit to the local economy by providing a major revenue source for the Government, creating great number of jobs, generate large amount of donations for local charities and community projects, as well as boosting the tourism industry.

It is time the community and the Hong Kong Government to change their mindset about racing and give it the proper credit it deserves.

Yours truly,



Admond YUE

cc The Hon Tanya Chan, Deputy Chairman, Home Affairs Panel
Betty Fong, Secretariat, Legco Home Affairs Panel