

Members
Home Affairs Panel
Legislative Council
c/o Secretariat, Legco
3/F., Citibank Tower
3, Garden Road
CENTRAL
HONG KONG

Dear Honorable Members

Horse racing: Facebook Group

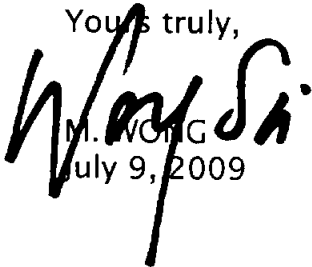
I read from the media that the Government has recently approved the extension of the horse racing season by adding 5 race days starting next year. This is good news for the group of people who have a keen interest in horse racing.

However, it is most disappointing to hear criticisms from some sectors of the community which accuse the Government for spreading the habit of gambling. Frankly, increasing the number of race meetings from 78 to 83 a year is so insignificant that very few people in Hong Kong would even notice. The decision on the other hand would bring in handsome tax income for the Government and this is very important in times of economic downturn.

I therefore took the initiative to start a Facebook Group last week to see whether there are others who share my views. I was overwhelmed by the positive response within the last few days: **there were 158 "members" of the Facebook community who have signed up and expressed their support.**

I herewith attach the 158 signatures and the relevant Facebook materials for your information and hope this will be useful in your discussion tomorrow at the Home Affairs Panel.

Yours truly,


M. WONG
July 9, 2009