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7 April 2011

Ms Amy Yu  
Clerk to Education Panel  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yu,

**Panel on Education**  
**Follow-up to meeting on 14 February 2011**

Your letter of 16 February to the Secretary for Education refers. On 30 March the Education Bureau replied to you regarding the request for re-opening the former New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Southern District Secondary School and Christian Zheng Sheng College (CZSC)'s application for operating New Senior Secondary courses. Regarding the reprovisioning of drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs) and educational facilities of the Christian Zheng Sheng Association (CZSA), the Education Bureau has referred your letter to us for follow up. The latest situation is reported below.

Depending on the practical needs, the Administration has been providing various forms of support to the 40 DTRCs now in Hong Kong, such as land and premises and subvention for operation. The CZSA was incorporated in 1985 as a company limited by guarantee and is also a charitable institution exempt from tax. The CZSA operates six non-subvented voluntary residential DTRCs on a gospel basis. In addition, it runs the CZSC to provide services to students residing at the four DTRCs at Ha Keng and Cheung Chau respectively (see LC Paper No. CB(2)2322/09-10(01)).

As always, we will continue to provide support to the CSZA in various ways as set out below.

In the short term, we encourage the CSZA to proceed with feasible temporary improvement measures at their facilities at Ha Keng. The Administration has completed the slope stabilising works there. Grants from the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) have been approved for the CSZA to procure a boat for commuting to and from Ha Keng. We encourage the CSZA to follow up as soon as possible.

With the assistance of the Administration, the CZSC registered a new classroom at Ha Keng in March, bringing the total number of classrooms to three. Together with the two classrooms on Cheung Chau, the CZSC has now five registered classrooms.

The occupancy rates of the CZSA's two DTRCs for adults at Tai O and Mui Wo respectively have been low. Another two DTRCs at Cheung Chau have also maintained a surplus capacity for a long time. The Social Welfare Department has urged the CZSA to thoroughly review the occupancy situation of its DTRCs and deploy resources flexibly, in order to alleviate the situation of over admission to the DTRCs at Ha Keng.

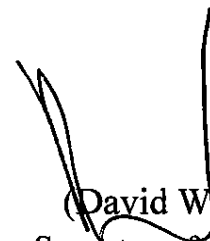
We encourage the CZSA to speed up the development plan of its purchased land on Cheung Chau to build a new DTRC and educational facilities as soon as possible, which can accommodate up to 96 persons as it has proposed and provide new educational facilities to the CZSC and improve the learning and living environment. The Administration has given support to the change of use of the agriculture land to facilitate the plan. If the existing DTRCs on Cheung Chau can continue to operate (with a capacity of 60), then the total capacity of the old and new DTRCs on Cheung Chau will be able to accommodate all existing students on Cheung Chau and at Ha Keng (about 110).

Notwithstanding this, we also support the CZSA in searching for sites to re-provision the centres at Ha Keng in a bid to increase the capacity. The Administration will continue to assist CZSA in discussing with different stakeholders to reach a consensus.

Regarding financial support, the Administration will continue to encourage the CZSA to apply for funding from the BDF in order to take forward the above mentioned temporary improvement measures and other longer-term development and reprovisioning plans. With the injection of \$3 billion, BDF is enhancing its funding arrangements, in a bid to help DTRCs to proceed with their required construction works. A project may receive up to a maximum grant of \$50 million. The organisations can also make use of the funds to employ authorised persons or consultants to plan and implement projects and conduct technical feasibility studies in the early stage.

The Administration appeals to the public again for a tolerant and receptive attitude towards young people who have once fallen prey to drugs. We hope that the public would accept the drug treatment centres as part of the community. A congenial environment for the rehabilitated youths will help them turn a new leaf and reintegrate into society.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wong', with a long vertical stroke extending upwards from the right side.

(David Wong)  
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Secretary for Education (Attn: Mr Raymond Sy)