

政府總部
民政事務局

香港灣仔
軒尼詩道一百三十號
修頓中心三十一樓



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**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

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20 June 2011

Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Alice LEUNG)

Dear Ms LEUNG,

Panel on Home Affairs

Thank you for your letter of 30 May 2011 forwarding a letter from a member of the public expressing concern about advertisements promoting casinos in Macau.

Section 16B of the Gambling Ordinance (the Ordinance) stipulates that no person in Hong Kong shall knowingly promote or facilitate bookmaking or betting with a bookmaker, however, it shall not apply if the bet in question can only be placed; or is placed by a person outside Hong Kong. If there are any cases of suspected violation of the Ordinance, we would consult relevant Government departments and follow up as appropriate. The Bureau has noted the suggestion of enhancing the regulation of gambling advertisements.

The Government's gambling policy is not to encourage gambling, but to restrict gambling opportunities to a limited number of authorized and regulated outlets. We have endeavoured to implement

various preventive and remedial measures in addressing gambling-related problems. The Home Affairs Bureau established the Ping Wo Fund (the Fund) in 2003 to finance preventive and remedial measures to address gambling-related problems. We have launched a sponsorship programme namely the Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme for sponsoring schools and community organizations to conduct public education programmes and activities which aim at preventing and alleviating gambling-related problems. Priority is given to programmes that target at youth. We have also planned to produce a TV docu-drama series this year with a view to educating the general public on the consequences of gambling addiction through real cases. Besides, the Fund has financed four counselling and treatment centres for problem and pathological gamblers. With effect from 2010, the total annual funding provided to the four centres has been raised to \$11 million. We will continue to implement various preventive and remedial measures in addressing gambling-related problems.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Winnie Tse)
for Secretary of Home Affairs