



教育署
Education Department

本署檔號 Our ref: EMB(I)/ADM/55/2
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圖文傳真 Fax No.:

29 January 2003

Ms Miranda HON
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms HON,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
Results of Value for Money Audits (Report No. 39)**

**Chapter 9: Primary Education –
Planning and Provision of Primary School Places**

Thank you for your letter of 24 January on the above. The information requested by the Public Accounts Committee is as follows –

- (a) Apart from the nine school projects in the seven districts projected to have excess supply of primary school places in both 2007 and 2010 based on the latest population projection, we have decided to suspend another five school projects due to various reasons, e.g. high site formation costs and technical constraints of the school sites concerned.

By-district distribution of the 14 suspended projects is at Annex A.

教育統籌局與教育署已於二零零三年一月一日合併為新的教育統籌局。為免浪費，我們繼續使用舊文具存貨。

We are the new Education and Manpower Bureau formed by the merger of the old Bureau and the Education Department. To minimize waste, we are using our old stationery while stock lasts.



- (b) On the one hand, suspension of the projects mentioned in (a) above will achieve savings. On the other hand, we will launch a rolling programme from the next school year to reprovision/ redevelop schools which are substantially below present-day standards. The programme will require additional resources. The number of reprovisioning/ redevelopment projects to be carried out each year will depend on the availability of both funding and land resources. We estimate that about 10 schools will benefit from the first batch of the programme.
- (c) (i) This Bureau has not imposed any specific restrictions on the conversion of vacant classrooms. However, in September 1999, we issued to all aided schools an Administrative Circular, stipulating the guidelines that schools should follow if they wish to make any changes to the use of rooms (including vacant classrooms) in their schools.

In general, schools should take into account the following considerations –

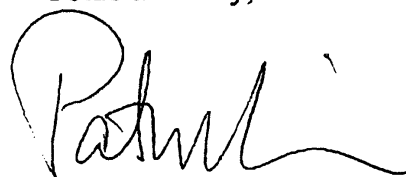
- ❖ Whether structural conversion is involved; and if so, whether such conversion complies with stipulated requirements overseen by various Government departments;
- ❖ Whether the change of room use is hazardous to the health and safety of pupils and staff;
- ❖ Whether the quality of teaching and learning is affected; and
- ❖ Whether additional recurrent and/or non-recurrent subsidies from Government are involved.

A copy of the Administrative Circular is at Annex B.

- (ii) As above-said, we have promulgated a set of guidelines on the change of room use (including vacant classrooms) in schools with a view to facilitating more flexible and better use of available resources. Depending on the specific circumstances of schools, we have also carried out works for conversion of vacant classrooms in schools into alternative uses under the School Improvement Programme (SIP) for the benefits of teaching and learning. Examples of schools having undergone such works are Schools I and K referred to in the Director of Audit's report.

This Bureau will continue to closely monitor the room use situation in schools and liaise with schools on ways to improve the utilization of vacant classrooms, as appropriate and necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick LI', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

(Patrick LI)

for Secretary for Education and Manpower

c.c.

Director of Audit (Attn: Mr David M T LEUNG) 2583 9063

**Note by Clerk, PAC: Annex B not attached.*

By-district Distribution of 14 Suspended School Projects

| District | Number of suspended projects |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eastern | 3 |
| Central and Western | 2 |
| Wan Chai | 1 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 |
| Kowloon City | 2 |
| Tai Po | 1 |
| Tuen Mun | 2 |
| Tsuen Wan | 2 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>14</i> |