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The Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Amy YU)

22 March 2006

Dear Ms Yu,

Panel on Home Affairs

**Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and
Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils**

Minutes of meeting on 1 December 2005

We wish to provide the information below in response to the enquiry raised at the meeting held on 1 December 2005 (para 41 of the minutes of meeting).

In 2005, the average usage rates of all arenas at the sports centres of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), were at 85% and 59% respectively for peak hours and non-peak hours. To promote the utilization of facilities of sports centres (e.g. main arena, activity rooms and squash courts) during non-peak hours particularly for students, we have proactively launched promotions to encourage schools to apply for free use of the facilities of sports centres for the whole school term under the Free Use Scheme. As for those under utilized squash courts, LCSD has converted 231 out of a total of 361 squash courts into other uses such as table tennis and activity rooms to promote the usage. To ensure the effective delivery of government services at district level by expanding the role of the District Councils to enable them to assume responsibility for the management of some district facilities such as sports centres, the Home Affairs Bureau and the Constitutional Affairs Bureau are now working out an implementation framework for the proposal and will make formal consultation with the public and DCs before its implementation.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Karen YUEN)

for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

C.C.

SHA (Attn: Mr Daniel Sin)

D Arch S (Attn: Mr Wilson Lee)