

立法會CB(2)1174/12-13(14)號文件  
LC Paper No. CB(2)1174/12-13(14)

20 May 2013

Clerk to Bills Committee on Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2013  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road

**Re: Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2013**

I would like to thank the Bills Committee on Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2013 for the opportunity to express my views on the topic of two-way commingling for horseracing in Hong Kong. Having been a horse trainer in both Australia and Hong Kong, I hope to offer broader perspectives on the subject for the committee's consideration.

First and foremost, two-way commingling is a well-established international practice, adopted by my native Australia, as well as other horseracing jurisdictions such as the New Zealand, the UK, the US, South Africa, Singapore etc. Because two-way commingling gives racing fans access to the fairest odds when they bet on races in overseas markets, it is critical to the development of the sport as an international enterprise.

When I first came to Hong Kong as a trainer in 2001, the city already had an enviable reputation as the most exciting horseracing city in the world. Hong Kong's horseracing professionals, from horse trainers, jockeys and mafus, were all proud to be associated with such a world-renown brand. Yet, as horseracing became more internationalised over the past decade, Hong Kong has been left behind somewhat.

I believe the adoption of two-way commingling would keep Hong Kong horseracing on its winning track by enhancing its appeal to overseas fans. The strengthening of this "export" industry will also have important knock-on effects as quality horses, jockeys and trainers will be drawn to Hong Kong as an international stage. This in turn will help to improve Hong Kong horseracing as a product. And as a horse trainer, I very much welcome the opportunity to work with and compete against the world's best horses and trainers.

Conversely, without the adoption of two-way commingling, Hong Kong horseracing could stand to lose the stature it now enjoys. Indeed, Hong Kong must be seen as always on being the side of horseracing fans by ensuring their access to the fairest odds. At the same time, Hong Kong needs to join the international community in combating off-shore and illegal activities that take advantage of horseracing fans and siphon off resources from local economies.

More ominously, if the activities of unauthorised odds makers were left unchecked in this ever more internationalised industry, the development of Hong Kong's horseracing would only stagnate, leaving horseracing professionals like myself with dimmer career

prospects. Beyond the impact on individuals, this would also have a negative impact on Hong Kong society as a whole as horseracing continues to make a significant contribution to the local economy.

Therefore, I urge the committee and the Legislative Council to consider the manifold benefits of keeping in step with international practice by introducing two-way comingling.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Size', written in a cursive style.

John Size, Horse Trainer

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