



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Tel no: 3509 8918
Fax no: 2810 7851

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Miss Polly Yeung
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Yeung,

Legislative Council Panel on Education

During the discussion on “the existing policy on the use of land for educational purposes” at the Panel meeting held on 11 March 2013, Members expressed concern about the request by the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) to use the southern portion of the former campus of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee) at Renfrew Road, Kowloon Tong (ex-IVE (LWL) site) for development of a Chinese medicine hospital. Due to time constraint, we were unable to make certain clarifications at the meeting, and would like to provide a written response for Members’ information.

In September 2009, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) received from HKBU a “(draft) proposal on the planning and construction of a Chinese medicine hospital in Hong Kong”. No information regarding the site of the proposed Chinese medicine hospital was included in the proposal. It was mentioned in HKBU’s letter that “in terms of the site, we propose constructing a Chinese medicine hospital in urban areas for the convenience of the public. The ex-IVE (LWL) site in Kowloon Tong is one of the preferred sites... Of course, other conveniently located sites can also be considered.”

HKBU wrote to FHB in June 2011 expressing that HKBU understood that while the Government is supportive of a privately-run Chinese medicine hospital, one of the hurdles to overcome was the provision of land for the propose. In this regard, HKBU reported that it had found common ground with the Tsim Sha Tsui District Kai Fong Welfare Association (TSTKFWA) in redeveloping the existing site of the TSTKFWA in Tsim Sha Tsui into a Chinese medicine hospital. HKBU further wrote to FHB in November 2011 and September 2012, submitting a detailed proposal and supplementary information on the joint project with TSTKFWA respectively. The proposal contained such detailed information as the mode of collaboration with TSTKFWA, proposed timetable for the development, feasibility study report, the budget, etc. In its proposal submitted in September 2012, HKBU stated clearly that a co-operation agreement on the site of the Chinese medicine hospital had been signed with TSTKFWA (see Annex). The Government has all along supported this joint project. FHB also held a meeting with HKBU and TSTKFWA on 26 September 2012 to discuss the details of the proposal.

About two weeks later, i.e. on 10 October 2012, the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health) (PSFH(H)) had breakfast with the former Chairman of the Council of HKBU at the latter's invitation. Before the breakfast, HKBU made no mention about its decision to give up the joint project with TSTKFWA or its intention to develop the hospital at the ex-IVE (LWL) site instead. The President and some other senior staff of HKBU were also present at the breakfast. During the breakfast, the discussion focused on issues to be followed up by government departments together with HKBU in taking forward the joint project of HKBU and TSTKFWA. In the course of discussion, HKBU mentioned that it had another site originally set aside for student hostels that could be used for the development of a Chinese medicine hospital. HKBU did not submit any location map or proposal in respect of the mentioned site at the breakfast, nor did it point out that the site did not belong to HKBU.

After the breakfast, PSFH(H) sent an email to HKBU on the same day, asking for the location map of the HKBU's site mentioned at the breakfast in order to follow up with other government departments concerned. HKBU provided a one-page map of HKBU and a one-page layout plan of the Chinese medicine hospital via email within the same day.

PSFH(H) subsequently understood from other government departments that the site mentioned by HKBU, i.e. the southern portion of the ex-IVE(LWL) site, did not belong to HKBU. This alternative site proposed by HKBU was therefore not feasible. To PSFH(H)'s understanding at the breakfast, HKBU had not given up its joint project with TSTKFWA. Therefore, FHB focused its efforts on liaising with the government departments concerned on how to assist HKBU in the procedures for change of land use in respect of the joint project with TSTKFWA and did not pursue further with HKBU its alternative option involving the ex-LWL site.

We would like to stress that the Government currently does not have a policy to provide government land for the development of private Chinese medicine hospital. The Government will only consider proposals to build self-financed Chinese medicine hospitals on private land or applications to change the use of land already allocated to the organisation proposing to develop a private Chinese medicine hospital. Hence FHB has not promised to assist HKBU in its request to use the southern portion of the ex-IVE (LWL) site for developing a Chinese medicine hospital. The Government notes that some other organisations have shown interest in developing Chinese medicine hospitals, and should a policy to provide government land for development of Chinese medicine hospitals be formulated in future, such land will be disposed in a fair, just and open manner.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Janice TSE)

for Secretary for Food and Health

cc: Secretary for Education
Secretary for Development