## LC Paper No. CB(2)974/12-13(02)



電話TEL.:

2601 8679

圖文傳真 FAX NO.:

2695 3886

本署檔號 OUR REF.:

LCS9/HQ726/00(E)XJ

來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

CB2/PL/HA

Fax No.: 2509 9055

12 April 2013

Ms Alice LEUNG
Clerk to the Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LEUNG,

## Issues Relating to the Delay in the Construction Works of the Victoria Park Swimming Pool Complex Project

Thank you for your letter of 26 March 2013 referring to us questions raised by Hon Christopher CHUNG regarding the progress of the construction works of the Victoria Park Swimming Pool Complex Project. As requested, we are writing to the Panel on Home Affairs to give our response as follows.

The redevelopment of the Victoria Park Swimming Pool Complex commenced in 2009. It was originally expected to be completed in late 2012 and open for use by the public in the second quarter this year. According to the information provided by the Architectural Services Department, due to inclement weather and some unforeseen underground conditions encountered in the way of the foundation works, the works period of the new complex has been slightly prolonged.

According to the current progress, the construction works are expected to be completed in April or May this year and the new complex will come into operation in the third quarter. Pending the commissioning of the new swimming pool, the existing Victoria Park Swimming Pool was re-opened to provide service to the public when the new swimming season began on 1 April 2013. Given that the construction period of major works projects may be affected by unforeseen factors, we have been liaising with relevant works departments on the continued operation of the existing Victoria Park Swimming Pool for this year's swimming season as a fallback option

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in order to ensure that the swimming pool service in the district is not affected. Therefore, annual inspection and basic maintenance were carried out at the existing Victoria Park Swimming Pool by relevant works departments after the end of the swimming season in late October last year. The cost involved is about \$240,000. The annual repair and maintenance services are routine arrangements for a public swimming pool complex.

We have been regularly providing the District Facilities Management Committee of the Eastern District Council with progress reports on the redevelopment of the Victoria Park Swimming Pool Complex. At the last meeting of the Committee on 31 January 2013, it was pointed out in our progress report that the works were scheduled to complete in late February/early March 2013. When answering questions from the members, we also added that the new complex was expected to come into operation in the third quarter of 2013. We will continue to report the latest progress of the project at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 25 April 2013.

For enquiries, please contact the undersigned on 2601 8679.

Yours sincerely,

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(Eddie LO)
for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

c.c. Secretary for Home Affairs (Attn: Mr Michael YAU)
Director of Architectural Services (Attn: Mr SUEN Ming-tak, Andy)
District Leisure Manager (Eastern)