

民政事務總署
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31 October 2013

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

Dear Ms LEUNG,

Panel on Home Affairs

Joint Letter from Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok and Hon Dennis KWOK

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2013 addressed to the Secretary for Home Affairs. The information requested by the Panel on Home Affairs is provided below.

In celebration of the 64th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region held a flag-raising ceremony (the Ceremony) at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai, on 1 October 2013. The event was co-ordinated by the Home Affairs Department (HAD). In preparation for the event and the venue, the HAD had applied in advance to all property and land title owners of the venue for its exclusive use on that day, which covered the area between Expo Drive and Expo Drive East to the north of Convention Avenue, Wan Chai.

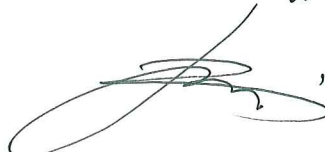
We welcomed members of the public to watch the Ceremony. Nevertheless, the Ceremony was a solemn occasion. To avoid disruption to the Ceremony and disturbance to other members of the public, the HAD had drawn up relevant Rules on the Use of the Venue and Rules to Observe and displayed them at various entry points and at the venue. Attendees were required to observe these rules and the directions of the staff on site. In addition, from 7 am that morning, the master of ceremony repeatedly reminded attendees to note and observe the relevant rules.

Various areas had been designated within the venue, including Guests Viewing Area, Community Groups Viewing Area, Uniformed Groups Viewing Area and Public Viewing Area, for different sectors of the community to watch the Ceremony in an orderly and safe manner. On the day of the Ceremony, members of the Scholarism entered the Community Groups Viewing Area after arriving at the venue. Having identified themselves, staff of the HAD on site wearing special "Staff" badge advised the persons concerned repeatedly with clear directions to return to the Public Viewing Area to watch the Ceremony. The staff had not evicted them or asked them to leave the venue. The persons concerned were subsequently led by the security personnel of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to leave the Community Groups Viewing Area and stayed near the Public Viewing Area until the end of the Ceremony.

The major role of the Police in the Ceremony was to implement road control outside the venue, and to ensure that public events outside the venue such as demonstrations, rallies, processions, etc. were conducted in a safe and orderly manner. If there were disruptions to the peace, the Police would provide assistance to the departments concerned where necessary to restore public order. The Police issued a statement on 1 October 2013, stating that they had not herded away or removed the persons of the above-mentioned group from the venue of the Ceremony, and they had not received any reports of injuries involving the group.

Thank you for the enquiry. I hope the information provided above is able to address the concerns of Dr. CHAN and Mr. KWOK.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Angel CHOI)

for Director of Home Affairs