



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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11 December 2015

Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Polly YEUNG)

Dear Miss YEUNG,

**Issue related to the progress
on the development of special school in Tung Chung**

I refer to your letter of 27 November 2015 to the Secretary for Education enclosing a letter dated 25 November 2015 jointly signed by Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon TANG Ka-piu and Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen on the captioned subject. I am authorised to reply as follows.

The Government has all along planned to build a special school in Tung Chung to cater for students with special educational needs in the district. Depending on its complexity, a school building project normally takes about six years or more from planning to completion, involving technical feasibility study, architectural design and vetting, funding application and construction. As early as 2004, a site in Area 27 of Tung Chung was initially earmarked by this Bureau for building a special school and advanced preparations such as technical feasibility study and school design have commenced. In the course of the project, however, we met with strong opposition from some local residents who

were concerned about the associated noise and traffic implications etc. Efforts had been made to explain to the relevant residents in an attempt to ease their worries. Failing to reach a consensus with the residents, we decided to identify an alternative site in the district for the planned special school. Details of the earlier consultation regarding Area 27 of Tung Chung are set out in the Appendix. To meet Tung Chung residents' urgent needs for special education, we have kept liaising with the relevant departments. The Planning Department has subsequently reserved a site for EDB in Area 108 of Tung Chung for special school use.

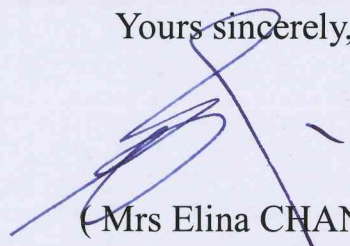
The Government has commenced advanced preparations to take forward the school building project at the new site. The Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") has completed the technical feasibility study of building a new special school with boarding facilities for children with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disability in Area 108 of Tung Chung. The report of the technical feasibility study has been vetted and endorsed by the Development Bureau.

After confirming the technical feasibility of building a new special school in Area 108 of Tung Chung, we launched a School Allocation Exercise (SAE) for allocating the new school premises concerned in February 2015. Generally speaking, allocation of new school premises or vacant school premises for setting up new special schools is done through open and competitive bidding under SAEs. After assessing the applications received and meeting with the shortlisted applicants, the School Allocation Committee (SAC) (comprising both official and non-official members), recommended the Hong Chi Association for the allocation of the new school premises.

With a view to shortening the preparation time for the school building project as far as possible, ArchSD has in parallel completed the recruitment process of the consultant for carrying out the school building project while we were conducting the SAE. Upon completion of the allocation procedures and announcement of the allocation result this October, meetings were swiftly arranged among ArchSD, the consultant, the Hong Chi Association and the school principals of two existing special schools under the sponsorship of the Hong Chi Association (namely Hong Chi Pinehill No.2 School in Tai Po and Hong Chi Morningjoy School in Yuen Long) and us on the project. Site visits to the abovementioned two special schools were also conducted to collect relevant information, with a view to understanding better the needs and requirements of special schools so as to facilitate the design work of the new special school.

We will seek funding from the Legislative Council for the construction of this special school. Prior to the funding submission, we will conduct district consultation and liaise closely with SSB and the stakeholders concerned to gauge their views. If everything proceeds as planned, the school construction project may commence by early 2017 the earliest, for completion in 2019.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Elina CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

**Consultation on the construction of a special school
in Area 27 of Tung Chung**

The Government has conceived the plan to build a special school in Area 27 of Tung Chung since 2004. After completing preparations such as technical feasibility study and school design, the Education Bureau (EDB) had launched a consultation since 2008. EDB had approached residents in the vicinity, local dignitaries and organisations, as well as the Islands District Council to gauge their views, which are summarised below:

Reservation about the school building project

- (1) The proposed school might cause noise pollution to villagers in the vicinity and disturb the tranquility of the surrounding area.
- (2) The proposed school might cause traffic problems in the vicinity.
- (3) The construction of a special school on the site in question was not supported and EDB was requested to identify an alternative site.

Support for the school building project

- (1) Students with special educational needs (SEN) in the district might need to receive education in other districts and this entailed a considerable journey travelling to areas outside Tung Chung (such as Kwai Chung). The long distance involved made it difficult for parents and schools to provide appropriate care and support for the students.
- (2) Given the ongoing development of Lantau, the area would, to a certain extent, have an increased demand for special school places. The Government was therefore urged to build a special school in Tung Chung as early as possible to provide school places for students with SEN.
- (3) Despite objection from residents in the vicinity to the school building project, it was hoped that a solution could be worked out at the soonest time possible, so that the school building project could commence on an early date. The progress of the construction work and the date of completion were both of concern.

- (4) Parents and the school sponsoring body were willing to brief residents, local dignitaries and Council Members on the operation of a special school and arrange visits for them in order to enhance mutual communication and exchanges.
- (5) The school building project should be subsidised by the Government. The injection of public resources would benefit the entire local community and cater for students with SEN in the district.
- (6) It was hoped that EDB and organisations concerned would step up their efforts in promoting integration within the community and responding to the expectations of the residents, thus creating a win-win situation.
- (7) The Government was urged to make continuous efforts to solicit support among residents in the vicinity, local dignitaries, Council Members, etc. through various consultation channels.

Chronological list of consultation sessions held

	Date	Consultation/meeting	Attendees
1	20 March 2008	Consultation session with the residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representatives from the Education Bureau ● Mr Leung Siu-tong and Mr Cheung Kwok-kwong, Islands District Council Members ● Representatives from the Architectural Services Department ● Representatives from the Islands District Office ● Representatives from the Hong Chi Association ● Representatives from Ma Wan New Village and Pa Mei Village
2	22 May 2008	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representatives from the Education Bureau ● Mr Leung Siu-tong, Islands District Council Member
3	19 May 2009	Parents' seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents and staff representatives

	Date	Consultation/meeting	Attendees
		entitled "Care for your children starts with education"	<p>of pre-primary institutions, and Ms Chau Chuen-heung, Hon Tang Ka-piu, Bill, Mr Wong Fuk-kan, Rainbow and Mr Leung Siu-tong, Islands District Council Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representatives from the Education Bureau ● Representatives from the Hong Chi Association
4	15 June 2009	Islands District Council meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All the Members of the Islands District Council
5	1 February 2010	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hon Wong Kwok-hing, Legislative Council Member ● Hon Tang Ka-piu, Islands District Council Member ● Parents' representatives of Tung Chung ● Representatives from the Heep Hong Parents' Association of the Heep Hong Society ● Representatives from the Education Bureau