



(مجلس أمناء موارد جالية هونغ كونغ الإسلامية)
香港回教信託基金總會

THE INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF THE ISLAMIC
COMMUNITY FUND OF HONG KONG

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Legislative Council
Of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the
Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities
Peoples Republic of China
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road, Central,
Hong Kong

**WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR: "SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON RIGHTS OF ETHNIC MINORITIES
TO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF VENUES IN DISTRICTS FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES TO
CONDUCT RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES"**

I wish to convey my thanks to LEGCO for giving me the opportunity to attend the Subcommittee Meeting on Rights of Ethnic Minorities to discuss the provision of venues in districts for ethnic minorities to conduct religious and cultural activities

In last 10 years we observed that the Government especially HAB has given more attention to the affairs of Ethnic Minorities but it is not enough. We also need attention from other Government Departments to have a more friendly policy towards the Ethnic Minorities.

I am ex-chairman and presently the Hon. Secretary of the Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong, an umbrella Muslim organization in Hong Kong which is looking after and managing all 5 Mosques and 2 Muslim Cemeteries in Hong Kong.

Board of Trustees (BOT) is extremely grateful to the Government of the Hong Kong SAR and all its departments for providing an atmosphere of freedom of speech and expression in Hong Kong to members of Ethnic Minorities who belong to different religions and ethnicities. The Muslim Community of Hong Kong in particular is thankful to the Government of the Hong Kong SAR for extending its full support and cooperation to the Muslim Community of Hong Kong to practice Islamic rituals especially offering the five times daily prayer, holding Jumma prayer congregation every Friday and observance of special religious occasions including Ramadan (Fasting Month) and celebration of two Eid festivals every year.



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As you know the Muslim Community in Hong Kong is expanding at a fast rate due to which the Masjids available presently are insufficient to cater to the religious needs of the Muslim Community. Out of the 5 Mosques 4 are on Hong Kong Island and only one Mosque is on Kowloon side which is not sufficient to serve the large Muslim population living in different parts of Kowloon. About more than 300,000 Muslims live in Hong Kong and Kowloon including 150,000 Indonesian Muslim sisters working as domestic helpers who attend prayers in large numbers on Fridays and Sundays when all the Mosques are overcrowded with people.

On Kowloon side we only have one Mosque i.e. Kowloon Masjid & Islamic Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, which was built in 1984 about 33 years ago. Due to scarcity of places of worship members of Muslim Community find it extremely difficult to offer their prayers or send their children for after school Quranic and Muslim Education.

The majority of Muslim Community living on Kowloon side have homes in Yau Ma Tei, Sham Shui Po, Cheung Sha Wan, Hung Hom, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon City, Kuwn Tong and Tseung Kwan O. They have arranged some places of worship in private buildings on rental basis which is extremely costly to manage. Therefore we are in immediate need of new permanent places of worship for the Muslim Community in the above areas. In order to reduce the financial burden on the community it is requested to provide the new places of worship on a free of cost basis. In addition to the provision of places of worship it is also requested to provide suitable locations in each district on temporary basis for celebrating cultural activities. As Muslims also observe some religious festivals to celebrate few important occasions with very large gathering but due to non-availability of space they face a lot of difficulty to organize any program.

On behalf of the Board of the Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong and the Muslim Community of Hong Kong, I request members of the subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities to make a strong recommendation to the Government of Hong Kong SAR to provide free of cost venues for conducting religious and cultural activities.

With highest consideration and best regards.

Yours faithfully,

Saeed Uddin, B.B.S, M.H.

Hon. Secretary

The Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong