

(Revised)

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Suggestions from the Rotary Lantau Community Service Corps

I am Andrew Wong Chao Hing, from the Community Services Corps of the Rotary E-Club of Lantau.

Hong Kong is a largely homogenous society, with about 94% of its people being Chinese. The 2011 Population Census found that there were about 451,000 non-Chinese people in Hong Kong, or about 6% of the population.

Our Community Services Corps have all along been performing volunteer services in Lantau as well as the outlying Islands for people no matter of whatever race, native, religion and nationality. We found that the non-Chinese population have gradually increased over the years in Lantau, especially in Tung Chung area. Take for example Indians, there are presently more than 1000 families living in the Lantau Island and foreseeable, the numbers to be escalating in the coming years.

For the development for North Lantau, the Government slogan and policy forward is aimed at providing “Opportunities and Quality Living” to its residents (經濟機遇，優質生活). However, it seems that even the fundamental individual needs have not been met. As the North Lantau and East Lantau regions will be scheduled for economic, housing and entertainment development, we have previously asked the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) in public forums, recently on September 16, to also take into account the needs of the non-Chinese aside the Chinese when striving to achieve its targets. Similar requests have already been made by ethnic minorities like the Indian residents about 5 years ago to the Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam during her meeting with them who accordingly, promised to look into the situation. However, the requesting parties have never received anything on the progress so far. Our points are crystal clear:

1. The Chinese and non-Chinese are currently facing the same difficult to maintain their religious pattern while living in Lantau. There are fewer churches, Mosques with a huge capacity adequate to hold the Christians and the Muslims and none for the Indian residents to enshrine their Gods for worship. The current picture of the latter is that they are celebrating their festivals and gatherings in Tung Chung regularly in club houses of private housing estates of which the capacity are apparently not enough. Besides, many religious rituals have not been allowed due to restrictions in a close club house setting. Sufficient places should be offered for the construction of large size churches, Mosques etc. in Lantau.

2. With good numbers of non-Chinese families moving into Lantau, it is logical to have their children be admitted to schools in the same area. However, as the local schools providing free education have yet to improve in English standard, most non-Chinese students have difficulty to adjust themselves to the living environment. The community therefore looks forward to have a less-expensive and government-operated school run for non-Chinese students by academically qualified teachers of any nationality whom are efficient in English communication. Specific plans should be made for the construction of a new school for non-Chinese students whom are new settlers in the district.

3. It has longed been frequently noticed that there are many Chinese as well as non-Chinese juveniles, Pakistans, Indians, Nepals etc. wandering without cause in Tung Chung area. They are apparently in need of constructive activities or else they will be pushed towards the verge of delinquency. The construction of more appropriate leisure places including cricket pitch, sport centres, activity rooms, community halls, safe grounds for riding bikes and scooters should be reserve for them so as to allow them to play their familiar games and engagement in their cultural activities, especially celebration in their festival days.

Thank you.

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