

## UNITED WELFARE UNION HONG KONG LIMITED

(Charity Org : 91/9012)

December 11, 2017

Dear Sirs,

United Welfare Union was established in Hong Kong in 2002 working for the betterment of Youth and providing basic services for Ethnic Minorities. In 2007, United Welfare Union was recognized as a non-profit making charitable organization under section 88 by Hong Kong Government.

Currently, we are running 3 centers in Tung Chung, YauMaTei and Tokwawan. Since there are only limited (5 Mosques) prayer halls available for Muslim community in HK. 4 are located on Hong Kong Island and 1 in Kowloon. Not even 1 Mosque was approved new land in HK since last 90 years.

After a few years of struggle, we were able to get approval for a piece of land on STT (Short Term Tenancy) terms in Yaumatei in 2013 called "Masjid Ibrahim". Recently, the Lands Department refused to extend the lease of the land and want us to vacant the LAND. Yaumatei (Masjid Ibrahim) was a great relief for Muslims and to Kowloon Mosque as it was over crowded during Friday Grand prayers. We have public visitors for pray 5 times a day and specially on Friday (Juma) Grand prayers from different districts including Yaumatei, Jordan, Mongkok and others.

It is also over crowded during the public holidays and Sundays by the Indonesian and Philippine sisters. Apart from this, we are also providing an extra facility for the Muslim Tourist who visit HK and stays in Hotels nearby to perform their daily prayers. The daily usage of the land is approx. over 500pax per day. The usage is even higher during Friday Grand prayers. We have to split 2 session to accommodate the huge crowd.

Some of our current activities and operation are as follow:

- We offer prayer service for 15,000 Muslims every month at Masjid Ibrahim
- Offer 5 times prayer everyday from 5:00am to 9:30pm
- Arrange prayers for Two Big Muslim festivals
- Offer Quranic education and Islamic and social values to about 100 children and 50 elderly on daily basis
- Arrange Hajj and Umrah to Makkah, Saudi Arabia
- Invite overseas Islamic Scholars for lectures and Islamic education
- Arrange Quranic Graduation ceremony and distribution of certificates
- Welcome any community/organization for participation and discussion about Culture and religion
- Arrange Iftar (food for breaking fast) and Sehri (food for starting fast) during the holy month of RAMADHAN for the whole month.

All our services are free of cost. People from different countries like, India, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Hong Kong, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Nigeria, Tunisia, Algeria etc. attend the prayers.

Recently, we were also approved another STT Land in Tung Chung. The offer letter is attached. We are stand still due to the high rent demanded by the Lands Department. As a charitable organization running on the local donations from the public, we are unable to pay the rental of HKD392,000 per annum. The existing center in Tung Chung is on rental and it is so small (700sqft) that we are unable to accommodate the daily usage. We have over 150 students and 50 elderly in Tung Chung on daily basis. During Friday Grand prayer, we again need to split into 2 sessions. Please note that we are working for the welfare and betterment of the Ethnic Minorities and Youth. It is not commercial. How can we afford such high rentals? May we request Government to reconsider and reduce the rent so that we could start our services. We are not asking for payment assistance from the Government, but we are just requesting the Government to lower the monthly rent, that we could setup a better Center for the Ethnic Minority with sufficient area and provide our daily services.

Apart from prayer hall, we have also applied for a community hall in Tung Chung. The community hall will play an important role to arrange functions including cultural, religious or even private gathering for the Public. We are planning to provide a platform for both Local Chinese and Ethnic Minorities by arranging more social activities. This will works as a bridge for Local Chinese and Ethnic Minority to get along with each other and better understand each other's cultural and social values.

Currently the Center is providing educational services to the Youth to upgrade their skills and integrate into the society and become good citizen of Hong Kong. The teachings include, Islamic, Moral and Civic education.

Thank you for your kind attention and assistance.