

Respected members of the LEGCO, Namaste. Vanakkam.

To begin with, I would like to convey my thanks to the LEGCO for giving me this opportunity to represent the Tung Chung Indian Community in voicing out our request for venues.

I would like to take this opportunity to share the difficulties faced by us in the past and are facing now in finding venues to celebrate our Pooja festivals, events and cultural classes.

We are now more than 1000 households living in the Lantau region. Every year we organise festivals, yearly events, guest lectures, sports activities and competitions in LCSD community hall and various Club house function rooms. As Indian festivals involve worshipping of our gods and distribution of food, clubhouses are the only venues available to us.

Furthermore, we have many regular culture classes teaching not only kids but also adults classical dance, music, yoga, cultural values, Indian languages in this area catering to more than 300-400 residents. Kindly note that most of these classes are conducted on non-profit basis.

All classes and events are now conducted in existing venues with limitations.

While our community groups actively perform dances and songs in various cultural events organized by various authorities and associations, these practice sessions also take place once again in the above stated venues.

Sadly, those who organize such events, classes and practice sessions face lot of problems in getting the venue as there are not enough venues to meet the requirements of all communities living in Tung Chung.

I represent all the members of the Indian Community in Tung Chung and in particular the group of people who have contacted Government officials in getting a place to conduct religious and cultural activities for Hindus for more than 7 years.

As rightly pointed by Mr. Andrew of Rotary Lantau Community Service Corps, if we can get a school, potentially managed by Indians catering to the needs of the Tung Chung Community, all these problems can be solved and we can organize our cultural activities, classes and sports activities in the school premises without any inconvenience.

We, the Indian parents, work in Hong Kong to make it smarter and comfortable to live in. Our children, most of whom are third culture kids, would get lost amidst variety of nationalities, religions and culture if not for the culture classes that help them to remember their identity, know the right path to follow in their lives and safeguard them from the invasion of bad elements in their lives and become responsible citizens and contribute to the Hong Kong community.

Graduating with a Ph.D thesis on Intercultural transformation caused by stress and adaptation, I feel that migrants can be shaped to contribute to Hong Kong's development with proper support and motivation. With Government support definitely, non-Chinese minorities can adapt to the host culture while still not giving away their home culture.

Once again thank you for giving us this opportunity and listening to our plea. We look forward to getting a Community center or a school premises for Indians in Tung Chung.

Dhanyavad. Nandri.