

Response from Leisure and Cultural Services Department

The missions of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are to provide quality leisure and cultural services for all, to promote synergy with sports, cultural and community organizations in enhancing the development of the arts and sport in the territory, and to preserve cultural heritage. The organization of bazaar activities falls outside the purview of LCSD.

While we note that 65 out of 142 Government venues suggested by “撐·基層墟市聯盟” are under LCSD’s auspices, it should be stressed that the leisure venues managed by LCSD are primarily for recreational purpose. These venues are governed by the Pleasure Grounds Regulation (Cap. 132BC), under which trading is normally not allowed without prior approval. These public pleasure grounds are valuable resources that provide immense amenity and recreational values for public enjoyment. The great public demand for use of recreational grounds and leisure facilities managed by LCSD demonstrates the importance of maintaining these venues for recreational use.

On the other hand, we understand that the public may sometimes wish to use LCSD’s venues for other community purposes such as organisation of district community events, cultural activities or charitable functions, some of which are supported by the District Councils or district organisations. Most of these events are of one-off nature held once a year. In the event when a proponent applies to use a venue under LCSD’s management to organise short term bazaar like activities, LCSD will handle and consider the application on a case by case basis using the established procedure. Organisations can submit applications for non-designated use of leisure venues to LCSD, which will in turn consult relevant departments and consult the subject District Council on the applications. In order to ensure that its leisure venues can carry out their missions to meet the recreational and amenity needs of the general public, each application for non-designated use of LCSD’s leisure venues generally should not last more than three days or be on a recurrent basis, unless under exceptional circumstances. This long-established practice is well known and accepted by District Councils. Consultation with stakeholders particularly the District Councils will be necessary for any proposed changes to the uses and management modes of public pleasure grounds.

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