

Consultation paper.pdf

MR. Poon TAK MING

Snam, Frong Rong

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Food Branch, Food and Health Bureau 17/Floor, East Wing Central Government Office 2 Tim Mei Avenue Tamar Hong Kong water a later than the second of the second

Dear Sirs

Public Consultation on Licensing Scheme for Private Columbaria of 2011 "the Consultation"

I am very active in social works and contributions to Hong Kong and China, having participations and positions in NGOs and other social organisations as listed below:

- Vice Chairman
 Pok Oi Hospital
- Charter President
 Lion Club of Hong Kong NT East
- Chairman
 Hong Kong NT Commercial & Industrial General Association
- Section Commander
 Hong Kong Toad Safety Patrol (Task Force Department)
- Director
 NT Chiu Chow Federation Limited
- Member
 Guang Zhou Yuexiu District Committee of GPPCC

In response to the above Consultation and referring to the same Sections and abbreviations of the Consultation, I write in my own capacity to present my views and comments for your consideration:

Per Section 3

- The Licensing Board shall include reputable people from the same industry and or NGOs of the related fields helping to serve the actual needs of the society. A thorough understanding of cross platform operations will help to make good and sound decision for the Board.
- 2. There should be a mechanism for the aggrieved applicant for relevant license to appeal for any decision made by the Licensing Board and such appeal shall be subject to further appeal in the Court of Hong Kong.

Per Section 4

- The duration of the Licence shall be in line with the property ownership and or land lease. 5 years is a term normally used for restaurant and/or other commercial undertaking, not for columbarium where human ashes are store permanently.
- 4. Columbarium operators shall own or have lease of the property from now till 2047 for reason as averted in paragraph 3...

Per Section 5

- 5. I support exemption per Section 5, BUT subject to considerations of its own merits.
- 6. Consideration of paragraph 5. shall be focusing in the impact of "Respect of the Dead and Concern for the Living".

Per Section 6

- 7. Arrangements per Section 6 shall have due respect for the Dead with 入 土為安 not to be offended
- 8. Reasonable time shall be given to operators for remedy in case of the proposed legislations is being violated.
- 9. Appeal mechanism shall be set similar to paragraph 2. as averted above.

Per Section 7

- 10. I support this Section PROVIDED THAT the appeal mechanism shall be user friendly and cost effective, as some of the operators are charitable organizations whose finance should be better used then compliance of complicated legislations.
- 11. The SAR Government shall, without delay, to clarify by Authority the definition of cremated ashes to be included as human remains. This procedure, prior to establishment of the Board, will help to alleviate doubts on operators classified in Part B of the List.

I further suggest that the Licensing Board shall, from time to time, publish relevant news/events from operation of columbarium outside of Hong Kong as to inspire and encourage local operators to provide better/alternate services/ facilities for the needs of Hong Kong society.

Thank you for your attention.

Poon Tak Ming