

(Translation)

24 December 2020

Mr LO Kin-hei
Chairman of Southern District Council (SDC)

Dear Mr LO,

Proposed Agenda for the 8th SDC Meeting on 14 January 2021
The “Invigorating Island South” Initiative
and the Overall Development of the Southern District

The Government announced the implementation of the “Invigorating Island South” (IIS) initiative in this year’s Policy Address. In view of the profound influences on the overall development of the entire Southern District, not just the communities in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau, etc., we propose this agenda item to discuss the various accessory facilities in the district:

1. Transport Facilities

a. As the MTR South Island Line (West) (SIL(W)) that are longed for by residents of the Southern District for years has yet to make any progress, the local residents are in general worried that the IIS initiative will add to the traffic burden of the Southern District. How will the Government expedite the approval and implementation of the SIL(W) project so as to tie in with the Wah Fu Redevelopment project and provide corresponding traffic facilities in support of the IIS initiative?

b. Wong Chuk Hang is the key development area under the IIS initiative. Over the years, we have pointed out that the various factors including the Water World of Ocean Park, the property and shopping mall development projects above MTR Wong Chuk Hang Station, the transformation from an industrial area to a commercial area and the existence of a number of international schools have caused the problem of traffic congestion to the residents of Wong Chuk Hang. The problem will further deteriorate with the addition of the IIS initiative. But the Government has not proposed any traffic facilities correspondingly. We request

that the Government conduct a traffic impact assessment for Wong Chuk Hang, the Education Bureau implement the compulsory school bus only policy and the relevant Department, by drawing reference from the experience of “Walkable Kowloon East”, implement the projects of constructing a footbridge connecting Shum Wan Road to the property development above Wong Chuk Hang Station and constructing a footpath connecting Shum Wan Pier Drive and Aberdeen Promenade so as to facilitate the pedestrians and provide improved traffic facilities;

c. Water-borne transport is an item that has been strived for by Southern District Council (SDC) for years. Under the IIS initiative, the Government has mentioned the plan of “exploring new marine tourism routes to link up with other districts and islands”, which is completely tilted in favour of tourism development without caring for the needs of local communities. We request the Government to study the provision of kaito ferry service to facilitate the residents and the addition of a ferry route plying between Repulse Bay and Stanley to alleviate the road traffic burden between the two places.

2. Land Planning

a. Apart from the rebirth of Ocean Park, revitalisation of the Jumbo Floating Restaurant and the development of a water sports centre at the Shek O Quarry site, SDC has also put forth major land planning proposals over the years, including relocation of the Police College at Wong Chuk Hang to make better use of land, conversion of Po Chong Wan and Shum Wan Temporary Industrial Areas to a waterfront promenade, as well as urging the Government to study the relocation of Stanley Prison and its surrounding Government quarters and make better use of Government land. Will the said proposals be evaluated under the IIS initiative, and if so, how?

b. The Government has also mentioned under the IIS initiative the exploration of the “single site, multiple use” approach for the redevelopment or consolidation of the existing “Government, Institution or Community” sites or facilities. Does the Government plan to redevelop Aberdeen Sports Ground under this approach? If so, will this approach slow down the original redevelopment plan? If not, how can this approach be used to expedite the redevelopment process?

c. Thanks to the efforts of the past terms of SDC, the sold site of the former Aberdeen Fire Station will be used to provide an arts space to accommodate arts facilities and the office of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. Apart from the existing policy of revitalising industrial buildings adopted by the Government, will the IIS initiative draw reference from the aforesaid approach and reserve space for newly emerging industries and arts and culture workers when taking forward the redevelopment or conversion of the old industrial buildings in Wong Chuk Hang? What other specific measures will the Government take for revitalising the industrial buildings in the Southern District?

3. Culture and Conservation

a. We welcome the donation of the Jumbo Floating Restaurant by its owner which enables the preservation of a collective memory of Hong Kong people. But the Government has authorised Ocean Park to operate the Jumbo Floating Restaurant. Not only has this move created an image conflict between animal rights and a seafood restaurant, but we are worried that the non-profit-making organisation engaged by Ocean Park can hardly resolve the conflict between business operation and heritage preservation of the Jumbo Floating Restaurant. Moreover, we are concerned about how the Jumbo Floating Restaurant can become a heritage preservation project with public engagement rather than just another tourist attraction. What is the Government's preliminary plan in this regard?

b. There are quite a number of monuments and traditional festive activities in the Southern District, such as the rock carvings at Wong Chuk Hang, Holy Spirit Seminary, Tin Hau Festival, Hung Shing Festival, dragon boat racing, fire dragon dance in Pokfulam Village, etc. How will the Government consolidate these attractions and activities, create a synergistic effect between tourism in the Southern District and the Jumbo Floating Restaurant and Ocean Park, as well as promote culture and conservation?

c. There are quite a number of arts workers working in the vicinity of Wong Chuk Hang. How will the Government improve their survival conditions and incorporate their creativity, such as carrying out beautification of facilities including footbridges, roads and streets in collaboration with them?

4. Tourism Development

Tourism development is certainly conducive to district development. But the IIS initiative has placed too much emphasis on tourism. The public is worried that the entire plan only aims to save Ocean Park. If the initiative is implemented improperly, not only will Ocean Park and the Jumbo Floating Restaurant become an endless financial burden of the Government's Treasury, but it will also drag down the overall development of the Southern District and become a "Torturing Island South" initiative. What are the estimated expenses for replenishing the Jumbo Floating Restaurant? In view of the existing financial difficulty of Ocean Park, will the expenses be paid by the Treasury or other financing options?

5. SDC's Role

SDC has played a key role in district development. Given that the Government has gradually attached less importance to the roles played by SDC and even ignored the views of SDC, we are worried that the IIS initiative will only get half the results with twice the effort without the participation of SDC.

Your approval to the above agenda item would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Southern District Councillors

(signed)	(signed)	(signed)
CHAN Ping-yeung	CHAN Yan-yi	LI Shee-lin
(signed)	(signed)	(signed)
LO Kin-hei	POON Ping-hong	TSUI Yuen-wa
(signed)		
YIM Chun-ho		