

From:

LC Paper No. CB(2)611/13-14(02)

Date: 08/01/2014 10:48

Subject: Rural Representative Election Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2013

Dear Sir,

Reading on Legislative Council Bills Committee website your written enquiry to Home Affairs Department in respect of "Indigenous Villager on Cheung Chau" for Rural Representative Election Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2013, and their subsequent response, it prompts me to write to you to clarify this issue from the point of view of Wong Wai Tsak Tong, an indigenous clan on Cheung Chau Island.

Putting it simply, I am so baffled by the mere fact that H.A.D has gone into such blunder as to confirming there is no indigenous villager, nor is there village on Cheung Chau.

Wong Wai Tsak Tong official clan's record shows its clan connection with Cheung Chau started in Ching Dynasty Yung Ching 12th year, then its clansmen subsequently in Quin Lung 11th year, 44th year and 55th year, were granted right on Cheung Chau to farm, to collect land tax, and general tax for Ching Government.

Countless evidence has illustrated Wong Wai Tsak Tong families were living and actively engaging in village affairs on the island during Ching dynasty, well before 1898 when British took over control for New Territories and Outlying Islands from China. Some of these families are still living on the island nowadays.

These evidence point not only to existence of indigenous villagers but also to boundary of indigenous village as the entire Cheung Chau Island has always been a single village, NOT a market town.

They include stone carved tablets which are currently still on Cheung Chau, and also Government gazetted Administration Reports on Cheung Chau in 1913 of Village Survey, in 1916 of plague, in 1918 of big fire, in 1932 of village needing more land for expansion, in 1932 of village Tsai Lau Sor reopening with support from Chinese Affairs Secretary.

On top of all these, Government Gazette in 1902 clearly stated the Lands Court, as then called, recommended the red deed from Ching Government with red official chop, if registered with Ching authority and duly paid land tax, is the strongest evidence for claiming land from British Hong Kong Government by any New Territories and Outlying Islands clan.

Wong Wai Tsak Tong was later registered as land title owner for 90% of Cheung Chau in the form of Block Crown Lease in 1905.

Finally but not least, Administration Officer of 1955, Austin Coates, wrote in his memoir in details of Wong Wai Tsak Tong history and its leader.

He emphasised government must resume land from Wong Wai Tsak Tong if Cheung Chau wants to turn from a crowded village into modern town.

To sum up these historical facts, I quote Chairman of Bills Committee of Legislative Council, Honorable Yip Kwok Him, who said on this Mon there was long discussion in 2009 meeting on this issue, there is undoubtedly indigenous villager on Cheung Chau.

May I take the liberty here to enquire the updated status of s6A of the amendment in view of all these circumstances ?

Your earliest response is very much looked forward to.

Yours sincerely,

Josh Wong
of Wong Wai Tsak Tong

CC
Wong Wai Tsak Tong
Home Affairs Department
DoJ
Sent by BlackBerry® from PCCW mobile