

CHAPTER 7

PREPARATION

Section 1 – Appointment of Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officers

7.1 The Honourable Mr Justice FUNG Wah, Barnabas, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, was appointed by the EAC as the RO for the 2007 CE Election. Mr Justice FUNG's appointment was gazetted on 9 February 2007.

7.2 As regards AROs, Miss Victoria TANG Chung-man, JP (Assistant Director of HAD) and Miss Linda LAW Lai-tan (Senior Administrative Officer of the HAD) were appointed as the AROs, while Mr James O'NEIL (Deputy Solicitor General (Constitutional)), Mr Gilbert MO Sik-keung (Deputy Law Draftsman) and Ms Dorothy CHENG Tai-ngar (Senior Government Counsel) of the D of J were appointed as the AROs(Legal). Their appointments were published in the Gazette on 19 January 2007.

Section 2 – Briefing for Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officers

7.3 To assist the RO/AROs in familiarising themselves with the rules and operation of the Election, the REO prepared and issued an operational manual to them for reference. A briefing for the RO and AROs was held on 2 February 2007 at the EAC Conference Room at Harbour Centre, Wan Chai. The EAC Chairman, accompanied by the CEO/REO and representatives from the D of J, briefed the RO and AROs on the electoral arrangements and

reminded them of the salient provisions in the electoral legislation and guidelines.

Section 3 – The Nomination Period

7.4 The polling date and the nomination period were published in the Gazette on 5 and 19 January 2007 respectively. Nomination forms were available from the REO from 19 January 2007 onwards. The nomination period lasted for 16 days from 14 February to 1 March 2007. The period was longer than the minimum 14 days required by law and the practice in the 2002 CE Election, to take into account the intervening Lunar New Year holidays from 17 to 20 February 2007.

Section 4 – Nomination Forms Received and their Validity

7.5 A total of three nomination forms were submitted to the RO during the nomination period. After examining and verifying the information supplied in the nomination forms, the RO ruled that only two nomination forms were valid at the close of nominations. The two valid nomination forms were submitted by Mr LEONG Kah-kit Alan on 14 February 2007 and Mr TSANG Yam-kuen Donald on 16 February 2007, and they were nominated by 132 and 641 EC members respectively.

7.6 Since there were two validly nominated candidates by the close of nominations, the election was a contested one.

Section 5 – Briefing for Candidates

7.7 To draw the attention of the candidates and their agents on the major

provisions of the relevant electoral legislation and the EAC Guidelines and the important points they should be aware of, a briefing session chaired by the EAC Chairman was held on 3 March 2007 at the Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui. Also present at the session were the CEO/REO, representatives from the D of J, ICAC and the Hongkong Post.

7.8 After the briefing session the RO determined, by means of drawing lots, the order of the candidates' names that would appear on the ballot paper and the designated spots to be allocated to the candidates for displaying their EAs.