

CHAPTER 11

THE POLL

11.1 Polling hours for the first round of poll started at 9:00 am and ended at 11:00 am. Despite some protests outside the AWE, the poll generally went on smoothly.

11.2 To ensure the safe and smooth passage of electors to the polling station, there were separate pathways for the electors and the public inside the AWE leading to Hall 2. For easy management and venue control, the area outside the polling and counting stations was divided into six zones, each under the charge of a designated team of REO officers, police officers and security guards from the AWE, and were co-ordinated by the JCC. Walkie-talkies were deployed to facilitate communication among the six zones and the JCC, so that any potential or actual incidents could be spotted early and handled efficiently.

11.3 For electors who forgot to bring their polling notices or name badges, a computer was set up at the Reception Counter to verify the identity of these electors before they entered the polling station. The arrangement could efficiently screen out non-electors whilst not affecting the smooth passage of electors to the polling station.

11.4 Electors as well as members of the public who wished to observe the count were reminded that it was illegal to display any propaganda materials relating to any candidate or the election in the venue and NCZ. To this end, a Bag Search Area was set up in Hall 1 outside the entrance to check if forbidden materials were brought to the venue by the public, before they were allowed to

proceed to the counting station at Hall 2. With the authority delegated from the RO, the AROs had personally requested (or authorised other officers to request) persons who misconducted themselves in the station to leave the venue.

11.5 To facilitate electors who took a bus or drove their own vehicles to the venue and had to stop at the West Entrance of the AWE, free shuttle bus service was provided to transfer them to the East Entrance which was closer to the polling station at Hall 2.

11.6 During the polling hours, there were short periods of time when all three lanes on the Airport-Expo Boulevard leading to the East Entrance were blocked by demonstrators. Since these happened during the early part of the polling hours and one of the lanes was re-opened shortly afterwards, it had not caused any problem to the timely arrival of the EC members. During the time when all three lanes were blocked, the EC members were requested to get off at the roundabout opposite the taxi stand and walk to the East Entrance of AWE.

11.7 To ensure the secrecy of votes, CCTVs installed by the AWE in Hall 2 (which accommodated the polling and counting stations) were taken down. Notices were put up inside the voting compartments to remind the electors that no photographing or filming was allowed, and it was not necessary for electors to disclose their voting preference to anybody.

11.8 The turnout rate of electors was high. At 10:00 am, the turnout rate was 46.61% (ie 371 electors had voted). At 10:30 am, the figure increased to 86.18% (ie 686 electors). These figures were released for general reference of the public shortly after the said cut-off time. By the close of poll, a total of **789** EC members turned up to cast their votes out of the total number of 795

(since four EC members were both Hong Kong deputies to the NPC and LegCo members, and one other EC member passed away before the CE Election). This represented **99.12%** of the voting electorate.