

CHAPTER 3

THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Section 1 : The Consultation Period and Public Forums

3.1 In compliance with the requirement of section 19 of the EACO, the Commission conducted a public consultation exercise on its provisional recommendations from 27 July to 25 August 2006 for a period of 30 days. During this period, members of the public could send in their representations, in writing, to the Commission to express their views on the Commission's provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of the DCCAs.

3.2 The public consultation was widely publicised through Announcement of Public Interest on radio and TV, press releases, newspaper advertisements, posters and websites on the Internet.

3.3 On the first day of the consultation period, ie 27 July 2006, the Commission held a press conference to launch the exercise and invited the public to give their views on the Commission's provisional recommendations. The Commission also appealed to the public that not only those who had opposing or different views should speak up, but those who supported the provisional recommendations should also do likewise. This was to enable the EAC to more accurately gauge the

public's views and degree of acceptance of the provisional recommendations.

3.4 Two forums were conducted from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm daily from 15 to 16 August 2006 at the Recital Hall of the City Hall and at the Cultural Activities Hall of the Sha Tin Town Hall respectively, where members of the public could personally attend and express their views to the Commission directly. Audio-visual aids were used to facilitate understanding of the representations by making reference to maps.

Section 2 : Number of Representations Received

3.5 During the consultation period the Commission received a total of 368 written representations. On the two days of the forums, 162 persons turned up and 68 of them expressed their views on the provisional recommendations.

3.6 The Sham Shui Po DC held a special meeting to discuss the provisional recommendations relating to the district. Representatives from the REO were present at the meeting to listen to the views of members of the DC.

3.7 Among the representations received, there were 150 which supported the EAC's provisional recommendations. A few were not related to delineation of boundaries or naming of the DCCAs but related to such issues as district boundaries, arrangements of the public forums

and location of polling stations. The Commission took note of these views and instructed the REO to take the necessary follow-up action.

3.8 The original texts of the written representations and minutes of the special meeting of the Sham Shui Po DC are set out in **Volume 3** of this report. Summaries of the written representations, oral representations and representations raised at the meeting of the Sham Shui Po DC are shown in **Appendix III** of this volume by district.