

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Section 1 : The Responsibility of the Electoral Affairs Commission

1.1 Under section 4(a) of the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (“EACO”) (Chapter 541 of the Laws of Hong Kong), one of the functions of the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC” or “Commission”) is to consider and review the boundaries of district council constituencies (“DCCs”) for the purpose of making recommendations as to the boundaries and names of DCCs for a District Councils (“DCs”) ordinary election.

1.2 The Commission is required under section 18 of the EACO to submit a report to the Chief Executive (“CE”) on its recommendations for DCCs not more than 36 months from the preceding DCs ordinary election. As the last DCs ordinary election was held on 28 November 1999, the EAC should have submitted its report and recommendations to the CE by 27 November 2002. However, as a result of the Administration’s decision to add ten elected seats for the second term DCs, the CE extended the period for submission of the report to 27 May 2003. Details of the increase in the number of elected seats are set out in Section 2.

1.3 Under section 21 of the EACO, the CE in Council shall consider the Commission's report. Subject to CE in Council's approval, the boundaries and names proposed by the Commission would be adopted for the DCs ordinary election to be held in late 2003.

Section 2 : Changes arising from the increased number of elected seats

1.4 The Administration's original decision was to maintain the status quo in the composition of the second term DCs which meant that the number of seats of elected members, ie 390, should remain unchanged. With the approval of the Executive Council ("ExCo"), the Administration consulted the Legislative Council ("LegCo") and DCs on its initial proposal to maintain status quo for the second term DCs. The consultation exercise ended on 31 July 2002.

1.5 Having regard to the public views received during the consultation period, the Administration subsequently proposed to increase the number of elected seats for **Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Islands** DCs, by **six, three and one** respectively to cater for the sharp population growth in the new towns of Tin Shui Wai, Tseung Kwan O and Tung Chung.

1.6 On 24 September 2002, the ExCo endorsed the increase in the number of elected seats from 390 to 400. The enabling legislation was passed by the LegCo on 18 December 2002 and published in the Gazette on 27 December 2002.

1.7 This change in the number of elected seats entailed a series of related changes, namely –

- (a) the population quota adopted for the demarcation exercise was lowered from 17,635 to 17,194 (see paragraphs 2.1(a) and 2.2);
- (b) the originally planned public consultation period from 5 September 2002 to 4 October 2002 was changed to between 6 January 2003 and 4 February 2003; and
- (c) the statutory deadline for submitting the report to the CE was rescheduled from 27 November 2002 to 27 May 2003.

Section 3 : Scope of the Report

1.8 The scope and content of this report are based on the requirement stipulated under section 18 of the EACO. The report is published in three volumes. **Volume 1** primarily describes how the proposed delineation of the boundaries of district council constituency areas (“DCCAs”) was worked out and sets out the Commission’s recommendations on the boundaries and the names of the DCCAs with the reasons for its recommendations. **Volume 2** contains the maps of all the districts showing the proposed boundaries and names of the DCCAs in each district and the related boundary descriptions. **Volume 3** records all written representations and minutes of the meetings of those DCs held to discuss the demarcation proposals relating to their own district.