

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 6 January to 4 February 2003 for a period of 30 days. During this period, members of the public might send in their representations, in writing, to the Commission to express their views on the provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of the DCCAs put forth by the Commission.

3.2 The public consultation was widely publicised through radio/TV APIs, press releases, newspaper advertisements, posters and websites on the Internet.

3.3 On the first day of the consultation period, ie 6 January 2003, the Commission held a press conference to launch the public consultation 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 also those who supported the provisional recommendations should 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 on 23 and 24 January 2003 at Meeting Rooms 606-607 in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai and at the Exhibition Gallery in the Kwai Tsing Theatre in Kwai Tsing 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 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 262 written representations. On the two days of the forums, 207 persons turned up and 72 of them expressed their views on the provisional recommendations.

3.6 The DCs of two districts, namely Sham Shui Po and Kwai Tsing, held meetings to discuss the provisional recommendations relating to them. Representatives from the REO were present at these meetings to address queries from members of the DCs.

3.7 Among the representations received, there were 90 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 for the conduct of the public forums and locations 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 meetings of the two aforementioned DCs are contained in **Volume 3** of this report. Summaries of the written representations, oral representations and representations raised at the meetings of the two DCs are shown by district in **Appendix III** of this volume.