

CHAPTER 4

WORK OF THE COMMISSION

4.1 The Commission has carried out its work with the dedicated support of the Registration and Electoral Office (“the REO”) headed by the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr LI Wing and other Government bureaux and departments.

4.2 On 20 July 1999, the Ad Hoc Subgroup under the Working Group on Population Distribution Projections (“the Ad Hoc Subgroup”) provided the Commission with the population forecasts in respect of Hong Kong and each of the DCCAs as at **31 March 2000**. This Ad Hoc Subgroup was chaired by the Assistant Director of Planning/Housing and Land Supply of the Planning Department and consisted of representatives from various Government bureaux and departments, namely, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, Financial Services Bureau, REO, Census and Statistics Department, Home Affairs Department, Housing Department, Lands Department, Marine Department and Rating and Valuation Department. A copy of the population forecasts is at **Appendix I**.

4.3 The Commission was satisfied with the methodology used by the Ad Hoc Subgroup in arriving at the population forecasts and saw no reason to differ or depart from the forecasts. The Commission therefore adopted the population forecast figures as its own estimate of the population of Hong Kong and of the DCCAs in 2000, which is the year in which the second LegCo general election is to be held.

4.4 As DCCAs are the building blocks of LegCo GCs, the work of the Commission was mainly to group the DCCAs in an appropriate manner to form each of the required 5 LegCo GCs (“LCCAs”).

4.5 After due consideration of the population figures provided by the Ad Hoc Subgroup and following the statutory criteria, the Commission completed its provisional recommendations for public consultation. The Lands Department with its Land Information Centre Survey and Mapping Office and the Printing Department were requested to prepare maps showing the boundaries of the provisionally determined LCCAs (“PDCAs”). They accomplished that task speedily and efficiently. A list of PDCAs, together with the component Districts and DCCAs of each PDCA, and a map showing the PDCA boundaries were exhibited and available for public inspection at various places for 30 days during the period from 1 to 30 September 1999, in accordance with section 19(1) of the EAC Ordinance. The list was complete with the estimated population, the recommended name, the code reference number and the number of seats of each of the PDCAs.

4.6 On 1 September 1999, the Commission issued a press release and gave a press conference for the purposes of informing the public that the Commission had provisionally determined its recommendations and inviting the public to make representations on the PDCAs. On the same day, a notice was also published in the Gazette inviting the public to make written representations to the Commission on its provisional recommendations within a period of 30 days from 1 to 30 September 1999 which is the time allowed by section 19(4) of the EAC Ordinance, and to make oral representations at a public forum to be held on 27 September 1999.

Publicity to invite public representations was also arranged through the media and by posters to enhance public awareness of the issue. A copy of the Gazette Notice is at Appendix II and a copy of the newspaper advertisements/posters in both Chinese and English can be found in Appendix III.

4.7 Public representations, both in writing either sent through the post or by facsimile transmission and made orally at the public forum, were received by the Commission until the statutory deadline of 30 September 1999. The representations have been collated, analysed and summarised by the REO for the Commission's use. A copy each of the written representations is at Appendix IV and a summary of the oral representations made at the public forum can be found in Appendix V.

4.8 The Commission's recommendations, set out in Chapter 6 and **Volume 2** of this report, are made after it has fully taken into account and deliberated upon the public representations.