

香港灣仔港灣道 25 號
海港中心 10 樓

10/F, Harbour Centre
25 Harbour Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

本函檔號 OUR REF.: REO 14/5/LC-04
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

圖文傳真 Fax: 2511 1682
電話 Tel.: 2827 1269
網址 Web Site: <http://www.info.gov.hk/eac/>

15 July 2003

(With Chinese translation)

Message from the Chairman

**Public Consultation on Delineation of Geographical Constituencies
for the 2004 Legislative Council Elections**

The 2004 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Elections will be held in late 2004. The Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) is required under section 18 of the EAC Ordinance (Chapter 541 of the Laws of Hong Kong) to make recommendations to the Chief Executive on the boundaries and names of the Legislative Council Constituency Areas (“LCCAs”).

Provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of the LCCAs in respect of the 2004 LegCo Elections have now been drawn up by the EAC. In delineating the geographical constituencies, we have followed the statutory criteria stipulated under section 20 of the EAC Ordinance and several working principles at the Appendix. These working principles were also adopted for the demarcation exercise of the last LegCo Elections in 2000.

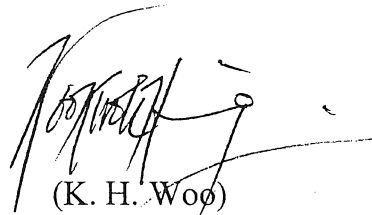
Before finalising the recommendations, we shall, in accordance with section 19 of the EAC Ordinance, consult the public on the provisional recommendations for a period of 30 days starting from **15 July to 13 August 2003**, both dates inclusive. Maps showing the delineation and names of the proposed LCCAs and a booklet on the lists of provisional recommended LCCAs are enclosed.

Please send your written representations on the provisional recommendations to the EAC Secretariat at 10/F., Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour

Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong or by fax (fax no.: 2511 1682) the latest by **13 August 2003**. **Late representations will not be considered.** You may also make representations to us orally at the public forum to be held on **7 August 2003 at 2:30 pm** at the **EAC Conference Room, 10/F Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong**. Reservation may be made over the telephone at 2827 1269.

The EAC is committed to making every endeavour to ensure that elections are held in an open, fair and honest manner. The delineation of geographical constituencies is an important element of the arrangements for the 2004 LegCo Elections. No doubt those who have opposing views and suggestions will make representations to us. **However, it is important that supporting views should also be made known to us, for otherwise it may be said that no one supports or agrees with our provisional recommendations.**

Yours faithfully,



(K. H. Wood)

Chairman

Electoral Affairs Commission

(With enclosure)

**Demarcation of Geographical Constituencies
for the 2004 Legislative Council Elections**

(I) Statutory Criteria

- (a) The EAC shall ensure that the extent of each proposed Legislative Council Constituency Area (“LCCA”) is such that the population in that LCCA is as near as is practicable to the number which results (ie “the resulting number”), when the population quota is multiplied by the number of members to be returned to the LegCo by that LCCA pursuant to any electoral law
(Note : The population quota is defined as the total population of Hong Kong* divided by the total number of members to be returned for all the geographical constituencies in that election, ie $6,957,700 \div 30 = 231,923$);
- (b) where it is not practicable to comply with (a) above in respect of a proposed LCCA, the EAC shall ensure that the extent of the LCCA is such that the population in that LCCA does not exceed or fall short of the resulting number applicable to that LCCA, by more than 15%;
- (c) the EAC shall have regard to the community identities, the preservation of local ties and physical features such as size, shape, accessibility and development of the relevant area or any part thereof;
- (d) the EAC may depart from the strict application of (a) & (b) above only where it appears that one or more of the considerations in (c) above renders a departure necessary or desirable;
- (e) the EAC shall ensure that each proposed LCCA is to be constituted by two or more contiguous District Council constituencies; and
- (f) the EAC shall have regard to the existing boundaries of districts and the existing boundaries of LCCAs.

* The total population of Hong Kong is projected as at 30 June 2004.

(II) Working Principles

- (a) the boundaries of the existing 5 LCCAs should form the basis of consideration in the current demarcation exercise;
- (b) for those existing LCCAs where the population falls within the permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries would be adopted as far as possible to form new LCCAs;
- (c) Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately, as these areas have been regarded as distinct from one another;
- (d) splitting of districts by District Council Constituency Areas should be avoided unless there are very strong reasons. Where splitting is necessary, it should affect the least number of districts; and
- (e) matters relating to maintaining political influence or advantage will not be considered.