

(English translation prepared
by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for Members' reference only)

16 October 2000

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP
Chairman of the House Committee
The Legislative Council of Hong Kong

Dear Mrs CHOW,

**Establishment of a Mechanism for Communication
between the Legislative Council and the Heung Yee Kuk**

The House Rules provide for a system for Legislative Council Members to hold meeting-cum-luncheons in camera with District Council (DC) members from time to time. In the course of my contact and exchange of views with communities in the New Territories over the years, I understand that they look forward to the setting up of a similar system of communication between the Legislative Council and the Heung Yee Kuk.

As a matter of fact, the Heung Yee Kuk is a statutory regional organization and its objects as laid down in the Heung Yee Kuk Ordinance are (a) to promote and develop mutual co-operation and understanding among the people of the New Territories; (b) to promote and develop co-operation and understanding between the Government and the people of the New Territories; (c) to advise the Government on social and economic developments in the interests of the welfare and prosperity of the people of the New Territories; (d) to encourage the observance of all such customs and traditional usages of the people of the New Territories as are conducive to their welfare and to the preservation of public morality; and (e) to exercise such functions as they may be invited to from time to time by the Chief Executive. The importance of the Heung Yee Kuk is demonstrated by the fact that, among the various elections in Hong Kong, the election to the Heung Yee Kuk is subject to the same stringent regulation of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance as the elections to the Legislative Council and the District Councils.

In my opinion, the establishment of a system for communication and exchange of views between the Legislative Council and the Heung Yee Kuk, similar to the one between the Legislative Council and the District Councils, will help to enhance mutual understanding and co-operation between the two, and promote affairs concerning the New Territories. I therefore suggest that the House Committee should consider this matter and discuss with the Heung Yee Kuk the relevant detailed arrangements as soon as possible.

I propose that the above item be included in the agenda of a House Committee meeting.

(signed)
NG Leung-sing
Member of the Legislative Council