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13 March 2001

Mrs. Percy Ma  
Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs. Ma,

**LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs**  
**Meeting on 19 March 2001**

**Review of role and functions of the District Councils**

The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs has referred to me your letter dated 21 February 2001 concerning the scope and direction of the captioned review for follow-up action. You have subsequently agreed that a letter from the Administration to clarify the issue would be appropriate.

We have already started the captioned review. The review includes an examination of how the role and functions of the District Councils (DCs) can be further enhanced, particularly in respect of the promotion of recreational and sports activities and improvement of environmental hygiene at the district level. We will also consider measures to strengthen support for DC members.

I would like to stress that the Government maintains an open mind in conducting the review. We have been listening very carefully to the views expressed by DC members, legislators and the community on

the issue during the past few months. These include, among other things, a District Administration Seminar organised by Home Affairs Department and attended by most DC members last November, the LegCo Motion Debate held on 22 November 2000 and the Secretary for Home Affairs' meetings with the 18 DCs. The views gathered have provided us with useful insights and inspirations as to how the roles and functions of the DCs and the support for DC members could be further strengthened. We are now processing the views and suggestions gathered and examining the feasibility of the proposals together with the bureaux and departments concerned. We are committed to completing the review in 2001.

I should be grateful if you would convey the content of this letter to Members of the Panel. Also, we welcome views and proposals from Members on how the roles and functions of the DCs could be enhanced.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. Betty Fung)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. SCA (Attn: Mr Bassanio So)