

本署檔號 OUR REF. : (27) in HAB/CR 3/21/7 XXV
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10 January 2001

Mrs Percy Ma
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Meeting on 15 January 2001

The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs has referred to us your letter dated 20 December 2000 on the suggestions made by members of the Wanchai District Council (WCDC) on enhancing the role of District Councils (DCs).

We fully appreciate the useful role played by the DCs in advising the Government on the provision and delivery of public services in the districts and in acting as a bridge between the Government and the public. Since the establishment of the new term of DCs in January 2000, we have taken progressive steps to enhance the DCs' functions and the support provided to DC members. Furthermore, we have undertaken to complete a review in 2001 to further enhance the role and functions of the DCs.

On the WCDC members' suggestion relating to funding for organising cultural and recreational activities in the district, I am pleased to advise that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has decided to transfer the funds for organising district festivals and district-based cultural and recreational activities to the Home Affairs Department

(HAD) starting from 2001-02. The funding will be made available to the DCs at the beginning of the financial year so that they could decide for their respective districts how the funding should be allocated for the purpose of organising or sponsoring district festivals and other cultural and recreational activities in the districts.

As regards the other two suggestions made by the WCDC, i.e., to devolve more power to the DCs and to consult them before formulation of major policies and certain planning and development proposals, as mentioned above, we wish to reiterate that the purpose of the review is to see how the role and functions of the DCs can be further enhanced. We will consider carefully the views expressed by WCDC and come up with a package of recommendations on completion of the review. In doing so, we will take into account the impact of the suggestions on existing government policies and legislation as well as their resource implications.

Yours sincerely,

(Parrish Ng)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

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