

## **Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

### **2003 VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN**

#### **Purpose**

This paper informs Members of the main features of the 2003 Voter Registration Campaign.

#### **Background**

2. The second term District Councils (DCs) election will be held on 23 November 2003. In line with past practice during DCs election years, we will organize a voter registration campaign for the coming DCs election. An inter-departmental working group comprising representatives from relevant bureaux and departments has been formed to work out the details of the voter registration campaign. The main features of the campaign are highlighted in paragraphs 3 to 11 below.

#### **Main Features of the 2003 Voter Registration Campaign**

##### *(a) Objectives*

3. Our overall objectives are to encourage eligible persons to register as electors, and to remind registered electors who have changed addresses to update their records with the Registration and Electoral Office (REO).

4. The latest final voter register published in May 2002 records a total of 2.9 million registered electors for the Legislative Council geographical constituencies and the District Council constituencies, representing 65% of the total number of eligible electors. However, the registration rate for the 18 to 20 age group is only 19%, whilst that for the 21 to 25 age group is 52%. Therefore, the sub-theme of this year's campaign is to encourage young people aged 18 to 25 to register.

***(b) Timing***

5. To tie in with this year's timetable for registration of electors and publication of the voter register<sup>Note 1</sup>, the voter registration campaign will be conducted from 1 June to 16 July 2003.

***(c) Strategy***

6. We will adopt a multi-pronged and results-oriented approach under which we will organize a variety of activities which aim at bringing in as many valid applications for voter registration and updating of particulars as possible, particularly from the younger generation. These activities will be supported by awareness raising measures.

***(d) Activities***

7. A kick-off ceremony will be held on 1 June 2003 to formally launch the campaign. Throughout the ensuing six weeks of the campaign, a number of outdoor DJ shows and mini-concerts will be held. Mobile registration teams will be deployed to register eligible persons on-the-spot during these events. The events' programmes will be designed to appeal to young people in particular.

8. We will set up registration counters at major Registration of Persons Offices to register 18-year olds who turn up at these offices to apply for or to collect their new adult identity cards. As in past campaigns, we will set up roving registration counters at popular locations (for example, major MTR stations and shopping malls) to help people make applications for voter registration or changes of personal particulars.

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<sup>Note 1</sup> Under Section 32 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap.542) as amended with effect from December 2002, the provisional register and final register of electors should be published on or before 15 August and 25 September respectively in a DCs election year. Regulation 4(a)(i) of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration of Electors) (Legislative Council Geographical Constituencies) (District Council Constituencies) Regulation (Cap.541, sub.leg.) further stipulates that the deadline of accepting applications for registration in the voter register is 16 July in a DCs election year.

9. To target specifically those who have changed addresses, we will conduct household visits to newly developed residential areas, such as Tseung Kwan O, Tung Chung, Tin Shui Wai and Aldrich Bay. The opportunity will be taken to register those who are not already registered. Further, we will write to all households which have moved into new private developments completed after the last major voter registration campaign in 2000 to remind them to report changes in address and, if they are not already registered electors, to register early. Similar letters will be sent to households which have moved into new public housing estates, through cross-matching of Housing Department's records with REO's. The Immigration Department will also continue the practice of providing the REO with information on change of address it receives, if the person concerned has given consent for such data transfer.

10. As a token of appreciation, we will give out Octopus cardholders and bookstore discount cards to newly registered electors and registered electors who have updated their address records with REO.

11. The above activities will be supported by a range of awareness raising measures. These include TV and radio announcements of public interest (APIs), advertisements in major MTR stations and bus and taxi bodies, plus banners and bunting in selected locations. A dedicated website with hyperlinks to Government websites and the electronic bulletin boards of tertiary institutions will also be set up.

— 12. A summary table of the activities is at **Annex**.

### **Ongoing Registration Activities**

13. To tie in with the electoral cycle and the publication date of voter registers, our voter registration campaigns are usually held in early summer. However, our experience is that it is difficult for us to register students on campus during this period as most upper secondary and university students will have gone on summer vacation by then. We, therefore, plan to continue our publicity efforts outside the campaign period by organizing talks for secondary schools and tertiary institutions to introduce to students our electoral system, and to encourage them to register as electors. This will be an on-going activity which will be

conducted throughout the year, subject to demand and the staff resources of the REO.

### **Financial Implications**

14. We estimate that the 2003 Voter Registration Campaign set out in paragraphs 3 to 11 above will cost about \$8.4 million. Sufficient provision for this purpose has been included under REO's Head of Expenditure for 2003 – 04.

### **Consultation with the Electoral Affairs Commission**

15. The Electoral Affairs Commission has endorsed the proposals set out in this paper.

### **Advice Sought**

16. Members are invited to note the content of this paper for information.

Constitutional Affairs Bureau  
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## 2003 Voter Registration Campaign

<u>Responsible Bureaux/ Departments</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Constitutional Affairs Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Overall coordination of the voter registration campaign</li></ul>
Home Affairs Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Roving registration counters in areas with high pedestrian flow</li><li>● Bus and van parades in districts</li><li>● Buntings and banners in districts</li><li>● Household visits to newly completed residential developments</li></ul>
Registration and Electoral Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Send forms to all households in new private residential developments through the Circular Service of Hong Kong Post</li><li>● Press briefing and press release</li><li>● Souvenirs to successful applicants for voter registration or updating of addresses</li><li>● Hotline service to handle public enquiries related to voter registration</li><li>● Dedicated voter registration website</li></ul>
Information Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Announcements of public interest (APIs) on television, radio and selected channels</li><li>● Coordinate mini-concerts</li><li>● Display of posters and giant wall banners, advertisements in MTR and on bus and taxi bodies, and hyperlinks to the dedicated voter registration website.</li></ul>
Radio Television Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Kick-off ceremony</li><li>● Special TV and radio programmes</li><li>● Mini-concert</li><li>● Outdoor DJ shows</li></ul>