

Our Ref.: CAB in C1/30/6/1 & C2/17

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17 October 2003
(By fax: 2509 9055)

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

Dear Mrs Ma,

Publicity programme for 2003 District Council Election

At the Panel meeting held on 21 July 2003, Members requested the Administration to provide the following information in relation to the publicity programme for the 2003 District Council (DC) election –

- (a) a breakdown of the budget;
- (b) a summary of the major provisions of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (ECICO) covered in the TV spot series on clean elections; and
- (c) how DC constituencies are to be selected for holding election forums.

Members also requested the Administration to provide an age analysis of registered electors. I set out below the requisite information.

Budget of the publicity programme

The total budget of the 2003 DC publicity programme is \$12 million. The major items and corresponding budgetted expenditure are as below –

	<u>\$ million</u>
1. Posters, vantage point advertising, newspaper advertisements, leaflets and brochures	4.07
2. Buntings, banners and bus parades	2.37
3. Special programmes on TV and radio	2.29
4. TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest	1.69
5. Election forums	1.08
6. Kick-off ceremony	0.30
7. Contingency	0.20
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	Total: 12.00

Provisions of the ECICO covered in the TV spot series on clean elections

The major provisions of the ECICO covered in the TV spot series are summarized at **Annex A**. Apart from the provisions in the ECICO, the spot series also remind the audience of some important requirements in the District Councils (Subscribers and Election Deposit for Nomination) Regulation and the election guidelines issued by the Electoral Affairs Commission. These are also set out at Annex A.

Selection of DC constituencies for holding election forums

As in past elections, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will organise election forums in selected constituencies. Proceedings of the forums will be broadcast on TV and radio. One constituency from each DC will be selected by RTHK, thus making a total of 18 forums. All candidates in each of the selected constituencies will be invited to take part in the forum. Each candidate will be given equal time to express their views.

In selecting DC constituencies for the election forums, RTHK will consider the level of competition in the constituencies, as well as the degree of general public interest in the constituencies and the candidates concerned. RTHK will take reference from media reports on these aspects when making the selection.

Age analysis of registered electors

As required under section 32 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), the 2003 final register of electors was published on 25 September 2003. There are about 2.973 million registered electors, as compared to 2.910 million in 2002. The overall registration rate is 65.67%. The net increase in the number of registered electors is about 64 000, taking into account the addition of 156 000 new electors registered during this year's voter registration campaign period, 8 800 new electors registered before the campaign period, and the deletion of around 100 000 registered electors who are dead or who have changed their addresses without informing the Registration and Electoral Office.

Of the registered electors, 51% are male and 49% are female. The number of registered electors and the registration rates by age group are set out at **Annex B**.

I should be grateful if you could convey the above to Members.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Eva Yam)
for Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Summary of the legal provisions and sections in the election guidelines issued by the Electoral Affairs Commission covered in the TV spot series 「廉潔選舉百份百 *Striving for 100% Clean Elections* 」

A. *Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance*

- Definition of candidate, election donations, election expenses, advantages and voluntary services
- Corrupt inducement of a person to stand or not to stand as a candidate
- Corrupt influence on the voting decision of electors
- “Vote planting” offence
- Election donations
- Election expenses
- Publication of false or misleading statements about a candidate
- Publication of election advertisement that includes false claim of support
- Legal requirements of publishing printed election advertisement
- Submission of election returns

B. *District Councils (Subscribers and Election Deposit for Nomination) Regulation*

- Number and qualification of subscribers required

C. *EAC Guidelines*

- Display of election advertisement in private premises
- Equal opportunity for all candidates to promote their candidature

**Number of Registered Electors and
the Registration Rates by Age Group**

Age Group	Registered Electors (Registration Rate in %)
18-20	60 809 (24.69)
21-25	205 683 (55.57)
26-30	246 155 (64.17)
31-35	246 763 (61.29)
36-40	325 367 (63.67)
41-45	412 426 (73.33)
46-50	365 792 (77.04)
51-55	297 490 (74.58)
56-60	187 467 (78.73)
61-65	152 199 (67.79)
66-70	159 958 (67.84)
71 or above	313 503 (65.34)
Total	2 973 612 (65.67)