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13 February 2004

Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs
(Attn : Mrs Percy MA)
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs MA,

**Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Follow up to meeting on 15 December 2003
Agenda item IV – Election expense limits
for the 2004 Legislative Council elections**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2003 to the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs. As requested in paragraph 1(b) of your letter, I attach some information on the election expense limits for elections in Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong, and the formula adopted for setting the limits.

Separately, we would like to inform the Panel that the Administration has considered very carefully the election expense limits for the 2004 Legislative Council elections. Having considered the views expressed by Members at the meeting on 15 December 2003, and given that the present election expense limits have worked well since 1998 and that there has not been any strong demand for an adjustment of the current limits, the Administration has decided that the existing election expense limits should apply to the 2004 Legislative Council elections. In other words, the expense limits for the 2004 Legislative Council elections will be :

Geographical constituency election

Constituency	Election expense limits (HK\$)
Hong Kong Island	2,000,000
Kowloon West	1,500,000
Kowloon East	1,500,000
New Territories East	2,500,000
New Territories West	2,500,000

Functional constituency election

Constituency	Election expense limits (HK\$)
Heung Yee Kuk, Agriculture and Fisheries, Insurance, and Transport functional constituencies	100,000
Constituencies with not more than 5 000 registered voters	160,000
Constituencies with 5 001 to 10 000 registered voters	320,000
Constituencies with over 10 000 registered voters	480,000

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to Members of the Panel for their reference.

The point raised in paragraph 1(a) of your letter has been addressed in our letter of 10 January 2004.

Yours sincerely,

(Joseph Y T LAI)
for Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Information on Election Expense Limits for Elections in Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong

Singapore

For parliamentary elections, the election expense limit for a candidate is calculated in accordance with the following formula –

- (a) for a Group Representation constituency^(Note 1), to multiply the number of registered electors in the constituency by S\$3 (HK\$13.5), and then to divide the resulting number by the number of candidates in the same group; and
- (b) for a Single Member constituency^(Note 1), to multiply the number of registered electors in the constituency by S\$3 (HK\$13.5).

2. For the parliamentary election in 2001, the Group Representation constituencies have between five to six seats. Following the formula in (a) above, the election expense limits vary from HK\$270,724 to HK\$374,949. As for Single Member constituencies, following the formula in (b) above, the election expense limits vary from HK\$224,316 to HK\$384,278.

Japan

3. For Lower House elections, the election expense limit for a candidate contesting in a single-seat constituency^(Note 2) is calculated by multiplying the number of registered electors in the constituency by 15 JPY (HK\$1), and then by adding 19.1 million JPY (HK\$1.27 million) to the resulting number. For an election in a multi-seat constituency^(Note 2), no election expense limits apply.

4. There were 300 single-seat constituencies for the Lower

^(Note 1) Singapore is divided into two types of constituencies. For election in a Group Representation constituency, each elector may vote for only one group of candidates (the number of candidates in a group is equal to the number of seats for the relevant constituency). The group receiving the largest number of votes will get all the seats for that constituency. Election in a Single Member constituency is conducted on the basis of the first-past-the-post system.

^(Note 2) Japan adopts a mixed system which comprises –

- (a) 300 single-seat constituencies based on first-past-the-post system; and
- (b) 11 multi-seat constituencies based on party-list proportional representation system.

House election in November 2003. For illustrative purpose, the election expense limits for the 25 constituencies in Tokyo vary from HK\$1,588,811 to HK\$1,732,712.

Hong Kong

5. For the 2000 Legislative Council elections, the election expense limits for the five geographical constituencies were calculated in accordance with the formula of \$1.5 per head of the population in a given constituency, rounded to the nearest \$500,000. Following the formula, the election expense limits are :

Constituency	Population (in 2000)	Election expense limits (HK\$)
Hong Kong Island	1 343 400	2,000,000
Kowloon West	1 029 000	1,500,000
Kowloon East	1 016 100	1,500,000
New Territories East	1 543 500	2,500,000
New Territories West	1 804 900	2,500,000