

WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO:

25th June 2004

By E-Mail & Fax : 2869 6794

The Hon. Albert Ho Chun Yan
Chairman of the Panel on Housing
C/o Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Central
Hong Kong.

Dear Sir,

The Council of the Practising Estate Doctors' Association (PEDA) has reviewed the information obtained from its previous meeting with the Housing Authority (HA) on 9 December 2003 regarding its proposed Divestment Policy.

Our views on the divestment follow:

We are concerned that

1. when HA leaves the scene the present status quo of the medical practitioners (1:7500 population) will not be honored by the New Landlord.
2. that the New Landlord will treat medical service as a pure commercial commodity.
3. that huge rental increase will result if the New Landlord may upon expiry of the present contract lease out the clinic site by open tender system.
4. that existing clinics may be forced to move to inconvenient locations without proper consultant & compensation.

It is our opinion that

1. if the above concerns become true, more present practicing doctors will be forced out of the playing field . Even if they can stay on the extra burden will be passed onto their patients. More patients will attend government clinics, thus causing further distortion of the already imbalanced demand on the public providers of Healthcare.

2. that the government has a moral responsibility to maintain affordable private medical healthcare to the population, that in order to achieve this aim the government can either enact legislation to preclude medical clinics as assets of the divestment program so that the HA can manage the present status quo independently or enact legislation for the New Lanlord to undertake rent control on medical clinics while at the same time maintaining the present status quo.
3. that the profession can have representation in the Supervisory Group on HA's Divestment program.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Choi Kin
Chairman