

**Legislative Council House Committee
Subcommittee to Study the Administration's Proposals for the
Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2007 and
for Forming the Legislative Council in 2008**

**The Administration's responses to different opinion polls on
constitutional development conducted in the community**

Introduction

At the meeting on 4 November 2005, the Subcommittee requested the Administration to give a response to opinion polls on constitutional development conducted recently in the community. This paper sets out the Administration's observation on and response to these polls.

Observation on and response to the polls

2. We note that since the Constitutional Development Task Force released its Fifth Report on 19 October 2005 to put forth a package of proposals on the methods for selecting the Chief Executive in 2007 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2008, individual academic and media organizations have conducted different polls in respect of constitutional development and the proposed package. Some polls which have been reported by the media are at Annex. It is difficult to compare these polls because their focus of study, methodology and sampling size vary. Moreover, it is not the Administration's normal practice to comment on individual polls. Nonetheless, we have the two following major observations:

- (i) generally, the public's response to the proposed package was positive and constructive. The proposed package has a certain level of support and acceptance among the public; and
- (ii) there is public expectation for a timetable for attaining universal suffrage.

3. The Administration understands that there is public expectation for a timetable for attaining universal suffrage. However, the community must first of all have thorough discussion and consensus on the model for

implementing universal suffrage. For constitutional development to move forward towards the goal of universal suffrage, supporting measures on many fronts are required. Our important task now is to make the necessary preparations for introducing universal suffrage. To this end, we will widely invite individuals of various background to join the Governance and Political Development Committee under the Commission on Strategic Development, to discuss how to implement universal suffrage in accordance with the principles and requirements under the Basic Law. We hope that the community can reach a consensus as early as possible, and work together to formulate a roadmap for attaining universal suffrage. We will also put in place other supporting measures, including grooming of political talents, and review of the role and functions of the District Councils.

Conclusion

4. We believe that the proposed package has struck the right balance amidst the various views in the community. Indeed, opinion polls released by various organizations have shown that the proposed package is on the whole supported and accepted by the public. We will continue to monitor and consider the feedback from the community, including the findings of different opinion polls.

Constitutional Affairs Bureau
November 2005

Annex

Some Opinion Polls Reported by the Media

The polls released by various organizations that we learnt from the media include:

<u>Date of Poll</u>	<u>Organizations which released the relevant polls</u>
19 October	Asia Television
20 October	Apple Daily
19-20 October	Hong Kong Research Association
20-21 October	South China Morning Post
22 October	The Sun
23-30 October	Ming Pao
25-29 October	Public Policy Research Center, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
29 October - 1 November	New Territories Association of Societies
3-7 November	Hong Kong Research Association