

The Legislative Council of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Meeting on 18th May 2007

Submission by the
Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors

1. The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors Limited (HKFEMC) is fully in support of the Administration's proposal on the Re-organization of Policy Bureaus of the Government Secretariat, as outlined in LC Paper No. CB(2)1813/06-67(01) of 11 May, 2007.
2. The increase from 11 to 12 bureaus is welcomed. It is envisaged that the additional resources at the top levels of Government would help drive the many tasks that need to be done, not in the least excluding the long list of "to-do"s that were put up on the road map of the Chief Executive's new term of office.
3. The Electrical and Mechanical Engineering industry has suffered from the insufficiency of construction work in the past few years, both in the public and private sectors. We have witnessed time and again that numerous public infrastructure projects had not been implemented within the time frames as originally planned, for various reasons but certainly not for lack of funds. We are therefore hopeful that the proposed establishment of the Development Bureau would be able to enable the Government to spearhead the various infrastructure projects that are being planned or will be planned.
4. The establishment of the Environment Bureau as a separate entity would increase its independency. This would ensure that a more objective view is taken when there is a potential conflict between infrastructure projects and environmental issues.
5. On the other hand the HKFEMC cautions that since heritage issues are also within the realms of the Development Bureau, the Administration should ensure that impartiality will be maintained when heritage conservation impinges on development work.
6. Under the Transportation and Housing Bureau, there will also be a considerable amount of construction work, in particular through the Housing and Highways Departments. As such work will not be under the Development Bureau, the Administration should ensure that the work will be well coordinated and executed without undue delay.
7. In conclusion HKFEMC believes that the new organization structure will be more effective for the Administration to drive a sustainable development for the HKSAR.