

民政事務總署
香港灣仔軒尼詩道一百三十號
修頓中心二十九及三十樓



LC Paper No. CB(2)1878/10-11(01)

HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

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18 May 2011

Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Alice LEUNG)

Dear Ms LEUNG,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 April 2011, relating to us the views expressed by a resident of Peng Chau on rural elections (including Village Representative Elections, Kaifong Representative Elections and Rural Committee Elections).

Every time upon conclusion of rural elections, we would conduct a review. In this regard, we will set up a Rural Election Review Group with the Heung Yee Kuk soon to conduct a comprehensive review on the electoral arrangements for the 2011 rural elections, and to identify room for improvement for future rural elections. The Review Group will take into account the views expressed in the letter when conducting the review.

As regards the issue of delineation of village boundaries for Village Representative Elections, the required information is set out at Annex for reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Desmond WU)
for Director of Home Affairs

c.c. Secretary for Home Affairs (Attn.: Mr Herman LAW)

**Delineation of Village Boundaries
for Village Representative Elections**

- Indigenous inhabitants are village communities identified by clans. Therefore existing indigenous villages are not defined by village boundaries. There are currently 603 indigenous villages in the New Territories, returning a total of 789 Indigenous Inhabitant Representatives.
- In 2002, the Home Affairs Bureau submitted a note on the “General Guidelines on the Delineation of Village Boundaries” to the Bills Committee on Village Representative Election Bill of the Legislative Council, which set out the guidelines for delineating village boundaries of the Existing Villages –
 - Only rural-type settlements and structures of occupants who had voted in the previous rounds of Village Representative Elections should be included in village elections;
 - Boundary lines should generally be continuous. Delineation should take account of physical features on the ground. In the case of existing villages which are indigenous villages, historical development should be taken into account and reference may be made to Village Environs Maps prepared by the Lands Department (where available and as applicable); and
 - Structures using the name of a village as the mailing address should be included in that constituency as far as possible. If there is any argument, each case should be assessed on its own merits and the test of ‘reasonableness’ should apply.
- When drawing up the village boundaries of existing villages as required under the Village Representative Election Ordinance, the Home Affairs Department will consult the Heung Yee Kuk, rural organisations concerned and the public.
- Except Mui Shue Hang Village, there has not been any problems in the delineation of village boundaries of other villages.