

# Hong Kong Public Administration Association

**HKPAA 香港公共行政學會** 立法會 CB(2)2157/11-12(31)號文件

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs  
Re-organisation of the Government Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(2)2157/11-12(31)

## Re-organisation proposals:

- (a) Two Deputy Secretary of Department (DSoD) posts should be created to share the workload of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS). A new rank of DSoD should be created, and the monthly salary of the DSoD rank should be pitched midway between that of the Secretary for Justice (SJ) and Directors of Bureau (DoBs);
- (b) A new Culture Bureau should be set up to take over the policy responsibilities on culture and the West Kowloon Cultural District from the Home Affairs Bureau, film and creative industries from the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and heritage conservation from the Development Bureau (DEVB);
- (c) The existing CEDB (less policy responsibilities on film and creative industries) should be restructured into two new bureaux, namely the Commerce and Industries Bureau (CIB), and the Technology and Communications Bureau. Policy responsibilities on the maritime, air and logistics industries should be transferred from the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) to the new CIB; and
- (d) The existing DEVB (less policy responsibilities on heritage preservation) and THB (less policy responsibilities on the maritime, air and logistics industries) should be restructured into two new bureaux, namely the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau, and the Transport and Works Bureau.

## Comments:

1. In Politics and Public Administration world-wide, it is a common practice that the newly elected head, i.e. president, prime minister, or chief executive will seek to implement his election platform and campaign promises at the beginning of his/her term of office through the new organisation and personnel. He/she should be given a chance to organise the government and appoint the key officials whom he/she considers capable of achieving his/her goals.
2. In Hong Kong, the new terms of the Chief Executives, Tung in 1997 and 2002, Tsang in 2007 all had new government organisation structures endorsed by the Legislative Council. There should be no difference for CY Leung.

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3. If CY Leung's proposed re-organisation is not passed and implemented at the beginning of his term in July 2012 and his policies are not effective later, he would have the excuses that it is not his fault but that of the Legislature which denied it.
4. The setting up of the two Deputy Secretary of Department (DSoD) posts is to share the workload of the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS). They will help reduce the span of control, particularly by the CS as it is too wide. It will enhance the policy co-ordination among some related policy bureaux with a higher level input.
5. The restructuring of some bureaux is in response to the changing social and economic environment and community needs. For example, the current housing problem will be better tackled through the proposed Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau instead of two bureaux, Transport and Works Bureau and Development Bureau.
6. All government structures should reflect the changing market and community needs. For a leader to have a chance to succeed, he/she should be given a chance to try out what he/she thinks will work. He/she should also be responsible to what he/she does. If it is not successful, he/she will probably not be re-elected in the next election.

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