

(Summary Translation)

(Letterhead of Secretariat of Legislative Councillors of the Democratic Party)

**The Democratic Party's proposed amendments to the District Councils Bill
on the abolition of appointed and ex officio seats**

The slow progress in the development of democracy in Hong Kong's political system is evident particularly in the pace of the democratization of District Boards (DBs). DBs were first established in 1982, with elected members accounting for some 30%. It was only in 1994 that over 90% of the DB seats were elected by using the one person one vote system.

The people of Hong Kong are greatly disappointed by the Chief Executive's proposal to resume the appointment system, which represents a retrogression of democracy. The Government also proposed that members of the new District Councils may elect among themselves their representatives to sit on the Legislative Council and to select the Chief Executive. It enables members who are appointed by the Chief Executive to exert influence on the Legislative Council and the outcome of the selection exercise of the Chief Executive.

While Article 39 of the Basic Law provides that the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as applied to Hong Kong shall remain in force, the resumption of appointed and ex officio seats as proposed in the Bill undoubtedly runs counter to the spirit and principle of universal and equal suffrage in Article 25 of ICCPR.

District Council Bill

COMMITTEE STAGE

Amendments to be moved by

<u>Clause</u>	<u>Amendment Proposed</u>
2	Delete the definitions of " appointed member ", " ex officio member " and " Rural Committee ".
2	In the definition of " member ", delete " ,appointed member or an ex officio member ".
PART II	Delete " AND APPOINTED MEMBERS ".
5	Delete " and the number of members to be appointed to it ".
5(2)	Delete the subsection.
8(2)	Delete paragraph (d) and substitute by — "(d) to specify the number of members to be elected to a District Council; and".
9	Delete the clause and substitute by — "9. Composition of a District Council A District Council is to consist of elected members.".
10	Delete the clause.
PART IV	
Division 1	Delete the division.
PART IV	
Division 2	Delete the division.
PART IV	
Division 3	Delete "3" and substitute by "1".
20(3)	Delete the subsection.
26(b)	Delete "10 or".
70(2)(b)	Delete "appointment or".
70(3)(a)	Delete "; and" and substitute by ".".
70(3)(b)	Delete the subsection.
80	Delete "4 or".
81	Delete the clause.
82	Delete the clause.
86(3)	Delete "11, 12, 13(b), (c) and (d), 18,".

- Schedule 3 Delete "【ss. 5, 8 & 11】" and substitute by "【ss. 5 & 8】".
- Schedule 3 Delete the third column in the schedule.
- Schedule 4 Delete the schedule.