

(Translation)

To : Bills Committee on Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999

From : Mr WAI Hing-cheung

19 March 1999

I would like to express my views on the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999 as follows for the consideration of the Bills Committee:

1. I strongly oppose the retention of Functional Constituencies (FCs) and the Election Committee (EC) in the Legislative Council (LegCo) election to be held in 2000. I urge for the abolition of all FC and EC seats. All 60 seats in the LegCo should be returned on the basis of Geographical Constituencies (GCs) to facilitate the early implementation of direct election for all seats in the LegCo in 2000.
2. I oppose the adoption of the proportional representation system for the GC elections. Instead, the "single seat single vote" system should be adopted because it is more acceptable and comprehensible to the general public and also more suitable for Hong Kong.
3. The polling day should be designated as a cooling-off period.
4. Under the existing electoral provisions, the election deposit of a candidate will be forfeited if the number of votes the candidate obtained is less than 5% of the total number of votes. My view is that the Government should, at the same time, partially subsidize the election expenses of a candidate if the votes he/she secured exceeds a certain percentage of the total number of votes. This can encourage people who are supported by the public to participate in the election.
5. I support the pilot scheme of advance polling which enables people who cannot cast their votes on the polling day to vote in advance so that they can perform their civic responsibilities.
6. I support the revision of the electoral procedures so that unnecessary re-elections can be avoided and the additional resources required for this purpose can be reduced.

I would like to attend the Bills Committee meeting on 30 March 1999 to express my views and would appreciate it if you could arrange a time slot for me.