

(Translation)

**(Gist of a submission from the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union
on the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999)**

As the Basic Law was drafted more than a decade ago, the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union (HKPTU) considers that amendments to the Basic Law in relation to the formation of the Legislative Council (LegCo) are required so as to reflect the changes in Hong Kong over the years.

The HKPTU proposes that the Basic Law should be amended, so that all 60 seats of the LegCo will be returned by direct election from 2000 onwards under the system of one person, one vote. The reasons for its proposal are as follows:

- (1) With an "executive-led" government, legislation passed by the LegCo fails to provide checks and balances against the Government. Coupled with the unreasonable bicameral voting method for businesses introduced by Members, which in effect prevents the passage of any Members' bills or motions, the role of the LegCo has in fact been changed to such an extent that it is now only a "forum for political discussion" or just a "rubber stamp". Therefore, all Members of the LegCo should be directly elected and the bicameral voting method be abolished.
- (2) Every Hong Kong citizen shall have an equal right to vote in elections, as stipulated by the International Covenant on Human Rights. At present, election of Members from the Functional Constituencies (FCs) and the Election Committee (EC) is neither broadly-based nor open to all the people. It is unfair that some people can have "more than one vote" in these elections. Hence, the FCs and the EC should be abolished.
- (3) By adopting a democratic system of election, the Government can demonstrate its self-confidence and its trust on the people. The Government's reluctance to have all LegCo Members returned by direct election only serves to illustrate its skepticism about the people of Hong Kong.

Finally, the HKPTU states that although its President, Hon CHEUNG Mankwong

is a LegCo Member returned by the Education FC, it still urges for the direct election of all LegCo Members in 2000.