

**Letterhead of Census and Statistics Department Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region**

Your reference:

Our reference: (85) in CENST/501 XXIX

26 April 2001

Tel.: 2582 4801

Fax.: 2824 1003

Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 710 - Computerization
Census and Statistics Department
New Subhead "Computer Equipment and Services
for the 2001 Population Census"**

The Finance Committee discussed at its meeting on 21 May 1999 the funding for acquiring the computer equipment and services for the 2001 Population Census. At the meeting, it was advised that consideration should be given to set up formal channel to seek the views of the academics on the conduct of the 2001 Population Census and to examine whether some researches could be carried out in the context of the 2001 Population Census.

The fieldwork of the 2001 Population Census has been successfully completed in March 2001. At this stage, we would like to report the consultation and researches conducted in the context of the 2001 Population Census and to wind up the case.

In seeking the views of academics, professionals and data users on how the 2001 Population Census should be conducted, we have consulted the Statistics Advisory Board (SAB), which comprises members from the Government, the business community, the tertiary institutions and the statistical

profession. The SAB has discussed various aspects of the 2001 Population Census several times at its meetings. The views and advice of the SAB members have already been incorporated wherever deemed appropriate.

We have also consulted individual departments of the tertiary institutions on details of the 2001 Population Census regarding the choice, definition, questioning approach and classification of data items. The Census design has also been discussed with local and overseas academics and professionals on different occasions.

In the context of the 2001 Population Census, several desktop researches have been conducted on the design and concepts to be adopted. Reference has been made to the recommendations of the United Nations and practices of other countries/territories. International practice is followed, wherever appropriate, with adaptations to suit the local environment.

To test out the new and revised questions of the 2001 Population Census, a small-scale test was conducted in June 1999. A total of 6 800 households were selected. A larger scale pre-test survey of about 20 000 households was also conducted in March 2000 to test the questionnaire design and the operational arrangement in detail. The findings of the two tests have been incorporated in designing the 2001 Population Census.

I would be grateful if you could inform Members that the above actions on the 2001 Population Census have been taken.

Yours faithfully

(Alvin W K LI)
for Commissioner for Census and Statistics

c.c. SFS (Attn: G Econ)
S for Tsy (Attn: LegCo Unit)