

臨時區域市政局的信頭  
**Letterhead of Provisional Regional Council**  
臨時市政局  
**Provisional Urban Council**

**27 January 1999**

The Hon Michael HO Mun-ka  
Chairman  
Joint Panel on Health Services, Environmental Affairs  
and Constitutional Affairs  
The Legislative Council

Dear Mr Ho,

The Joint PUC-ProRC's Proposal for  
One Municipal Council  
and one Municipal Services Department

The Provisional Urban Council (PUC) and the Provisional Regional Council (ProRC) passed a Motion on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1998 and 20<sup>th</sup> July 1998 respectively, for a territory-wide Municipal Council to be supported by one Municipal Services Department. Both Councils considered that a merged Council would function more effectively in the delivery of municipal services and eliminate duplication and fragmentation of responsibilities, as well as divergence in policies or enforcement.

In a Motion Debate held in the Legislative Council on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1998, the amended motion, for "One Municipal Council and One Municipal Services Department" to provide municipal services was carried.

The Government subsequently indicated its decision to dissolve the two municipal councils after 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999. It has so far produced a Consultancy Report on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Services, proposing an organisation structure of one Policy Bureau supported by three Departments.

In the past few months our Councils have formed a joint working group which has worked closely together, meetings have also been held with different culture and sports associations. A detailed proposal based on the "One Council One Department" concept has been prepared, and it has been endorsed by the PUC on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1999 and the ProRC on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1999 respectively. We believe that the proposal is superior in many areas to the Government's consultancy report. For instance,

- (a) our proposal can achieve savings of \$0.7 billion or more, while Government's consultant proposes savings of \$0.108 billion only;
- (b) our proposal indicates a substantial reduction of 320 civil service posts, which is more cost effective than the Government's proposed reduction of 149 posts; and
- (c) the proposed new Council will essentially be an elected Council, with People's representatives participating in policy formulation and monitoring of performance. In fact, the new Council will enhance its contacts with the district organisations (e.g. DBs/proposed DCs) and provide funding for them to organise local recreational and sports activities.

We have the honour to enclose 30 copies of the proposal for the consideration of Honourable Members of your Joint Panel.

We understand that your next Panel meeting will be held on 8<sup>0</sup> February and wonder if the core members of our Working Group may be given the opportunity to present our proposal and explain any queries from your Members. Please reply as early as possible. The Core Group will comprise.

- a) From the ProRC - Mr KAN Chung-nin  
Mr Wellie CHENG
- b) From the PUC - Mr IP KWOK-chung  
Ms Jennifer Chow Kit-bing

Yours sincerely,

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Ronald D B LEUNG  
Chairman  
Provisional Urban Council

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LAU Wong-fat  
Chairman  
Provisional Regional Council

Encl.