

**Administration's Response
to Concerns raised on 7 and 17 December 1999
by Members of the Sub-committee on Subsidiary Legislation Relating to
2000 Legislative Council Election**

C1 : The Administration is requested to provide information on the publication of electoral registers on the Internet in overseas countries.

A1 : We have searched through the Internet and found that neither Australia, Canada, Japan, England nor Singapore arranges for the electoral registers to be published on the Internet.

C2 : In relation to the new section 15(1)(e) as introduced by section 11 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration) (Electors for Functional Constituencies) (Voters for Subsectors) (Members of Election Committee) (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Regulation 1999, the Administration is requested to reconsider how the functional constituencies (FC) electors who make applications for registration after the deadline for the 1999 voter registration exercise can be registered in the Election Committee (EC) subsectors.

A2 : We have carefully considered Members' suggestion and concluded that it is more appropriate for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) to individually contact the persons concerned than to issue notifications to register these persons in the Election Committee subsectors. We anticipate that from now till the expiration of the voter registration deadline on 16 March next year, it is possible that some electors will use the old forms to make the applications. Under our proposed arrangements, upon receiving these applications, the REO will follow up and ask the applicants to choose the appropriate subsectors at the same time. This arrangement is more appropriate than separately issuing notifications to the applicants afterwards. Indeed, the Regulation provides that all notifications must be issued two weeks before the expiration of the voter registration deadline, i.e. 2 March. For those applications sent in between 3 March and 16 March, the REO is already unable to register the electors in the

appropriate subsectors by issuing notifications and has to separately contact the electors for follow up.

C3 : The Administration is requested to reconsider the drafting of the new section 15(1)(e)(iii) and section 18(2)(b)(i) introduced by the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration) (Electors for Functional Constituencies) (Voter for Subsectors) (Members of Election Committee) (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Regulation 1999.

A3 : We consider that the drafting of the provisions is appropriate. As we have explained in the meeting, when the Electoral Registration Officer issues a notification to a person whom he considers eligible to be registered in an Election Committee subsector according to section 15(1)(e), the Returning Officer may receive other information and become aware that the person concerned is no longer eligible. For example, he may receive notice from the representative organization that the person concerned is no longer a member of the organization. Therefore, it is necessary to state clearly in section 18(2)(b)(i) that only if the person will be registered in a functional constituency will the Electoral Registration Officer register him in an Election Committee subsector.

Constitutional Affairs Bureau
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