

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542)

DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF MEMBERS AMONG DESIGNATED BODIES (ELECTION COMMITTEE) (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL) ORDER 2000

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 18 January 2000, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that the Distribution of Number of Members among Designated Bodies (Election Committee) (Legislative Council) Order 2000 (“the Order”) should be made.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

2. Under the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), the religious subsector of the Election Committee (“EC”) is composed of six designated bodies representing Buddhists, Catholics, Confucians, Muslims, Christians and Taoists. These six bodies are all members of the Hong Kong Colloquium for Religious Leaders. The religious subsector is to return 40 members of the EC by nomination for the purposes of the second Legislative Council election to be held in September 2000. The EC will in turn return six members of the second term Legislative Council.

3. Section 2(2) of Schedule 2 to the Legislative Council Ordinance provides that the Chief Executive in Council may, by order published in the Gazette, distribute the number of EC seats allocated to the religious subsector among the designated bodies.

4. In line with the practice adopted in the 1998 Legislative Council election, we have consulted the Hong Kong Colloquium for Religious Leaders on the manner in which the 40 seats could be distributed. The Colloquium have agreed to the following arrangement -

Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong	7
Chinese Muslim Cultural and Fraternal Association	6
Hong Kong Christian Council	7
The Hong Kong Taoist Association	6
The Confucian Academy	7
The Hong Kong Buddhist Association	7

THE ORDER

5. The Order specifies the number of EC seats distributed to each of the designated bodies. It also repeals the previous order made for the purposes of the 1998 Legislative Council election.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

6. The Order will be published in the Gazette on 21 January, and tabled in the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 26 January.

BASIC LAW IMPLICATIONS

7. The Department of Justice advises that the Order is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law carrying no human rights implications.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

8. The Department of Justice advises that the Order is consistent with the human rights provisions of the Basic Law.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

9. The Order has no financial or staffing implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10. We have consulted all the designated bodies through the Hong Kong Colloquium for Religious Leaders on how the 40 seats can be distributed.

PUBLICITY

11. A press release will be issued on 20 January.

ENQUIRIES

12. Any enquiries on this brief can be addressed to Ms Doris Ho, Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional Affairs) 4 on 2810 2159.

Constitutional Affairs Bureau
20 January 2000

(p0172)