

2835 1423

2834 5605

6 May 2003

Miss Flora Tai  
Clerk to Subcommittee  
Legislative Council Secretariat,  
Legislative Council Building,  
8 Jackson Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

**Subcommittee on subsidiary legislation**

**Relating to VR Elections**

**Meeting on 5 May 2003**

I refer to the above-mentioned meeting and would like to provide the Administration's response to outstanding issues as follows:

**Designation of Polling Stations**

Members suggested that amendments to be made to S.28 of the Electoral Procedure (Village Representative Election) Regulation to stipulate that a polling station should provide for polling for one village only.

Members may note that section 20(5) of the VR Election Ordinance (Cap. 576) sets out that the ordinary elections should not be held "earlier than 3 months and not later than one month" before the new term of office of the VR commences. The 2003 VR elections will thus be held in July and August. Under the 2003 VR elections, there will be a total of 707 village constituencies, comprising 1480 seats (787 IIR seats and 693 RR seats). To facilitate the voters and to ensure fairness among villages under the same Rural Committees (RCs), the VR elections for villages under each RC will be conducted over one weekend. This is a very tight timetable, and taking into account financial and manpower considerations, we have proposed arrangements for "clustered polling stations", where one polling station will provide for polling for more than

one village that are in close proximity. According to our latest plan, there will be about an average of 3 to 4 villages “clustered” under one polling station. We will of course re-visit the position after the candidate nomination period, with a view to reducing the number of “clustered” villages as far as possible. On the other hand, we have taken into account the situation of remote villages and have made arrangements to set up one polling station each for such remote villages in 40 cases.

As we explained at the meeting, our NT DOs are consulting the Rural Committees on the designation of polling stations.

#### Transportation for Voters

At the meeting, Members discussed the press report about provision of free transportation by candidates for voters to polling stations. According to our subsequent research, the press report is related to ICAC’s publicity activities on 2003 VR elections. We have drawn Members’ concerns to the attention of ICAC, who will be providing their response shortly.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Monica Chen)  
for Director of Home Affairs

c.c.

DoJ	(Attn: Ms Phyllis Ko Mr Sunny Chan	Fax No.: 2845 2215
CAB	(Attn: Mr Bassanio So)	Fax No.: 2523 4889
REO	(Attn: Mr Li Wing Mr Stanley To)	Fax No.: 2507 5810
PAS(SD)	(Attn: Mr YK Ha)	Fax No.: 2591 5536
DO(ST)	(Attn: Mr Philip Chan)	Fax No.: 2693 9735
DO(SSP)	(Attn: Ms Michelle Li)	Fax No.: 2728 0671
PLO(1)2	(Attn: Mr Philip Lam)	