

HKSAR Government Civil Engineers Association

P.O. Box 28515, Gloucester Road Post Office, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
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URGENT

26 April 2004

The Chairman
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council
(Attention : Dr. the Hon. Tang Siu-tong, JP)

Dear Sirs,

Public Private Partnership for Shatin Water Treatment Works

This Association has learned that the Administration is planning to adopt the Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach for the renewal and operation of the Shatin Water Treatment Plant. Although the Administration has repeatedly claimed that there have been successful PPP cases overseas, we understand that there are also failure cases irrespective of how stringent the performance specification or monitoring mechanism is said to be.

“Water supply” is a very crucial service that affects everybody in the community. The consequences can be disastrous if things go wrong under the PPP approach. Therefore, the feasibility of adopting PPP approach in the local context must be very carefully studied. It must proceed progressively and cautiously.

In view of the fiscal constraint and freezing of civil service recruit, PPP may be a means to finance and operate new and less critical public services such as social welfare and recreational facilities. For existing and important public services, such as water supply, the Water Supplies Department has been able to deliver an effective and quality service so far. The status quo should be kept without hasty changes.

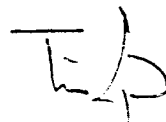
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The PPP approach will no doubt create a threat of unemployment to the loyal civil servants. This Association objects to any approach that will affect the job security of the civil servants until and unless their interest is safeguarded.

We should be grateful if our views can be considered at the Panel's meeting on 27 April 2004.

By Order of the Council



(Ir IP Shing Tim)
Hon. Secretary

c.c. Ir Dr. the Hon. Raymond HO Chung-tai

Permanent Secretary for the E, T & W (Works)
(Attention : Ir Y C LO)

Director of Water Supplies
(Attention : Ir William C G KO)

Chairman, Hong Kong Senior Government Officers Association
(Attention : Ir Peter P F CHAN)

Chairman, Government Waterworks Professional Association
(Attention : Ir S K LAU)

Hon. Advisers : The Hon. Ir Dr. Raymond HO Chung-tai, Ir Dr. LAU Ching-kwong

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