



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
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The People's Republic of China

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20 November 2004

Mrs Constance Li
Clerk to Subcommittee
House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Li,

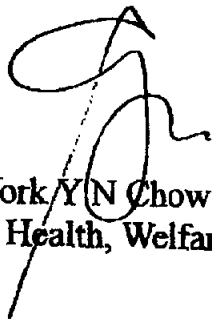
Subcommittee to study the subject of combating poverty

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2004.

I had carefully listened to the views expressed by LegCo Members at the motion debate on "Alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor" held on 3 November. There was a clear message from the debate that poverty was a complicated issue. Poverty is not only about social welfare, but economic development, education and manpower training. I have reflected the strong wish of Members for the Government to set up an inter-departmental committee to aid the poor to the Chief Executive.

I appreciate the House Committee's decision to set up a Subcommittee to study the cross-cutting subject of combating poverty, and will be more than happy to render assistance to this Subcommittee. However, I think it would be more effective for the Subcommittee to decide on specific issues to be discussed and invite relevant bureaux and departments to send representatives to attend the meetings. In this respect, my colleagues are prepared to assist the Subcommittee to examine measures related to alleviation of poverty under my policy purview.

Yours sincerely,



(York YN Chow)
Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food