

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)589/07-08
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/CA

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 15 October 2007, at 2:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present :

- Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP (Chairman)
- Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
- Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
- Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
- Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
- Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
- Hon Margaret NG
- Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
- Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
- Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP
- Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
- Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
- Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
- Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
- Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
- Dr Hon YEUNG Sum, JP
- Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
- Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
- Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
- Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
- Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
- Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
- Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
- Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
- Hon LEE Wing-tat
- Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
- Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
- Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
- Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
- Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
- Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
- Hon CHIM Pui-chung
- Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Hon KWONG Chi-kin

Member attending : Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP

Members absent : Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, SBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Item II

The Administration

Mr Stephen LAM Sui-lung
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Mr Joshua LAW Chi-kong
Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Mr Arthur HO Kin-wah
Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (1)

Mr Howard CHAN Wai-kee
Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (2)

Item III

The Administration

Mr Stephen LAM Sui-lung
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Mr Arthur HO Kin-wah
Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (1)

Mr Ivanhoe CHANG Chi-ho
Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Mrs Vivian TING TSUI Wai Ming
Chief Electoral Officer

Clerk in attendance : Mrs Percy MA
Chief Council Secretary (2)3

Staff in attendance : Mr Arthur CHEUNG
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2

Mrs Eleanor CHOW
Senior Council Secretary (2)4

Mrs Fanny TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2)3

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I. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(2)46/07-08(01) - List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(2)46/07-08(02) - Letter dated 27 September 2007 from Hon Margaret NG)

Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (SCMA) proposed and members agreed to discuss "Electoral Arrangements for 2008 Legislative Council Elections : Updating of Electorate of Functional Constituencies" at the meeting on 19 November 2007.

2. The Chairman referred members to the letter dated 27 September 2007 from Ms Margaret NG (LC Paper No. CB(2)46/07-08(02)) requesting the Panel to discuss "Communication between Members returned by Legislative Council functional constituencies and their constituents". He informed members that Dr Fernando CHEUNG would raise a question on the same subject at the Council meeting to be held on 17 October 2007. Members had no objection to discuss the item at the next meeting.

II. Briefing by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2007-08 Policy Address

(2007-08 Policy Address - "A New Direction for Hong Kong")

2007-08 Policy Agenda

Leaflet on 2007-08 Policy Address

LC Paper No. CB(2)46/07-08(03) - Paper provided by the Administration on "2007-08 Policy Agenda")

Briefing by the Administration

3. SCMA briefed members on the initiatives of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) for 2007-2008. A copy of his speaking note is in the **Appendix** (in Chinese only).

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Constitutional development

4. Some members, including Dr YEUNG Sum, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr LEE Wing-tat, Mr Ronny TONG, Ms Emily LAU, Mr Albert HO, Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong and Ms Margaret NG, expressed concern about the remarks made by the Chief Executive (CE) at a radio interview on 12 October 2007. When the CE was asked to explain paragraph 102 of the Policy Address which stated that "the efficiency and effectiveness of our governance must not be compromised by constitutional development", he responded that democracy taken to its full swing could lead to chaos such as the Cultural Revolution in China. These members said that the CE's remarks had sent shockwaves through the community. With the close of consultation on the Green Paper on Constitutional Development (the Green Paper) on 10 October 2007, CE's remarks made one wondered whether he was sincere about implementing universal suffrage and taking forward constitutional development. The linking of democracy with the Cultural Revolution reflected that CE's harboured thoughts of distrust of democratic elections. They urged that the CE should study and acquire more knowledge and understanding of Chinese history. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said that the CE's remarks were a Freudian slip. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that although the CE had apologised and retracted his remarks, he did so by issuing a statement. The CE should make a formal apology in public. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the CE should restore confidence by proposing genuine models for implementing universal suffrage for dual elections in 2012. Ms Margaret NG asked whether SCMA had given advice to the CE on the drafting of paragraph 102 of the Policy Address and if so, he should also apologise to the public.

5. SCMA responded that the promulgation of the Policy Address was a collective decision of the Administration. As the CE had already issued a statement on 13 October 2007 to apologise for his remarks concerning the Cultural Revolution, SCMA said that he had nothing to add. SCMA assured members that the Government remained committed to implementing universal suffrage. He made the following points –

- (a) the third term CE and his Government was more determined than previous terms of Government to take forward universal suffrage. During the election in March 2007, the CE had already pledged to make the best endeavour to resolve the issue of universal suffrage within his next term of office. The publication of the Green Paper within 11 days after the commencement of the new term Government indicated its determination to resolve the issue of universal suffrage; and
- (b) Hong Kong was a free society. Hong Kong people respected the rule of law and the voter turnout rate had been increasing in recent elections. Based on these favourable conditions and following the

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principle of “gradual and orderly progress”, the crucial step was to forge consensus within Hong Kong on how universal suffrage could be achieved. The publication of the Green Paper sought to narrow differences in opinion and to forge consensus on the models, roadmap and timetable for implementing universal suffrage.

6. Mr Albert HO and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the Cultural Revolution witnessed a period of efficient and effective governance by a dictator who had successfully initiated a movement in pursuit of his own political ends. The consequences for China, however, were disastrous. One should learn from this lesson the importance of pursuing democracy to ensure an orderly and dignified society.

7. Some members, including Mr Ronny TONG, Ms Emily LAU and Mr Albert HO, asked SCMA to explain how constitutional development could compromise efficiency and effectiveness of governance.

8. SCMA said that as a society evolved to become more democratic, the government had to listen to public views before formulating important policies. In the past few years, the number of legislative and financial proposals introduced by the Government had decreased because more efforts had been spent on explaining and defending Government policies and decisions, and lobbying for support from the LegCo and the public in this regard. Paragraph 102 of the Policy Address sought to caution that in the course of democratic reform, one should take into account the impact of constitutional development on efficiency and effectiveness of governance. He said that in the past decade, the Administration had managed to gain the support of the LegCo and the community on the vast majority of the legislative and financial proposals it introduced.

9. Ms Emily LAU wondered whether governance had been efficient and effective in the past decade, as the CE had mentioned in his Policy Address that the Administration's efforts over the past decade in promoting infrastructure development did not match expectations. In her view, that was because constitutional development could not keep pace with social development. Had the CE and LegCo Members been returned by universal suffrage, these infrastructure projects would have been supported by the people. She added that a responsible government should listen to the views of the people, irrespective of whether its leader was returned by direct election.

10. SCMA responded that the Administration was positive about constitutional development. The Administration also attached importance to public views and he thanked the Panel for arranging meetings to enable the Administration to listen to the views of some 150 deputations/individuals on the Green Paper.

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Consultation and opinion polls

11. Dr YEUNG Sum asked how the views collected during consultation and from opinion polls would be analysed and assessed. He said that in an opinion poll conducted by the University of Hong Kong between 2 and 5 October 2007, 67% of the respondents supported that the implementation of universal suffrage for LegCo should precede that for the CE, and 26% of the respondents supported the implementation of universal suffrage for the CE in 2012. He urged that the report on constitutional development should faithfully reflect these views.

12. SCMA assured members that all the views collected during consultation and from opinion polls conducted by tertiary institutions and other organisations would be reflected in the public consultation report on constitutional development. The CE had already undertaken that after summarising the views received, a report would be submitted to the Central Authorities to reflect the views gathered during the public consultation period and other views expressed.

13. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung pointed out that the Administration had previously submitted a report to the Central Authorities recommending that the two electoral methods be amended, and not a report on the views gathered. He asked about the purpose of submitting such a report. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that the Administration was merely acting as a messenger in reflecting the public's views to the Central Authorities. The Administration should be more proactive in pursuing dual universal suffrage in 2012 to meet the aspirations of the public.

14. SCMA said that at this stage, the Administration was still collating the views gathered and it had not decided on the content of the report. Given the role of the Standing Committee to the National People's Congress (NPCSC) in the constitutional development of Hong Kong, the Administration considered that reflecting the views gathered to the Central Authorities was conducive to the eventual implementation of universal suffrage. SCMA further said that the Administration had been actively pursuing a democratic political system for Hong Kong. Between 2004 and 2005, the Task Force on Constitutional Development (the Task Force) had published five reports to explore possible changes to the methods for electing the CE in 2007 and forming the LegCo in 2008 with a view to taking forward constitutional development. The public had been consulted on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Task Force before the Administration formulated a package of proposals. The same general approach would be adopted in the pursuit of universal suffrage.

15. SCMA further said that the Green Paper marked only the beginning of the consultation exercise. If the views collected were diverse, it would take a longer time to narrow differences in opinion. After a package of mainstream proposals had been formulated, the public would have opportunities to give further views when amendments to Annex I and Annex II of the Basic Law were proposed and when amendments were introduced to the relevant local legislation. SCMA said

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that in order to form a mainstream view on the models for universal suffrage in the community, two objective criteria had to be met. First, the mainstream proposal should be supported by a two-thirds majority of LegCo Members. Second, the findings of opinion polls conducted by independent organisations should indicate that the mainstream proposal received support from at least 60% of the public.

16. On the second criterion, Mr CHIM Pui-chung pointed out that it was not a requirement in the Basic Law. According to the Basic Law, any changes to the electoral methods for electing the CE and forming the LegCo required the support of a two-thirds majority of all Members of LegCo, the consent of the CE and the endorsement of the NPCSC. The Administration should make clear that the criterion was not legally binding. He asked whether the criterion sought to exert pressure on the three parties, i.e. the CE, LegCo and NPCSC. In his view, only the CE, and not the LegCo, should be bound by the criterion. Citing Thailand as an example, Mr CHIM pointed out that the implementation of universal suffrage was not necessarily followed by a democratic political system.

17. SCMA agreed with Mr CHIM that universal suffrage was necessary for attaining democracy but there were also other elements involved. A successful democratic system had to be underpinned by a clean government, a free society and law-abiding citizens. These elements existed in Hong Kong and the Basic Law had provided for the ultimate aim of universal suffrage. During his election campaign, the CE had indicated that the models for universal suffrage to be proposed by the Government should receive support from not less than 60% of the public. The criterion would serve as an indicator for the Government to assess whether consensus could be forged on the models. SCMA pointed out that as LegCo Members represented the interests of different sectors of the community and the general public, it was for individual Members to decide whether the level of public acceptance on a model should have any bearing on his own decision.

Further Development of the Political Appointment System

18. Mr WONG Kwok-hing questioned the need for the proposal to further develop the Political Appointment System by creating two additional layers of political appointees, i.e. Deputy Directors of Bureau and Assistants to Directors of Bureau. He made the following points –

- (a) according to the Administration, the proposal sought to provide a more comprehensive path for political talents. However, the existing electoral system had successfully attracted former Principal Officials (POs), such as Mrs Anson CHAN and Mrs Regina IP, to stand for the LegCo by-election to be held in December 2007;
- (b) if the proposal arose from the need to address the inadequate support provided by civil servants to POs, he was not aware of any complaints about the workload of civil servants;

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- (c) at the meeting of the Panel on Civil Service held at that morning, he was given to understanding that the Secretary for the Civil Service (SCS) would not be underpinned by a Deputy Director of Bureau or a Political Assistant to Director of Bureau. If the SCS did not require the support of additional political appointees, he could not understand why other POs should have the need; and
- (d) since the abolition of the two municipal councils, the District Councils (DCs) and the LegCo were the only avenues for members of the public to enter into politics. Consideration should be given to re-establishing one municipal council to provide more opportunity for political participation of young people.

19. SCMA responded that the proposal for further development of the Political Appointment System was put forth after careful and in-depth consideration. Before the publication of the report to set out the views received and the proposed way forward, the preliminary response of the Administration was as follows –

- (a) since the handover in July 1997, political work undertaken by the Government had increased. After the introduction of a political layer of POs under the Political Appointment System in 2002, while senior civil servants could provide support to POs in conducting policy research, analysis and formulation of policy options, POs also required political input in making policy decisions. Creating two additional layers of political appointees would provide stronger support to the existing team of POs to undertake political work for better governance;
- (b) it was not uncommon for countries adopting a ministerial system to have two to three layers of political appointees. Overseas experience indicated that public spirited individuals interested in pursuing a political career could join the government to acquire practical knowledge of government operations and the legislature to nurture their political skills; and
- (c) the Administration did not see the need to re-establish a municipal council. On the other hand, the functions of DCs would be enhanced, so as to provide more opportunities for public spirited individuals to serve the community.

20. Mr Ronny TONG asked why the Administration considered the creation of additional political layers would not affect the efficiency and effectiveness of governance. Mr Albert HO said that the best way to nurture political skill was to go through the election process, and not by means of political appointment. Dr KWOK Ka-ki shared the view of Mr HO. He expressed concern that political appointees would be like-minded people with the CE whose intention was to put

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into practice his concept of "different affinities with political parties" through the proposal. He enquired how the proposal would help groom political talents.

21. SCMA explained that in the pursuit of a more democratic political system for Hong Kong, further developments in the Political Appointment System and the electoral system would complement each other. In certain respects, the political system of Hong Kong was similar to that of the United States in that the head of the executive Government and members of the legislature were returned by different election avenues. By expanding the system of political appointments, people from different backgrounds would have the opportunity to pursue a broader political career and to nurture further their political skills by joining the Government as political appointees, in addition to the route of participating in the elections of the DCs and LegCo. The Government's proposal to expand the Political Appointment System would allow sufficient room for the future CE returned by universal suffrage to appoint his political team or to form a ruling coalition to help implement his election manifesto and ensure efficient and effective governance.

Promotion of the Basic Law and related issues

22. Mr LAU Kong-wah expressed concern on the ways to enhance understanding on the Basic Law and related issues. He raised the following questions –

- (a) how the initiative proposed in the Policy Address to incorporate the Basic Law into the civil service recruitment examination would be implemented. While the initiative would help strengthen the understanding of the Basic Law for civil servants, a more effective way was to promote the Basic Law in schools;
- (b) how to strengthen civil servants' understanding of the political structure and organisation of the Mainland; and
- (c) how to attract more talents under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme, as the number of talent and professional intakes from the Mainland fell short of the quota.

23. SCMA responded with the following –

- (a) the Civil Service Bureau would decide on how to incorporate the Basic Law into the civil service recruitment examination. SCMA expected that different examinations would be designed for different levels of civil servants;
- (b) apart from arranging for civil servants to visit the Mainland, the Administration had organised forums on a need basis for

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Government officials to strengthen communication with their Mainland counterparts and other authorities. Taking the 11th National Five-Year Plan as an example, the Administration had invited representatives of the relevant ministries in Beijing to explain to Government officials the work involved in drawing up the Plan;

- (c) the Administration adopted a multi-pronged approach in promoting the Basic Law in schools. For instance, schools were encouraged to form flag guard teams and to stage more national flag-raising ceremonies. The number of flag guard teams had increased from 100 to more than 200 in the past few years. The CMAB would work closely with the working groups under the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee to step up promotion of the Basic Law in schools and the community; and
- (d) the HKSAR Government Office in Beijing and the three Economic and Trade Offices in the Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu would step up efforts to promote the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme with a view to bringing in more talents and professionals to Hong Kong.

24. Dr KWOK Ka-ki held the view that training sessions should be organised for the CE and POs to help them understand more about Chinese history. SCMA responded that promotion of national education was one of the initiatives pursued in the Policy Address. The Home Affairs Bureau and the Education Bureau were responsible for promoting public awareness and understanding of the historical, cultural and social development of China.

Motion proposed by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

25. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung proposed a motion urging the CE to make a formal apology about his remarks concerning the Cultural Revolution. Wording of his motion was as follows -

"本會要求特首曾蔭權先生就民主造成文革及污衊有關美國加州民主制度一事透過電子傳媒公開引咎道歉。"

(English translation)

"That this Panel requests that Mr Donald TSANG, the Chief Executive, should apologise in public through the electronic media for his remarks that democracy causes the Cultural Revolution in China and for defiling the democratic system in California, US."

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26. In response to the Chairman, SALA 2 explained that rule 22(p) of the House Rules provided that a motion could be proposed if it was considered by the chairman of a Panel as directly related to the agenda item of the meeting. The motion would be proceeded with if agreed by a majority of the members voting.

27. The Chairman held the view the motion was not relevant to the agenda item as the Panel would not discuss the appropriateness of the CE's behaviour or remarks at a radio interview. He invited members to give views on whether to proceed with the motion.

28. Mr Ronny TONG disagreed with the Chairman. He pointed out that the remarks concerning the Cultural Revolution were CE's response to a question raised on paragraph 102 of the Policy Address. In this connection, the motion proposed by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was relevant to the agenda item and should be dealt with at the meeting. Dr KWOK Ka-ki supported the view.

29. Mrs Selina CHOW, Mr LAU Kong-wah, and Ir Dr Raymond HO held the view that the motion should not be proceeded with. Mrs CHOW said that the Panel should not discuss an individual's remarks. Mr LAU said that a democratic society should be accommodating and it was a fact of life that every person made mistakes. Given that the CE had already apologised and retracted his remarks, Mr LAU did not see the point of pursuing the matter further.

30. Mr CHIM Pui-chung said that the CE was accountable for his own words. As long as the remarks he made did not contain anything unlawful, he should be free to express his opinion. As to whether the LegCo should follow up on an inappropriate remark made by each and every senior Government official, it was another issue. In his view, the CE had already been sanctioned for his inappropriate remarks. Mr CHIM was inclined to adopt a lenient approach on the matter.

31. The Chairman put the question on whether to proceed with the motion to vote. 12 members voted for and 14 members voted against it. The Chairman concluded that Mr LEUNG's motion should not be proceeded with.

III. Practical arrangements for the 2007 Legislative Council by-election for the Hong Kong Island geographical constituency

(LC Paper No. CB(2)46/07-08(04) –Paper provided by the Administration on "Practical arrangements for the 2007 Legislative Council Hong Kong Island geographical constituency by-election")

32. SCMA informed members that the LegCo Hong Kong Island Geographical Constituency by-election (the LegCo By-election) would be held on 2 December 2007.

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33. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) briefed members on the practical arrangements for the LegCo By-election as set out in the paper.

34. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong and Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that the arrangement for Mrs Regina IP, one of the candidates of the LegCo By-election, to meet with three POs within two days during the campaign period was unusual. The CE had said that the present arrangement was allowed in view of the small number of candidates involved and should not be regarded as a precedent for future elections. Mr CHEUNG and Dr KWOK said that the Administration should have made public its policy concerning contacts between POs and candidates during the campaign period before and not after the disclosure of the incident in the media. They considered that the arrangement contravened the principles of political neutrality of Government officials and fairness in an election.

35. Dr YEUNG Sum said that the Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Legislative Council Elections had clearly set out that POs should not use any public resources for any election-related activities or participate in activities which might be seen as an unfair advantage over other candidates. He noted that Mrs IP's photographs taken with the three POs were published in the newspapers and asked about the policy in this regard. He informed members that he had lodged a complaint about Mrs IP's case with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC).

36. SCMA responded that the elections in Hong Kong had all along been conducted in a transparent, fair and open manner. The Administration was aware that Mrs IP was a potential candidate for the LegCo By-election when she requested to meet with the POs concerned to discuss issues under their portfolios. To ensure equal treatment, the Administration had decided that the POs who met with Mrs IP should also meet with other candidates on request. Mrs Regina IP had met with the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Secretary for Education and himself to express her views on the respective portfolios under the three POs. Given that these meetings were not election-related activities, the question of using public resources did not arise.

37. SCMA further said that in the past three months he had met with different deputations to receive their views on the Green Paper, and photographs taken on those occasions were released to the media. After receiving views on the Green Paper from Mrs IP on 8 October 2007, he had made clear that he was also prepared to meet other candidates on request.

38. CEO affirmed that the EAC had received a complaint from Dr YEUNG. While the EAC would not comment on individual cases, it would investigate into the case in accordance with the established procedure.

39. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that any new policy should apply equally to all candidates. He asked the Administration to provide a written response on when

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and the circumstances under which the Administration had made such a policy decision. Mr LEE further said that if the Administration had decided to allow contacts between candidates and POs during the campaign period of the LegCo By-election, the same should apply to the coming DC elections and the LegCo election in 2008. He sought clarification on whether contacts with senior Government officials, in addition to POs, were also allowed.

40. SCMA said that given the large number of candidates involved in the coming DC election and the LegCo election in 2008, POs or senior Government officials were unlikely to meet with them. He undertook to respond to Mr LEE's enquiry in writing.

(Post-meeting note : The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)258/07-08 on 5 November 2007.)

41. Ms Emily LAU said that POs should not meet with candidates during office hours as it involved the use of public resources. SCMA responded that Mrs Regina IP had given views on the Green Paper in the capacity of the Chairman of Savantas Policy Institute. His meeting with Mrs IP was not in any way related to electioneering activities.

42. The meeting ended at 4:38 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
14 December 2007

立法會政制事務委員會
2007年10月15日會議

2007-08年施政綱領

政制及內地事務局局長發言要點
(草擬本)

行政長官於上周發表了 2007 至 2008 年施政報告，今天我希望向委員簡單介紹施政綱領中和政制及內地事務局有關的措施。

政制發展

2. 在政制發展方面，《政制發展綠皮書》的三個月公眾諮詢期剛於上星期三結束。經初步點算，我們共收到超過 18000 份意見書及十三萬個市民簽名表達意見，可見社會對普選這議題的討論是積極的。

3. 在未來數月，我們會歸納社會上就普選行政長官及立法會的模式、路線圖及時間表的意見，然後根據在諮詢期內所收集到的意見，評估社會能否收窄分歧，以提供足夠基礎就落實普選的方案形成共識。特區政府在歸納意見後，將如實向中央反映在諮詢期所收集到的意見，並提交報告。

落實進一步發展政治委任制度

4. 關於落實進一步發展政治委任制度，正如行政長官在《施政報告》所表示，我們希望可以開設副局長和局長助理這兩層政治任命職位。我們計劃在近期發表報告書，列出早前就建議進行諮詢時收到的意見，以及我們建議的未來路向。

5. 增設副局長和局長助理職位，除了可以強化主要官員在處理政治工作方面的支援，從而提高施政外，更可以配合本港政制逐步民主化。要為普選鋪路，除了要發展選舉制度的硬件外，我們還需要發展政治人才的軟件。希望各位議員可以支持政府的建議。

選舉工作

6. 在選舉工作方面，2007年區議會選舉將於11月18日舉行。我們已就多項新措施，如財政資助計劃、在選票上印上候選人詳情及提高選舉開支限額等，完成法例修訂。選舉提名期將於今日結束。

7. 至於2007年立法會香港島地方選區補選，將於

12月2日舉行。我們將於這次會議稍後時間，就補選的實務安排諮詢委員會的意見。

8. 2008年的立法會換屆選舉方面，選舉管理委員會已向行政長官提交地方選區分界建議的報告書。行政長官將會按照法例盡快考慮選舉管理委員會的報告。此外，根據以往做法，我們將會對功能界別的選民組成作一些技術及名稱上的修訂。我們亦會檢討選舉開支限額。

《基本法》推廣

9. 接著，我希望介紹一下推廣《基本法》的工作。本局在2007-08年度預留了800萬元撥款以舉辦一系列推廣《基本法》活動，比起上一個年度增撥了100萬元。

10. 我們在來年會投入更多資源，以進一步提升公眾對《基本法》的認識和了解。

配合擬定國家「十二五」規劃的工作

11. 國家「十二五」規劃的籌備工作，將會在明年開始。在「十一五」規劃的基礎上，本局將會協助統籌各

有關政策局，加強與國家相關部委聯繫，商討有關香港特區如何在「一國兩制」的原則下，配合擬定國家「十二五」規劃方面的工作。

加強內地與香港的區域合作

12. 展望來年，駐內地各辦事處會繼續加強在經貿關係、投資推廣及區域合作等工作。

13. 主席，我的介紹完畢。我樂意解答議員有關的問題。

政制及內地事務局

2007年10月