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本函檔號 OUR REF: REO 10/4/3(CR)

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18 April 2008

Clerk to Legislative Council Panel on
Constitutional Affairs
(Attn: Mrs Percy Ma)
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

**Follow up to the LegCo CA Panel Meeting
held on 17 March 2008**

I write to follow up on the discussion at the last meeting of the LegCo CA Panel held on 17 March 2008 on “2008 Voter Registration campaign”, and set out below our response to the questions raised at the meeting.

Number of deletions when updating voter registers

2. The number of registered electors on the 2007 final register for geographical constituencies (“GC”) reached about 3,296,000. There were about 142,000 new GC electors registered. At the same time, there were about 32,000 entries which were deleted. Hence there was a net increase of about 110,000, when compared to the figure in the 2006 final register.

3. As a routine exercise to update the register, the above-mentioned deletions were made because, according to the information available to the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”), the electors had passed away or had not reported their latest residential addresses to the REO. All these deletions, as required by law, were published in the omissions list for public inspection for at least 14 days. Any person whose name is included in the omissions list may make a claim that he is entitled to be registered in the final register. Unless any claim is received and accepted by the Revising Officer, the deletions will be reflected in the final register of that year.

Number of complaints about deletion of voter records

4. In the 2007 DC Election, the Electoral Affairs Commission received on the polling day 9 complaints from electors who found their names missing from the register at the ballot paper issuing desks in the polling stations as their records in the previous registers had been taken out. For all these 9 cases, the persons concerned changed their residential address in previous years without reporting such changes to the REO. As a result, the poll cards sent to them in previous elections had been returned to the REO by the Post Office as undelivered mail. Since REO was still unable to get in touch with these persons despite further efforts, they were included in the omissions list, and were subsequently taken out from the final registers in accordance with statutory procedures. Upon receipt of their complaints, we have invited the complainants to make fresh registration using the latest address, and six of them have already done so.

5. The REO would make best endeavours to ensure that appropriate publicity programmes be launched to remind electors of the importance in reporting their change of addresses and relevant particulars within the deadline (which is 30 June for the 2008 final register). We would appeal to electors to update their particulars promptly.

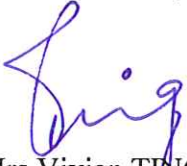
Eligibility criteria for voter registration

6. According to section 28 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), a natural person is not eligible to be registered as an elector in the register of geographical constituencies unless, at the time of applying for registration, the person satisfies the Electoral Registration Officer -

- (a) that the person ordinarily resides in Hong Kong; and
- (b) that the residential address notified in the person's application for registration is the person's only or principal residence in Hong Kong.

7. The same section of the Ordinance has made it clear that "a person's only or principal residence in Hong Kong" means "a dwelling-place in Hong Kong at which the person resides and which constitutes the person's sole or main home".

Yours sincerely,


(Mrs Vivian TING)
Chief Electoral Officer

cc. Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs