Extracts from the minutes of meeting between
Legislative Council Members and Sham Shui Po District
Council members on 7 June 2007

Members present   :   Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP Convenor)
                            Hon James TO Kun-sun
                            Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
                            Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, JP
                            Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS

By invitation   :   **Sham Shui Po District Council**

                            Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, MH (Chairman)
                            Mr LEUNG Lai (Vice-chairman)
                            Mr CHEUNG Wing-sum, Ambrose, JP
                            Mr CHONG Chi-tat
                            Ms LAI Wai-lan, Tracy
                            Mr LAM Ka-fai, Aaron
                            Mr LEUNG Yau-fong
                            Mr LI Hon-hung, MH
                            Ms NG Mei, Carman
                            Mr TAM Kwok-hung
                            Mr WONG Kam-kuen, MH
                            Ms WONG Kwai-wan
                            Mr WONG Tak-chuen, Joe
                            Ms LAI Pui-fong, Fonna
                            Mr KWAN Kei-leung, Jover

Staff in attendance :   Ms Erin TSANG
                            Chief Council Secretary (1)3

                            Ms Guy YIP
                            Council Secretary (1)1

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II.   Delineation of Constituency Boundaries for the District Council Elections

3.   The Chairman of SSSPDC said that SSPDC was greatly concerned about the criteria adopted by Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) in delineating district council constituency area (DCCA) as well as the number of elected seats in the District Council (DC).   He said that although SSPDC had been consulted

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by EAC on the delineation of DCCAs and SSPDC had raised comments on EAC's preliminary proposal on DCCAs, SSPDC found it difficult to propose a convincing revised proposal due to the lack of detailed population figures and the refusal of EAC to provide population figures on each street block in the district as requested by SSPDC. For example, in view that the existing population in Sham Shui Po (SSP) was around 380 000, an increase of 8% as compared to that of the last DC election, SSPDC opined that the number of elected seats in SSP should increase accordingly, yet EAC did not accept such views. In the 2008 DC Election, SSP only had 21 elected seats, while Kowloon City with a lesser population than SSP, had 22 elected seats. He considered that such an arrangement reflected that different criteria were adopted by EAC in delineating DCCAs. Furthermore, the Chairman of SSPDC noted that in the formal proposal submitted by EAC, some constituencies in SSP were delineated by the rear lane, such that the front, middle and rear sections of the same rear lane were delineated as three different constituencies. He considered that EAC should make its work more transparent by providing the population figures on each street block to DCs, so that DCs could raise their views to EAC to get a better delineation proposal.

4. Mr James TO shared the view that EAC should enhance the transparency of its work by providing DCs with the information requested, so that DCs could raise its views to EAC regarding the delineation of DCCAs. In this connection, he pointed out that as the delineation of DCCAs was carried out under the framework stipulated in the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541) and the District Councils Election Ordinance (Cap. 547), LegCo Members could advise the Administration on matters of principle through the Panel on Constitutional Affairs. However, as the specific delineation work involved sensitive issues related to LegCo Members and the interests of political parties, he considered it inappropriate for LegCo to follow up.

5. The Convenor shared Mr James TO's views and remarked that it was inappropriate for LegCo to deal with the detailed arrangement of DC Elections. However, he would convey SSPDC's concerns and request for detailed population figures, as well as its views that the number of DCCAs and elected seats should be allocated in proportion to population to the Administration/EAC for response. He would also forward the above views and concerns to the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs for information, so that the Panel could follow up on issues of principles involved as far as practicable.

LegCo
Secretariat

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