Bills Committee on Village Representative Election Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2009

Information Requested by Members at the Third Meeting on 10 July 2009

Cheung Chau

Introduction

At the meeting of the Bills Committee on Village Representative Election Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2009 on 10 July 2009, Members requested the Administration to provide information to support that the current electoral arrangement for the Cheung Chau Rural Committee ("CCRC") is generally accepted by the residents of Cheung Chau.

Background

- 2. The CCRC is composed of residents on the island. The CCRC has a long history and is familiar with the places, personal networks and history of the Cheung Chau community. Since the establishment of the CCRC in the early 1960s, all its members, past and present, are Kaifong representatives. The Kaifong representative election is conducted according to CCRC's constitution, which was formulated having regard to Cheung Chau's background and circumstances. According to the constitution, Kaifong representatives are elected by secret ballot on a one-person-one-vote basis to the CCRC under the supervision of the District Officer (Islands) as the Returning Officer.
- 3. The Kaifong representative election of CCRC has been conducted in an open and fair manner, and is generally accepted by the residents of Cheung Chau. To the knowledge of the Administration, although some members of the public have suggested changes to the present electoral arrangement, the Kaifong representative election of the CCRC has been operating smoothly throughout the past few decades and the CCRC has no plan to change the status quo.

Home Affairs Department September 2009