



**BPF Submission to the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs  
Re-organisation of the Government Secretariat**

The Business and Professionals Federation of Hong Kong strongly supports the government structure proposed by the Chief Executive-elect to take effect when he assumes office on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

At the outset, it is our belief that the constitution of the Executive arm should be the prerogative of the Chief Executive and he is accountable for its success. That said, we do support the proposal.

The broad mass of the people are impatient for change and we urge the Legislative Council not to delay further the manifesto of programmes and policies which will improve their lives. They have waited far too long.

The Ministerial system which was new to Hong Kong has been in place for more than 10 years, it is important that changes now be made in the light of experience gained and to keep it up with changes in society.

One major concern to the BPF and the people of Hong Kong is that Hong Kong's economy has grown slowly in the last 15 years compared with our past history and our neighbours. A coherent business promotion strategy is needed, and the CE-elect's proposal to match global trends and to split the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau into Commerce and Industries Bureau and Technology and Communications Bureau has our strong support.

The Commerce and Industries Bureau will adopt an active role in promoting economic and industrial development; the new Technology and Communications Bureau will ensure that our talent in science and technology will be put to best use to support the development of high value-added industries.

The word culture includes the development of our society as a whole. It is not just about music and the arts but the need to develop our society in every aspect so that our people can live life to the full, a life full of happiness and enjoyment at every level, young and old, sports and recreation, traditions and beliefs. A Minister is needed to search out areas of neglect, to develop existing areas to their full potential, not to concentrate but to invigorate the whole and to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet these objectives. It is a world full of great opportunity, let us seize it with both hands

Housing, planning and lands are all part of the same policy and if we are to speed up construction, bringing them into collective resolve is essential. As McLehose said nearly forty years ago "the shortage of Housing is the biggest source of unhappiness in Hong Kong," The people are unhappily waiting. Let us not delay!



Transport and construction is another huge subject. Hong Kong prides itself on an efficient system but we need to maintain the pace of development, to provide the network of roads and rail, water supply and drainage to keep our city modern and moving. A champion is needed, a Minister, to pull all these complicated threads together.

Hong Kong is now a large city facing daunting problems, challenges and opportunities. Our Chief and Financial Secretaries must in their work cover this whole spectrum, make themselves familiar with the situation on the ground, keep their fingers on the pulsating life of this human powerhouse. They cannot be expected to do it single handed. Beneath them each Bureau has its separate policy portfolios, many issues striding across the bureaux and requiring concerted effort, coordination and cooperation, to set priorities, resolve disputes and to keep the whole Government machine operating smoothly at the working level. This is the essential function of the Deputy positions which are sought. They are to meet a need which has long been the source of public disquiet, to meet the need to make a decision among the "warring tribes."

The Chief Executive-elect has laid out his blueprint for Hong Kong in his manifesto, and to deliver that, he needs the appropriate structure in place and to have it up and running the day he takes office so that all bureau chiefs can report for duty and start work immediately on implementing his manifesto.

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