

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your email below addressed to our President and I am directed to reply on his behalf.

The Council thanks the invitation of the Chairman of the Bills Committee but regrets that it is an offer for which our Council has to decline.

The practice of notaries public does not involve management of client's money or client's assets. A notary public is primarily concerned with the preparation, execution and verification of legal documents for use abroad, save for documents which originate in Hong Kong for use in The People's Republic of China.

The services provided by a notary public include but are not limited to –

- Preparing and witnessing powers of attorney for use overseas
- Verifying the identity of the person appearing before him/her
- Witnessing documents for purchase or sale of land or property overseas
- Authenticating personal documents and information for immigration/emigration, marriage, adoption, succession or other purposes
- Authenticating company, commercial and business documents
- Preparing ship's protest
- Providing authentication and a secure record for a transaction, document or event.

The Society has also reminded members that in their capacity as notaries public, they must not hold client's money nor open a client account.

In the circumstances, we do not believe that we would add much to the deliberation of the Bills Committee.

With best wishes to the Chairman and the Bills Committee.

Regards,

Margaret S. Y. Lau

Secretary General

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