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25 April 2019

Ms Joanne MAK
Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Mak,

**Meeting of Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Loss of Register of Electors of the
Registration and Electoral Office and follow-up measures**

In relation to the letter from Hon Charles Mok to the Chairman of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 12 April 2019 requesting the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) and Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) to provide explanations on several matters regarding the loss of Register of Electors incident, we herewith provide supplementary information as follows –

- (1) The date in which the REO first received the request from the Independent Commission Against Corruption (“ICAC”) for inspecting the Register of Electors; the date in which it came to the REO’s attention that the Register of Electors concerned was lost**

According to the REO’s records, the law enforcement agency concerned requested the said Register of Electors for inspection in early October 2016. As for the timing that it came to the REO’s attention that the Register could be lost, the specific details can only be ascertained after comprehensive investigation.

- (2) **All public officers who were responsible for the counting and delivery of the materials of the polling station concerned and their respective ranks; among which, how many were time-limited staff**

The REO has passed the details of the personnel concerned to the Police for the purpose of investigation. To avoid affecting the conduct of the investigation, it would not be appropriate for us to disclose the information prior to completion of the full investigation.

- (3) **The procedures for handling relevant electoral materials in the 2016 LegCo General Election (counting, delivery, sealing, etc.)**

In the 2016 LegCo General Election, after the completion of counting of votes and receipt of notification from the REO, the Presiding Officers were required to transport the sealed packets of the Registers of Electors, ballot papers and other electoral documents in accordance with the delivery note to the respective District Collection Centres (“DCCs”) of the Home Affairs Department located in 18 districts for temporary storage under the escort of police officers. Staff at the DCCs were required to acknowledge receipt of all documents using the delivery note. The REO would usually transport the aforesaid electoral documents to its warehouse within two days after the election. The entire delivery and storage process was monitored by staff of the REO.

- (4) **Whether the records of counting, inspection of the delivery and storage of electoral materials were lost or being amended**

The REO has conducted verification to confirm that the delivery note of the said polling station is not lost. Given that the REO has passed the relevant documents of the DCC in connection with the Register of Electors that cannot be found to the Police for investigation, we do not consider it appropriate to make public the information at this stage lest it would affect the Police’s investigation.

(5) The location for storing the electoral materials; and the ranks of staff who are authorised to deal with the electoral materials

Apart from the need for workers to transport the Registers of Electors and marked ballot papers (for instance, for destruction) stored at the warehouse of the REO, the aforesaid electoral documents can only be handled by staff of the REO who monitor the warehouse on a daily basis and the supervisors of REO's relevant unit.

(6) The physical security measures adopted at the location for storing the electoral materials

Round-the-clock stationing by security guards is arranged at the warehouse where the REO stores the Registers of Electors of the 2016 LegCo General Election.

(7) REO staff who were responsible for ascertaining the records of electoral materials and their respective ranks; among which, how many were time-limited staff

The daily monitoring of REO's warehouse is currently undertaken by clerical officer grade civil servants. The aforesaid work includes counting of electoral materials and compiling relevant records.

(8) REO staff who were responsible for handling requests from the ICAC; and the person who authorised the non-reporting of the lost Register

The REO is trying to figure out details of the incident, and will submit a detailed report to the CMAB and the Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC"). The EAC will also conduct an independent investigation. Given that some personnel working in the REO at that time have been posted out of the department, and some have even left the Government, more time will be required to go through the records and contact the relevant personnel to enquire about the incident. Before the full investigation is completed, it would not be appropriate to make public part of the information, lest it would affect the relevant investigation.

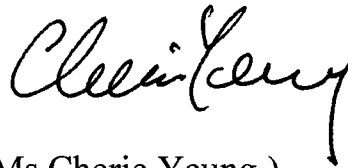
(9) Actions taken by REO staff after they realised that they could not provide the ICAC with the said Register

The REO is trying to figure out details of the incident, and will submit a detailed report to the CMAB and the EAC. The EAC will also conduct an independent investigation.

(10) Whether records of all electoral materials have been inspected and internal investigation has been conducted; whether other Registers of Electors are found to be missing

The REO has inspected all the Registers of Electors concerned, and confirmed that no other Register of Electors is missing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cherie Yeung', written in a cursive style.

(Ms Cherie Yeung)

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

cc: Chief Electoral Officer