

Progress Report of the 14th Meeting of the Kowloon City District Council

Purpose

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 14th meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 14 January 2010.

Consultation Paper on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and Forming the Legislative Council in 2012

Support for the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and Forming the Legislative Council in 2012 in a Move to Achieve Universal Suffrage

Comments on the Consultation Paper on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and Forming the Legislative Council in 2012

To Abolish the Appointment System of District Councils, Strive for Genuine Universal Suffrage and Lodge a Strong Protest against the Retrogressive Political Reform Package

2. Members were informed by the Acting Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs of the following main points covered by the Consultation Document on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012:

- (a) The Central Government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) were determined to promote constitutional development in Hong Kong. To pave way for the election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by universal suffrage respectively in 2017 and in 2020, the current-term HKSARG was to confirm methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council in 2012 under the framework of the “Decision” made by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPCSC);
- (b) In November 2009, the HKSARG put forth two possible directions of the electoral methods in 2012. On the election of the Chief Executive, it was proposed that the number of members of the Election Committee would be increased from 800 to not more than 1,200 persons and the four big

sectors would each be allocated an additional 100 seats, a large proportion of which would be returned through election by elected District Council members from among themselves;

- (c) Regarding the election of the Legislative Council, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress set out in the "Decision" in 2007 that appropriate amendments could be made to the methods for forming the Legislative Council in 2012 while the half-by-half ratio of seats returned through direct elections in geographical constituencies and functional constituencies remained unchanged. The HKSARG proposed to allocate 5 of the 10 additional seats of the Legislative Council to functional constituencies of District Councils which would be returned through election by elected District Council members from among themselves while the remaining five seats would be filled by members elected from geographical constituencies through direct elections; and
- (d) The public consultation period would last for three months until 19 February 2010.

3. After a cordial discussion, Members supported the above consultation exercise and agreed that democratic elements of the Election Committee and the Legislative Council should be enhanced with the greater participation of District Council members. Subsequently, Members endorsed the motion of "Kowloon City District Council supported the implementation of universal suffrage in the path of constitutional development in Hong Kong. In consideration of the far-reaching influences of the constitutional reform on Hong Kong, the package of proposals should be drawn up according to the actual situation in Hong Kong and won extensive support from the public. The direction set out in the Consultation Paper was in conformity with provisions of the Basic Law and the terms of the Decision of the NPCSC in 2007, adopting the principle of gradual and orderly progress in working out the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council in 2012. It was hoped that democratic elements of the two elections would be elevated by duly increasing the seats of the Election Committee and the Legislative Council plus enhancing the participation of District Council members in these two elections. The Kowloon City District Council agreed that, with the consultation exercise, the constitutional development in Hong Kong would continue to move forward and fulfil the aspiration of the public.

Planning Application for To Kwa Wan Gas Pigging Station

4. Members held different opinions on the new site selected for the construction of the gas pigging station. Some Members held that the station would be too close to schools, residential and industrial buildings in the district, thus threatening life and property of residents as well as causing adverse impacts on vista of buildings and hence, home prices. But a Member pointed out that the station was built for ensuring safety of gas supply, and considering the newly-selected site was situated in a place more open and remote from residential areas than the previous one, the construction proposal deserved support.

5. The Planning Department said that, on submission of the application, Towngas had forwarded the technical assessment report pertaining to various aspects including risks and vista for deliberation of the government departments concerned. In addition, the cross harbour section of the Shatin to Central Link would not be affected by the site selection exercise of the gas pigging station. In view of the concern of residents over public safety, vista and home prices, the Department undertook to reflect the views of Members truly to the Town Planning Board.

Concern over the Problem of Youth Hanging out in Internet Cafes

6. Given that the problem of the youth hanging out in internet cafes became increasingly serious, Members made the following suggestions and called for inter-departmental cooperation to cope with the situation:

- (1) To study the impacts of internet cafes on the youth and to monitor the content of internet materials in order to review and formulate corresponding policy;
- (2) To provide more facilities like libraries and community centres for the use of the youth so as to keep them out of internet cafes as well as to take effective measures so as to prevent internet cafes from turning into establishments where unlawful elements engaged in drug trafficking and vice activities; and

- (3) To advise the youth not to patronise internet cafes to avoid contact with dangerous people and items.

Kowloon City District Office
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