

**Question on the follow-up action regarding vote-rigging cases  
in the District Council and Legislative Council Elections  
(Paper IDC 86/2015)**

**Written reply of Registration and Electoral Office**

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) releases for public inspection the provisional registers of electors, the omissions list and the final registers of electors each year to ensure a highly transparent voter registration system is maintained and to facilitate monitoring by the public. During the publication period of the provision registers of electors and the omissions list (July 31 – August 25 in the 2015 cycle), the public may make objections or claims to the Electoral Registration Officer against the entries on the registers and the lists. The cases will be submitted to the Revising Officer to consider and make a ruling.

The REO has all along been adopting stringent procedures in dealing with each application for new registration and updating registration particulars. The staff would, in accordance with established procedures, check whether the information submitted in each application form is complete. If the address submitted by the applicant is incomplete or suspicious, the REO would request the applicant to confirm whether he or she is living in the address as contained in the application form by submitting further information or an address proof. If the applicant fails to provide the information as requested, or the information provided fails to satisfy the Electoral Registration Officer, the Electoral Registration Officer in general will not further consider the application. If necessary, the Electoral Registration Officer will report the suspicious cases to the law enforcement agencies for investigation.

The existing arrangement of voter registration is an honest system which aims to facilitate people to register as a voter. The applicant has the responsibility to provide true and accurate information. A person who makes false or misleading information in voter registration or updating registration particulars, regardless of whether the person has voted in an election or not, commits an offence under the electoral laws.

For suspected cases of false or incorrect statements in making voter registration, the REO will handle them strictly in accordance with the law, and refer such cases to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and follow-up as appropriate.

In response to the concerns of the general public that some electors were suspected to have made false declaration of their residential addresses, the REO has implemented a series of enhanced measures and widened the extent of checking since 2012 with a view to maintaining the integrity of the voter registration system and enhancing the accuracy of information in the voter registers. With reference to the experience in the last three cycles, the REO continues to implement targeted checking measures in the 2015 cycle. The checking measures include cross-matching of information with the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Home Affairs Department; checks on residential addresses with multiple electors or multiple surnames of electors; random sample checks on electors; checks on addresses with incomplete information, commercial addresses or suspected non-residential addresses; follow-up action on undelivered electoral documents; and checks on addresses situated at buildings already demolished or vacated buildings pending demolition. If no replies have been received from electors under enquiry to confirm or update their registered addresses, the REO will initiate inquiry process in accordance with the relevant electoral laws and issue them inquiry letters. If there is no response from the electors concerned, or the electors cannot provide proof or further information to show they are still living in the registered address, the REO will remove them from the respective registers.

The existing arrangements aims to ensure that, on the one hand, the system is convenient to the public to register as electors, on the other, those who make false declaration about their voter registration will get penalised, and striking a right balance between the two.

Registration and Electoral Office  
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