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From:

Date: 2006/11/28 Tue PM 10:04:28 CST

To: pa-consultation@cab.gov.hk

Subject: Response to Consultation Document on Further Development of the  
Political Appointment SystemMove To: 

I strongly object the proposal of further developing the political appointment system in Hong Kong. This is a major step for the government away from transparency, fairness, accountability and efficiency, and a setback for Hong Kong on its quest to become a modern, well governed city.

Against efficiency. Under the proposal, the government will be adding another layer on top of our civil servant system at the expense of the Hong Kong tax payers. As indicated by our chief executive, an important goal is to have a small government in Hong Kong. This proposal is trying to achieve exactly the opposite.

As we have seen in recent years from various surveys, the performance of the government has not improved after the transition and the introduction secretary system. Or, to be more objective, the scope of the governance of the government

has remained largely unchanged (and should not be enlarged as indicated by our

chief executive). There should be any reason to have another layer of people in the system, a total of three if we count the permanent secretaries, which used to be only one layer. If the secretaries find that they are incapable of handling the current duties, they can hire assistants, but only at their own expense, or they can quit. If you can't handle your job, don't ask for it.

Against fairness and openness. If professional assistants are to be hired, at the expense of tax payers, then the process should be open and fair, just like the recruitment for civil servants. Everyone, poor or rich, well connected or not, should be given the same opportunity. If the goal is to hire political

alliances, very simple, just don't use the public money, or build an open, fair, clearly documented and publicly accepted recruitment process, with hiring decisions made by a committee formed by independent and publicly selected people. The treasury is social resources, it is not there for the chief executive to hand pick the ones that he likes.

Against transparency and accountability. An appointment political system was very common in history, in particular in monarchies and authoritarian political systems. History has proven that corruption, cronyism and biases were the result in most cases, causing disasters or suppression. Personal interests, but not public interests, were served. To make it more ridiculous, the current proposal was not initiated by the public. It was not voted by the public. But it would be the public who pay for it and bear the results.

To summarize, this is a proposal that jeopardizes the core values of Hong Kong as modern society, and contradicts what the government has been emphasizing - a small, open, transparent, fair and accountable government with equal opportunities and independent minds.

Eddie Leung

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