

29 July 2006

Constitutional Affairs Bureau
3/F, Main Wing
Central Government Offices
Lower Albert Road
Hong Kong

Dear Sirs,

**Public Consultation –
Further Development of the Political
Appointment System**

The Government's proposal in extending the existing system of ministerial responsibility raises serious concerns and doubts, I am writing to object to it.

The proposal is nothing more than an expansion of the ill-fated concept introduced by the former Chief Executive, the mover and the shaker, where political appointees were installed over heads of civil service chiefs, purportedly to selling policies more effectively while holding them accountable for policy blunders, unfortunately they are accountable to the Chief Executive, not to the people.

The proposed expansion will likely compound the flaws of the existing system as senior civil servants who are supposed to be political neutral will be further sidelined and their roles blurred will need to interface with two new layers of artificially accountable political appointees seems unlikely to do much than when they are independent.

The goal, as mapped, of creating more opportunities for talents sounds grandiose, but it is much more like an ill-disguised ruse of Mr. Donald Tsang of trying to sow the seeds of a tailor-made training programme for a government-friendly political party, spending tens of millions a year of taxpayers' money to create more pro-government political posts, it also sets to create more unequivocal uncertainty over the system of administrative officers..

One of the proposed prime qualifications of new appointee is, he/she must share the visions

and ruling philosophy (What are they? Strong governance? Friend-Foe on unequal terms?) of the Chief Executive virtually means the door for the pan-democratic force, branded as opposition, has effectively been closed, this poses another new obstacle on the already-tardy-democracy movement.

The proposed addition of around 22 new posts is expected to cost \$62 millions (plus perks) a year, it is much doubtful that talented professionals or business executives in their mid-term careers would be tempted to venture into a political doomed-to-fail nowhere land. It would be complete waste, another government fiasco, amid callings of more taxes, welfares cuts, etc. if yes persons are taken on board.

The existing ministerial system should be revamped organically, such as by giving more supports to political parties and strengthening legislative and district institutions. Bureaucratic tinkering is by no means a way to fix a bad system.

Yours faithfully,

(Name provided)

(Editor's Note: The sender requested anonymity.)