

LCQ14: De-registration of newspapers and periodicals

Following is a question by the Hon Leung Yiu-chung and a written reply by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Dr Patrick Ho, in the Legislative Council today (January 26):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of the number of newspapers and periodicals, other than those classified as indecent articles under the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles (Cap. 390), whose registration under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance (Cap. 268) was cancelled or deemed to have lapsed due to cessation of publication in the past 10 years, and the names of these publications, the dates of their first registration, as well as the dates at which their registration was cancelled or deemed to have lapsed?

Reply:

Madam President,

According to the records kept by the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority ("TELA"), the number of newspapers and periodicals that were de-registered or the registration of which was deemed to have lapsed due to cessation of publication under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance ("RLNO") in the 10 years 1995 to 2004 is 1,794.

A table listing the titles of the 1,161 newspapers and periodicals that were de-registered from 1999 to 2004, together with the respective dates of registration and de-registration, is provided at the Annex. The TELA's database for the registration of newspapers and periodicals was computerised in 1999. Similar information for newspapers and periodicals de-registered prior to 1999 is not readily available because of the absence of computerised records. Compiling such information would require time and a huge amount of manpower resources as TELA would have to go through over a thousand files.

The table at the Annex also includes newspapers and periodicals containing articles classified as indecent under the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance ("COIAO") as TELA does not have a separate record of such newspapers and periodicals. Classification under COIAO is not a requirement of the RLNO. When TELA comes across an article in a newspaper or periodical which is considered not meeting the requirements of COIAO, TELA may submit the article to the Obscene Articles Tribunal for classification and follow up action where appropriate.

Ends/Wednesday, January 26, 2005

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