

THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY

Memorandum for the Housing Authority

Motion on “The composition of the Housing Authority” Moved by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung at the Legislative Council Meeting on Wednesday, 3 November 1999

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the outcome of a motion moved by the Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung on the composition of the Housing Authority (HA) at the Legislative Council (Legco).

Background

2. The Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung moved a motion on the composition of the HA at the Legco meeting on Wednesday, 3 November 1999. The wording of the motion is as follows -

“That, as many housing policies formulated by the Housing Authority have all along been denounced by the public, and problems concerning the deplorable quality of public housing flats and substandard piling found in housing works arose one after another recently, showing that the performance of HA, whether in terms of its policy formulation or supervision on the quality of works, has been rather disappointing, this Council considers that these problems stem from the membership of HA, which comprises appointed members only and thus lacks representativeness and accountability to the public; in this connection, this Council calls on HA members for a collective resignation and urges the Government to reform thoroughly the composition of HA to increase the element of democratic election, include grass-root representatives and enhance the transparency of its operations, so that HA can genuinely be catering for and accountable to the public.”

3. In responding at the Legco meeting, Secretary for Housing opposed the motion both in principle and on practical grounds. He highlighted the contributions of HA members and stressed that the appointment system of the HA had been working well over the years. If the HA was to become an elected body, it would adversely affect the operation of the HA.

4. The motion was not passed.

INFORMATION

5. This paper is issued for Members' information.

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c.c. All Committee Members

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Date : 8 November 1999