

The Honorable Ronald Arculli, GBS, JP
Chairman, Committee on Review of
Post-Service Outside Work for Directorate Civil Servants
18 March, 2009

Dear *Hon. Arculli*,

Consultation Document (Feb., 2009)
Post-Service Outside Work for Directorate Civil Servants

I refer to the above and write to express my views on the key issues as follows:

POLICY OBJECTIVE – ISSUE 2

- (1) **Suggest that the existing regulations should be further relaxed for D3 or below officers.** The rule-abiding civil servants should not be penalized by sporadic cases (the two famous cases occur at level D4/D8) that have drawn special concerns from the community. The internal rules governing the integrity and work procedure for civil servants are already stringent in preventing possible conflict of interests. *Hong Kong should adopt the more relaxed rules of overseas jurisdictions* (Chapter 4 refers). Comparing with the open societies in Australia/Britain/Canada, HK is very backward in this regard. HK should follow the steps of Australia which honours trust/goodwill.

PERIOD OF RESTRICTIONS – ISSUE 3

- (2) **Suggest that the restrictions should only apply to senior civil servants at the upper echlon at levels above D4.** *Most directorate grade retirees are professionals. They need to practice continuously to up keep their professional standards. Retired professionals, be it doctors, accountants, lawyers, architects, or engineers, are valuable assets to the community.* The experience they collected over so many years of practice can contribute positively to the advancement of their respective professions and to the betterment of the Hong Kong society as a whole if this right can be honored. Most professionals in the Civil Service work at the frontline and only a handful of them are holding senior policy-setting positions (D4 or above) which will have linkage to Property Sector Business (para 5.36).

PROCESS - ISSUE 4

- (2) **The procedures are too cumbersome and too tedious.** The application will take at least several months to process, and the applicant will lose the chance to get the job if the decision is not made in good time. **Suggest that Government give a pledge that the application will be decided on within 4 weeks time for D3 officers and below.** The procedures must be further simplified. Clearer guidelines should be in place to allow efficient/expedient assessment of the post-service employment applications. There should be separate rules governing senior directorates at level D4 above who held special or sensitive positions before retirement. *Best Regards!*

CHEUNG KIN-KEUNG, Martin