

Family Council

The Reconstituted Family Council

PURPOSE

With effect from 1 April 2013, the Family Council (the Council) will be reconstituted to implement the new initiatives as set out in Paper FC 1/2013. This paper informs Members of the composition of the reconstituted Council.

BACKGROUND

2. Established in December 2007, the Council chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) has been serving as a high-level platform for examining family-related policies and promoting a culture of loving families in the community. It comprises three ex-officio Members¹, four official Members² and 14 non-official Members.

3. During the past five years, achievements have been made in the following areas -

(a) advocated cherishing the family as a main driver for social harmony;

(b) formulated strategies on creating a pro-family environment and family support;

¹ The three ex-officio Members are the Chairpersons of the Commission on Youth, the Elderly Commission and the Women's Commission.

² The four official Members are the Secretary for Home Affairs (or his representative), Secretary for Education (or his representative), Secretary for Labour and Welfare (or his representative) and Head, Central Policy Unit (or his representative).

- (c) promoted family perspective in policy formulation among bureaux and departments (B/Ds);
- (d) promoted synergy between the Council and the three Commissions (Commission on Youth (CoY), the Elderly Commission (EC) and the Women's Commission (WoC); and
- (e) conducted researches to promote better understanding on matters related to the family.

THE RECONSTITUTED FAMILY COUNCIL

4. To implement the new initiatives as set out in Paper FC 1/2013 and to strengthen its advisory role, the Family Council will be re-constituted under a new non-official Chairman with effect from April 2013. The appointment of a non-official Chairman will enable the Council to render more independent and impartial advice to the Government on policies with family perspectives. We also consider that the appointment of a non-official Chairman will not undermine the importance of the Council, as the Secretary for Home Affairs, the Secretary for Education, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare as well as the Head, Central Policy Unit will continue to serve as official Members of the Council. There will continue to be high-level interface on family-related issues both at policy and operational levels.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

5. Under the reconstituted Council, the Chairpersons of the CoY, the EC and the WoC will continue to be appointed as ex-officio Members of the Council. This enables the three Commissions to offer views to the Council from their respective perspectives, and facilitates communication and co-operation between the three Commissions and the Council. The three Commissions will continue to form a close partnership with the

Council on family-related issues.

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS

6. The reconstituted Council in the new term will continue to engage non-official Members from various backgrounds, including social service, education, business and academic fields. They will continue to offer advice and act as the sounding board on family-related matters.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members are invited to note the composition of the reconstituted Council.

**Family Council Secretariat
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