

MNA Nelson Moura 02 Mar 2018

## Macau | Municipal body public consultation report without clear data on opposing views

The Macau government revealed this Friday the final report on the public consultation conducted on the future municipal body without political power to be created without providing clear data on how many residents opposed the direct appointment of its officials



Macau (MNA) – This Friday, the Macau government revealed the final report on the public consultation conducted on the future municipal body to be created, without providing exact data on the opinions submitted that expressed opposition to the direct appointment of the new department officials.

In October of last year, the Macau SAR Government announced its intention to dissolve the current Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and transfer the functions under its jurisdiction to a new department with no effective political power, by January 2019.

The operations of the new municipal department will be managed by two councils, of which all 33 members will be directly appointed by the Chief Executive.

The consultation report states that most of the opinions gathered agreed that the new municipal body shouldn't have any political power, and that it should provide consultancy services to the Macau government.

A summary of the positions against the changes is provided, however the report does not provide the exact percentage or number of resident opinions that were opposed to the changes.

The report was made available online at exactly the same time a press conference by the Chief Executive was held to inform that the Executive Council had finished its discussions, announcing that the proposed law is finished and will be submitted for evaluation at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

When asked for exact numbers, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) Director, Kou Peng Kuan, stated more than 1,600 opinions had been collected, with half being about the organisation of the new body and with some being about the direct appointment of its officials.

However, the report only provides information on the three live public consultation sessions that were conducted on the proposal for residents and associations in November of last year, with the report indicating that 665 people took part in the sessions but only 80 presented their opinions.



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"We haven't yet classified all the opinions. Most opinions say the creation of this municipal body without political power has to follow the Macau Basic Law. Direct election of its members goes against the Basic Law," he added.

The Director added that several analyses were conducted and the opinion of the Chinese central government was sought before finalising the law proposal, with the report including "all society opinions, being in favor or not".

When asked why the public consultation report was provided to the CE Executive Council before being released to the public, Mr Kou said that according to regulations the government has a 180-day period after the consultation is concluded to provide the report.

The SAFP Director admitted there had only been one previous occasion when a public consultation report was provided to the CE before being made public, without specifying which case he was referring to.

The law proposal will now be sent for evaluation at the Legislative Assembly (AL).




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