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A futile Education Department exercise

THE re-demarcation of educational areas to coincide with the city districts in the Kowloon region with effect from January 1 serves no real purpose except to create more senior education officers posts.

It is apparent that the division of various city districts is very much based on the number of inhabitants each CDO has to serve. However the duty of a senior education officer or his deputies is to look after the schools inside his districts.

A check with my *Hongkong Streets and Places Vol 2* on schools reveals that most of the secondary schools are found to be clustered rather than evenly distributed. Its distribution pattern is highly sporadic and the correlation co-efficient between school and population in different city districts varies considerably.

For example, Kowloon Tong with a fairly

low population density has a large number of schools.

I see no evidence how the re-demarcation would serve the schools better except to raise the number of SEO to schools ratio since there has been no major increase in the number of schools in the Kowloon urban area.

Problems in schools such as the increasing number of student triad members, the flotation-class system, low teacher-to-student ratio and many others cannot be solved by this re-demarcation exercise.

It is high time we looked at staff productivity and efficiency in the Education Department rather than another re-demarcation exercise in the New Territories or Hongkong region.

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