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THE PUBLIC

5,500 opinions include bizarre

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Democratic Party chairman Martin Lee Chu-ming may be a controversial figure, but he does not usually inspire demands for his execution.

But that was the view of one member of the public who submitted his views on the civil rights consultation paper.

The person wrote: "Hurrah! Mr Tung! ... I want to shoot dead Martin Lee ..."

Another individual responded via the Internet: "I think this is a very good document. I think the restrictions should be tightened especially for that so-called Democratic Party.

"Their action is well over the tolerance of society."

Other supporting comments included a group of Primary Four students who wrote, "Dear grandpa Tung, we support the proposals in the hope that Hong Kong would be more stable ..."

A substantial amount of people supporting the proposal came from pro-Beijing groups linked to Fujian province.

A submission rejecting the proposal said: "I feel that the terms restricting the public procession and the overseas donations to political bodies are absolute nonsense."

The more than 5,000 submissions have been released in 10 volumes for public inspection at the Chief Executive-designate's Office.

According to Michael Suen of the Chief Executive-designate's office, public opinion was divided on the proposals.

Mr Suen described the 5,507 submissions received as half and half.

"They didn't come under clear categories of for or against," he said.

"Some were for the principle and some were against it. And that is why we are making them public for you to read," Mr Suen added.

"We should not quantify the 'for' and 'against'. We have to judge the rationale behind them and whether we have satisfied the demand of the majority of people."

He added that the amendments were based on public opinion.