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## Are our opinions heeded?

HOW much does the Government heed public opinion.

Certainly government officials will say all opinions are welcome and will receive full attention. However, experience shows this is not so.

The green light for the Kowloon Motor Bus Company's fare increase application is only a recent example whereby the public was taken by surprise by the "sudden" announcement.

There have been many other occasions where public opinion has simply been neglected.

Two examples are the closure by the Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Company of its route between Mei Foo Sun Chuen and Central and the increase in electricity charges by both power companies.

This latter action took place after more than 200,000 people had signed their names to a petition against the raise.

In face of such evidence, I really do not know how public opinion is rated by our Government.

I feel that in order to ensure our voices are heard, seats for public representatives must be included in the special committees which deal with various aspects of the public interest.

If the Government is really prepared to listen to public opinion, here is a good chance for them to show us their willingness: The education report by a team of experts was made public on May 6. In this report, many of the observations, analysis and comments are very objective and positive and are of benefit to the Hongkong people.

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