

Show all on plans for HQ, government told

Legislators discuss calls for public to have say on Tamar

May Chan

Legislators yesterday passed two motions calling for the release of all documents prepared since 1990 on the expansion, relocation or reconstruction of the government headquarters.

The move came as legislators responded with scepticism to repeated government denials of the existence of a secret report saying the headquarters could be redeveloped on its present site instead of moving to Tamar.

The separate motions were moved by Kwok Ka-ki and Albert Chan Wai-yip at a meeting of the subcommittee to review planning for the Central waterfront.

Democratic Party leader Lee Wing-tat pressed for information about the report, said to have stated that the government's office needs could be met by renovating the Central Government Offices and using the maximum allowed density for the Murray Building.

"The key point is that Jose Lei, former director of architectural services, confirmed the existence of such a plan," said Mr Lee, citing a report on Monday in the *South China Morning Post*. "I have known Mr Lei for years, and he is not the type of person who would lie."

Susan Mak Lok Suet-ling, deputy director of administration, denied that such a plan existed. She reiterated the government statement that it had been looking into options for coping with the demand for office space in the Central Government Offices and Murray Buildings since the early 1990s.

Legislator Choy So-yuk, of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, urged the government to fully review its proposal to move the government headquarters to Tamar.

The meeting also discussed submissions from more than 20 individuals and groups on the Tamar development. All submissions – among them those from Central and Western District Council, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and harbour activist groups – demanded more public participation in deciding the overall design and land use of the Tamar site.