



validity of nomination by the Returning Officers in accordance with the law. The Returning Officers have the duty as well as power to make those decisions according to the relevant electoral laws.

Regarding a Returning Officer's decision that the nomination of a candidate was invalid as he did not comply with section 34(1)(b) of the District Councils Ordinance, the HKSAR Government agrees to and supports the decision by the Returning Officer. The candidate cannot possibly comply with the requirements of the relevant electoral laws, since advocating or promoting "self-determination" is contrary to the content of the declaration that the law requires a candidate to make to uphold the Basic Law and pledge allegiance to the HKSAR.

Decisions made by the Returning Officers aim to ensure that the DC election is held in strict accordance with the Basic Law and other applicable laws in an open, honest and fair manner. There is no question of any political censorship, restriction of the freedom of speech or deprivation of the right to stand for elections as alleged by some members of the community.