Chapter 8
Public Views on Proposed Powers of the Regulatory Authority

What We Consulted the Public on

8.1 In Chapter 10 of the Consultation Document, we consulted the public on the powers to be vested on the regulatory authority/ the Government under the new regulatory regime. The regulatory authority/ the Government should be empowered to –

(a) issue and amend regulations/ codes of practice;

(b) inspect, collect and publish relevant information;

(c) suspend a facility/ service/ use of equipment; and

(d) appoint advisory committees, devise, review and update the scope and standards of regulation for facilities providing high-risk medical procedures.

Appropriate regulatory powers were necessary to ensure proper oversight on regulated PHFs to safeguard the safety and interest of the public.

How the Public Responded

8.2 There was broad support for the proposal. The telephone survey revealed that a vast majority of respondents (89.7%) strongly agreed or agreed with enhancing the statutory powers of the authority concerned to issue regulations and codes of practice, and to initiate prosecutions or impose penalties against those who had violated these regulations or codes of practice. Only a very small percentage (1.5%) strongly disagreed or disagreed. Similarly, a clear majority of respondents (86.6%) under the telephone survey strongly agreed or agreed with enhancing the statutory powers of the authority concerned to issue orders to cease the operation of facilities, instruments or services which posed risk to patients' safety. Only a very small percentage (1.9%) strongly disagreed or disagreed.

8.3 There were views opining that the regulatory authority should take proactive actions in administering and supervising PHFs' compliance with the regulatory aspects proposed. It was also suggested that the regulatory authority should be empowered to conduct public education and publicity programmes on the regulation of PHFs and rights of consumers.