

**Advisory Guidelines on Matters of Ethics
in relation to the conduct of Members of
the Legislative Council of
the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
in their capacity as such**

*(Issued by the Committee on Members' Interests under
Rule 73(1)(d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council)*

I. General Standards

- (1) (a) A Member should ensure that his conduct must not be such as to bring discredit upon the Legislative Council ("the Council").
- (b) A Member should conduct himself in such a way as not to place himself in a position which may be contrary to the generally assumed standard of conduct expected of a Member of the Council. When deciding whether to engage in activities of a commercial nature such as advertisement activities, Members should accord due consideration as to whether the nature and contents of such activities might be regarded as not in keeping with the position or prestige of a Member of the Council and thereby bringing discredit upon the Council.
- (2) A Member should adhere to the spirit and the letter of any rules or regulations made by the Council, its committees or subcommittees, or the President for the regulation of the practice and procedure of the Council, its committees and subcommittees, or Members' behaviour in their conduct of the business of the Council.

II. Specific Standards

- (3) In accordance with Rule 84 —
 - (a) A Member shall not vote upon any question, whether in the Council or

in any committee or subcommittee, in which he has a direct pecuniary interest except where his interest is in common with the rest of the population of Hong Kong or a sector thereof or his vote is given on a matter of Government policy. Where there is such a direct pecuniary interest on a question to be voted on in the Council or a committee of the whole Council, the Member concerned shall withdraw therefrom when the vote is taken.

- (b) A Member shall not move any motion or amendment relating to a matter in which he has a pecuniary interest, whether direct or indirect, or speak on any such matter, whether in the Council or in any committee or subcommittee, without disclosing the nature of that interest.
 - (c) A Member speaking in any debate or proceedings of the Council or any committee or subcommittee shall declare any direct pecuniary interests which he has in the matter.
- (4) In accordance with Rule 83 and guidance notes issued by the Committee on Members' Interests, a Member shall register particulars of registrable interests listed below:—
- (a) remunerated directorships of companies, public or private;
 - (b) remunerated employments, offices, trades, professions or vocations;
 - (c) the names of clients when the interests referred to above include personal services by the Member which arise out of or are related in any manner to his membership of the Council;
 - (d) (i) all donations, as a candidate in the Legislative Council election in which the Member was elected as a Member of the Council, received by the Member or any person on his behalf for the purpose of meeting the Member's election expenses in the election; or
 - (ii) financial sponsorships, as a Member of the Council, by any person or organization, stating whether any such sponsorships include any payment or any material benefit or advantage to the Member or his spouse, whether direct or indirect;

- (e) overseas visits made by the Member or his spouse relating to or arising out of membership of the Council where the cost of any such visit has not been wholly borne by the Member or public funds;
 - (f) any payments or any material benefits or advantages received by the Member or his spouse arising out of his membership of the Council from or on behalf of:
 - (i) any government or organization of a place outside Hong Kong; or
 - (ii) any person who is not a Hong Kong permanent resident;
 - (g) land and property;
 - (h) the names of companies or other bodies in which the Member has, to his knowledge, either himself or with or on behalf of his spouse or infant children, a beneficial interest in shareholdings of a nominal value greater than one-hundredth of the issued share capital.
- (5) A Member should not, in his capacity as such, seek to influence another person to further the Member's private interest.
- (6) (a) A Member should not knowingly take advantage of, or benefit from, information that is obtained in his capacity as a Member of the Council and which is not generally available to the public.
- (b) A Member should ask for information only about matters of public interest and should not seek information for private or personal interest.
- (7) A Member should not use any part of his Operating Expenses Reimbursement or District Office Allowance for purposes other than those in connection with the business of the Council.

29 April 1999