

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)91/00-01

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Legislative Council
Panel on Public Service

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 10 October 2000, at 12:45 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon HUI Cheung-ching
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP

Member absent : Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Clerk in attendance : Miss Salumi CHAN
Chief Assistant Secretary (1)5

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr FU Ping-hong
Senior Assistant Secretary (1)7

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman
(LC Paper No. CB(1)11/00-01 - Appendices III and IV)

Election of Chairman

In accordance with the election procedure set out in Appendix IV of the House Rules, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, being the Member with the highest precedence among members of the Panel on Public Service, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel for the 2000-2001 session. He invited nominations for chairmanship of the Panel.

2. Mr CHAN Kwok-keung nominated Mr TAM Yiu-chung and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong seconded the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan declared that Mr TAM Yiu-chung was elected Chairman of the Panel.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. Mr TAM Yiu-chung took the chair and presided over the election of the Deputy Chairman of the Panel. He invited nominations from among the members.

4. Mr CHAN Kwok-keung nominated Miss LI Fung-ying. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong seconded the nomination.

5. As there were no other nominations, the Chairman declared that Miss LI Fung-ying was elected Deputy Chairman of the Panel.

II. Schedule of regular meetings for the 2000-2001 session

6. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel be held at 10:45 am on the third Monday of each month for the 2000-2001 session. Members also agreed that the regular meetings for October 2000 and April 2001 be rescheduled, as a number of briefing sessions on the Chief Executive's Policy Address would be held on the third Monday of October 2000, and the third Monday of April 2001 would be a public holiday.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

7. The Chairman invited members to refer to the "List of issues to be considered" tabled at the meeting. The list contained two items proposed by the Administration for discussion at the Panel meeting to be held in November 2000.

8. On the second item of the list, members noted that about 11 000 staff had applied for retirement under the Voluntary Retirement (VR) scheme and that the Administration planned to seek supplementary provisions from the Finance Committee (FC) in early December 2000. Members expressed concern about the impact of the VR scheme on the civil service and considered that the issue should be discussed in depth at Panel meetings before it was submitted to the FC.

9. After deliberations, members agreed that the two items proposed by the Administration be discussed at the next meeting to be held on Monday, 30 October 2000 at 10:45 am, and that if necessary the item relating to the VR scheme be further discussed at the regular meeting for November 2000. As directed by the Chairman, the Clerk would draw up a list of members' points of concern on the VR scheme. The Administration would be required to address the points in the discussion paper for the item.

(Post-meeting note: A list of "Members' points of concern on the Civil Service Voluntary Retirement Scheme", as attached in the Appendix, was forwarded to the Secretary for the Civil Service in the afternoon of 10 October 2000.)

IV. Any other business

10. The Chairman reminded members that the briefing session by the Secretary for the Civil Service on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2000 would be held on Monday, 16 October 2000 from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm, in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building.

11. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:05 pm.

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Members' points of concern on the Civil Service Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1. Impact of the Voluntary Retirement (VR) scheme on the establishment and strength of the civil service as a whole
 - (a) According to the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech delivered on 8 March 2000, the Administration aimed to reduce the civil service establishment by 10 000 over the period from 2000-01 to 2002-03. It seems that the favourable response to the VR scheme (about 11 000 applications) was not anticipated by the Administration. What is the Administration's comment on this point?
 - (b) According to the Administration's press release issued on 7 October 2000, ".....most of the applications are likely to be supported and staff will be informed of the result of their applications in December. Staff whose applications are approved will leave in an orderly manner over a year or more," How will the Administration ensure that the 11 000 staff concerned will leave in an orderly manner? When will the Administration finalize the schedule of retirement of the staff concerned?
 - (c) Is there any anticipated staff shortage problem after the retirement of the staff concerned? How will the Administration deal with the problem? Will the Administration speed up its plan for privatization of government departments or contracting out of public services?
 - (d) Is there any anticipated staff succession problem after the retirement of the staff concerned? What are the grades involved? How will the Administration deal with the problem?
2. Impact of the VR scheme on the establishment and strength of individual government departments
 - (a) What is the impact of the VR scheme on the three departments with the largest number of VR-takers?
 - (b) What are the details of the Administration's plan for staff redeployment and retraining? How many government departments will be involved?
3. Impact of the VR scheme on the morale of the civil service
 - (a) What is the Administration's assessment of the impact of the VR scheme on the morale of the civil service? How will the Administration deal with the situation?
4. Impact of the VR scheme on the quality of public services
 - (a) How will the Administration ensure that the quality of public services could be maintained after the reduction in the size of the civil service?