

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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Tel : 2869 9220

Date : 9 February 2002

From : Clerk to the Finance Committee

To : Members of the Finance Committee

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**Special Finance Committee (FC) meetings  
to examine the Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

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Attached please find a letter from the Administration proposing certain new arrangements for this year's special FC meetings and the related briefing by the Financial Secretary (FS) and the Secretary for the Treasury (S for Tsy).

2. With the concurrence of Dr Philip WONG, FC Chairman, the arrangements for this year's special FC meetings and the related briefing have been re-scheduled as follows :

- (a) A briefing session will be held in **the morning of 7 March 2002** (exact time to be advised later) to enable FS and S for Tsy to brief members on the Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03 and the Budget-related documents released on 6 March 2002; and
- (b) The special FC meetings will be postponed to the following dates to allow time for members to peruse the Draft Estimates of Expenditure :

**Monday, 25 March 2002 (whole day)**

**Tuesday, 26 March 2002 (whole day)**

**Wednesday, 27 March 2002 (whole day)**

3. Members will be informed of the programme and detailed arrangements for the special FC meetings and related briefings for FC members and their personal assistants in due course.

(Ms Pauline NG)  
Clerk to the Finance Committee

Encl.

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8 February 2002

Ms Pauline Ng  
Clerk to Finance Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building,  
8 Jackson Road,  
Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Ms Ng,

### **New Arrangements for Gazetting of the Appropriation Bill**

I write to advise the new arrangements this year for the gazetting of the Appropriation Bill and the consequential changes relating to the Special Finance Committee meetings.

We used to gazette the Appropriation Bill on a Friday the week before the Financial Secretary announces his Budget. The Secretary for the Treasury used to brief the Finance Committee on that same Friday on the expenditure part of the Budget only. There have been comments that this practice is less than ideal because Members and the public would be considering the expenditure side for a few days without benefit of the other essential information that is only available later in the Budget. Therefore, we would like try a new arrangement for 2002-03 to see whether it would be an improvement.

The Appropriation Bill will be gazetted on the day the Financial Secretary announces his Budget, i.e. on Wednesday 6 March 2002. We shall distribute to Finance Committee Members copies of the Draft Estimates and other Budget related documents on the same day. We propose that the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for the Treasury then brief the Finance Committee on the Budget in the morning of Thursday 7 March 2002.

In order that Finance Committee Members have sufficient time for examining the Draft Estimates and raising questions as in the past, we propose to re-schedule the Special Finance Committee meetings to the three full days from Monday 25 March to Wednesday 27 March 2002.

We will be happy to discuss with you the details and necessary adjustments as a result of these new arrangements.

Yours truly,

(K K Lam)  
for Secretary for the Treasury