

LegCo Panel on Education

**Subcommittee on the Management-Initiated Retirement Scheme (MIRS)
of the Hong Kong Institute of Education**

**Views of the Subcommittee Chairman and three members
expressed at the press briefing held on 12 July 2002**

| Chairman/members | Views |
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| Hon SZETO Wah | <p>(1) The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) was haughty. Apart from repeatedly declining the Subcommittee's invitations to attend its meeting, HKIEd also refused to provide relevant reports to the Subcommittee directly;</p> <p>(2) In the interim report of its Management-Initiated Retirement Scheme Working Group (the Working Group) issued in February, HKIEd proposed seven options for assisting the dismissed teachers to seek other employment. However, HKIEd refused to discuss with the Subcommittee about the progress of the incident and kept on deferring the submission of the Working Group's final report to the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) and the University Grants Committee (UGC);</p> <p>(3) HKIEd had advised that the Working Group's final report would be submitted to its Council around 30 May 2002, but it said later that the final report would be presented at the Council meeting scheduled for 27 June 2002. Eventually, HKIEd informed the Subcommittee that the final report could not be submitted to the UGC and EMB until the end of July, although it had been considered by the Council;</p> <p>(4) As the semester was over, the dismissed teachers had to leave the Institute, but some of them were still awaiting further arrangements by HKIEd. Hence it was doubted whether the Institute was deliberately procrastinating for a de facto situation before it reported the progress of the incident to the Subcommittee;</p> |

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| <p>Hon SZETO Wah (con't)</p> | <p>(5) Taking the incident of School of Law of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) as an example, it was considered that the two institutions, both under the UGC, adopted different attitudes towards the invitation made by the Legislative Council (LegCo);</p> <p>(6) The Subcommittee was very dissatisfied and expressed grave dismay at the attitude of the HKIED Council. It considered that HKIED, with its duty to explain the incident to LegCo and the public, must not be evasive any more;</p> <p>(7) It must be emphasised that LegCo was not interfering with the autonomy and administration of the institute; it only hoped to understand more about HKIED's operation in the wake of the complaints received; and</p> <p>(8) LegCo reserved the right to pursue the issue in relation to HKIED's delay in arranging for the employment of the dismissed teachers.</p> |
| <p>Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong</p> | <p>(1) Expressed grave dismay at the HKIED Council;</p> <p>(2) Seriously queried the governance ability of the HKIED Council. As so far the Council had not given any account of the incident and the reasons for its failure to arrange for the employment of the dismissed teacher, its ability to manage the Institute was doubted; and</p> <p>(3) Taking the incident of School of Law of the CityU as an example, CityU was regarded as more cooperative whereas HKIED was haughty.</p> |
| <p>Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung</p> | <p>(1) HKIED not only showed a haughty attitude, but also disrespected LegCo and the community which concerned about the incident. HKIED had to account for the incident;</p> <p>(2) The MIRS, which involved many teachers who might lose their jobs, would definitely arouse the concern of the community. As a public organization, HKIED must be accountable to the general public; and</p> |

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| Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (con't) | (3) Queried and expressed dismay at the transparency of the HKIED Council and its operation. |
| Hon WONG Sing-chi | (1) The fact that HKIED showed no respects for LegCo was tantamount to disrespecting the general public and the community; (2) As HKIED was an institute for nurturing prospective teachers, its haughty attitude caused people to query its ability to nurture teachers; and (3) Gravely reproached HKIED and hoped that it could respect the effort of LegCo and explained expeditiously the progress of the incident and how it would be handled. |