

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1437/02-03

Ref : CB2/H/5

House Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the 18th meeting
held in the Legislative Council Chamber
at 3:36 pm on Friday, 7 March 2003**

Members present :

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon HUI Cheung-ching, JP
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon SZETO Wah
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
Hon LAU Ping-cheung
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Members absent :

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung, BBS
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP

Clerk in attendance :

Mrs Justina LAM Clerk to the House Committee

Staff in attendance :

Mr Ricky C C FUNG, JP	Secretary General
Mr Jimmy MA, JP	Legal Adviser
Mr LAW Kam-sang, JP	Deputy Secretary General

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Ray CHAN	Assistant Secretary General 3
Mr LEE Yu-sung	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr Arthur CHEUNG	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mrs Vivian KAM	Principal Assistant Secretary (Complaints)
Miss Kathleen LAU	Chief Public Information Officer
Mrs Constance LI	Chief Assistant Secretary (2)5
Mrs Betty LEUNG	Chief Assistant Secretary (3)1
Miss Kitty CHENG	Assistant Legal Adviser 5
Mr KAU Kin-wah	Assistant Legal Adviser 6
Miss Monna LAI	Assistant Legal Adviser 7
Miss Betty MA	Senior Assistant Secretary (2)1

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I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 17th meeting held on 28 February 2003

(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1359/02-03)

The minutes were confirmed.

II. Matters arising

(a) Report by the Chairman on her meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)

(Director of Administration's letter dated 4 March 2003 on "Government's Legislative Programme for 2002-03: An Update" issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1394/02-03 dated 5 March 2003)

Consultation with Members on the Budget

2. The Chairman informed Members that she had advised CS that Ms Emily LAU had enquired why the Chief Executive (CE) had selectively met with some Members, and not others, to discuss the Budget.

3. The Chairman said that CS had responded that CE listened to Members' views on an on-going basis and that CE was not selective in meeting with Members. CS had pointed out that the Budget had already been prepared when the meetings took place. CS would, nonetheless, convey to CE the point raised by Ms LAU.

4. Ms Emily LAU requested the Chairman to ask CS what CE's response was.

Population policy

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5. The Chairman said that she had advised CS of Members' agreement that the Panel on Manpower should take the lead in discussing the proposed levy for the employment of foreign domestic helpers.

6. The Chairman further said that CS had indicated that individual Directors of Bureaux would follow up proposals within their respective policy areas, and the proposals could be dealt with by the relevant Panels. Proposals which involved more than one Bureau could be discussed at joint Panel meetings.

7. Miss Margaret NG said that she had no strong views as to which Panel should take the lead in discussing the proposed levy for employment of foreign domestic helpers, although she did not think that the proposed levy was a manpower issue. Miss NG further said that her concern was whether it was proper and legally in order to impose a levy of \$400 for the employment of foreign domestic helpers, which was actually a new kind of tax, under the Employees Retraining Ordinance. Miss NG asked whether CS considered it appropriate for the Panel on Manpower to follow up the matter.

8. The Chairman responded that she did not specifically seek CS's view as the House Committee had taken a decision at the last meeting that the Panel on Manpower should take the lead in discussing the matter.

9. Assistant Secretary General (ASG) 2 added that at the last House Committee meeting, Miss NG had requested the Legal Adviser to provide a written opinion on whether it was legally in order for the levy to be imposed under the Employees Retraining Ordinance.

10. The Chairman advised that the Panel on Manpower would hold a special meeting on 12 March 2003 to discuss the review of the policy on foreign domestic helpers. If the Administration's response to concerns raised by Members on the issue was not satisfactory, the House Committee could further consider how the matter should be followed up in another forum.

Government Legislative Programme

11. The Chairman said that CS had informed her that the Administration would let Members have the Government Legislative Programme for the second half of the session as soon as possible. She had commented that the work progress of the Council in this respect had so far been smooth.

12. The Chairman added that the Director of Administration (D of Adm) had subsequently provided an update on the Government Legislative Programme which was issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1394/02-03 dated 4 March 2003.

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13. Miss Margaret NG said that the Administration should be asked to explain why the Building Management (Amendment) Bill and the Independent Police Complaints Council Bill, which appeared on the list provided to Members in October 2002, were not on the updated Legislative Programme. The Chairman said that she would raise this with CS.

(b) **Industrial Training (Construction Industry) (Amendment) Bill 2001**

(Director of Administration's letter dated 27 February 2003 to the Chairman of the House Committee issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1340/02-03 dated 27 February 2003)
(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1390/02-03)

14. The Chairman said that at the last meeting on 28 February 2003, Members agreed to defer to this meeting the discussion on D of Adm's letter dated 27 February 2003. The Chairman added that the Administration had requested that the Industrial Training (Construction Industry) (Amendment) Bill 2001 and the related regulation to be made under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance be held in abeyance.

15. The Chairman further said that to facilitate Members' consideration, the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat had prepared a background brief which provided a summary of past discussions on the Bill and the proposed regulation. The Chairman added that the Secretary for Education and Manpower had also called her before the meeting to let her know that the Administration was consulting the trade unions and employer associations on its plan to review the situation.

16. Referring to paragraph 15 of the background brief, the Chairman invited Members' views on whether the Administration should be asked to first consult the Panel on Manpower on its proposal to hold the proposed regulation in abeyance.

17. Mr Andrew CHENG expressed agreement that the Administration should first consult the Panel on Manpower on its proposal. Mr CHENG said that when the Panel on Manpower was briefed on the proposed regulation at its meeting on 15 February 2001, members requested the Administration to provide additional information before the introduction of the proposed regulation. Although the Administration had subsequently provided the information, it did not let the Panel know whether or not the proposed regulation would be introduced. Mr CHENG reiterated that the Administration should first explain to the Panel why the proposed regulation should be held in abeyance.

18. Ir Dr Raymond HO agreed that the Panel on Manpower should first

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discuss the matter, as the Administration was consulting the trade unions and employer associations on its plan to review the situation.

19. Mr Martin LEE also expressed agreement that the Administration should first consult the Panel on Manpower on its proposal. Mr LEE asked whether there had been past cases where after a Government bill was introduced into LegCo, the Administration proposed, on its own initiative, that the bill be held in abeyance.

20. The Chairman said that there had been past cases where the House Committee agreed to hold a certain bill in abeyance on the recommendation of the relevant Bills Committee. One recent example was the Human Organ Transplant (Amendment) Bill 2001. However, as far as she could recall, this was the first time that the Administration had recommended that a bill, which was not being studied by a Bills Committee, be held in abeyance.

21. The Legal Adviser said that the Industrial Training (Construction Industry) (Amendment) Bill 2001 was referred to the House Committee after its introduction into LegCo on 14 March 2001, in accordance with Rule 54(4) of the Rules of Procedure. The Legal Adviser further said that Members agreed at the House Committee meeting on 16 March 2001 to defer a decision on the Bill, pending the introduction of the related regulation to be made. As almost two years had passed and the related regulation had still not been introduced, Members agreed at the meeting on 21 February 2003 that the matter should be raised with CS. He added that D of Adm's letter was in response to the Chairman raising the matter with CS.

22. Ms Cyd HO said that the Panel on Manpower should first discuss the Administration's proposal. Ms HO further said that once a decision had been made to implement a policy, the Administration should proceed to introduce the necessary legislative proposal. If it was necessary to delay the introduction of the proposal, the Administration should properly explain the reasons to Members in an appropriate forum, and not resort to lobbying for support behind the scene.

23. Members agreed that a decision on the Industrial Training (Construction Industry) (Amendment) Bill 2001 be deferred, pending the discussion of the Panel on Manpower with the Administration on its proposal to hold the proposed regulation to be made under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance in abeyance.

III. Business arising from previous Council meetings

Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 28 February 2003 and tabled in Council on 5 March 2003

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(LC Paper No. LS 69/02-03)

24. The Legal Adviser said that seven items of subsidiary legislation were gazetted on 28 February 2003 and tabled in Council on 5 March 2003.

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25. The Legal Adviser explained that the Massage Establishments (Amendment) Regulation 2003 sought to amend Schedule 1 to the Massage Establishments Ordinance to provide the renewal of a licence for either a period of 12 months or 24 months, and Schedule 2 to the Ordinance to reduce the fee for the renewal of a licence for a period of 12 months or 24 months to \$2,730.

26. The Legal Adviser said that the Amendment Regulation would come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Security by notice published in the Gazette. He added that it was the Administration's intention that the Amendment Regulation and section 4 of the Massage Establishments Ordinance would take effect at the same time.

27. Regarding the Probate and Administration Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order 2003, the Legal Adviser said that the Order was made by CE in Council under section 49A(1) of the Ordinance to designate New Zealand as one of the countries for the purpose of recognition and enforcement of grants of probate and letters of administration between Hong Kong and countries or places outside Hong Kong.

28. As regards the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) (Commencement) Notice 2003, the Chinese Medicines Regulation (Cap. 549 sub. leg.) (Commencement) Notice 2003, the Chinese Medicine (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 549 sub. leg.) (Commencement) Notice 2003 and the Chinese Medicines Traders (Regulatory) Regulation (Cap. 549 sub. leg.) (Commencement) Notice 2003, the Legal Adviser explained that the relevant provisions provided for the regulatory framework for Chinese medicines under which all wholesalers and retailers of Chinese herbal medicines as well as wholesalers and manufacturers of proprietary Chinese medicines would be subject to licensing control. The Legal Adviser further explained that all proprietary Chinese medicines manufactured or offered for sale in Hong Kong had to be individually registered with the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong, having regard to the safety, quality and efficacy of the medicines concerned.

29. The Legal Adviser pointed out that the regulations had been examined by a subcommittee. The Administration had undertaken to include in the practising guidelines for Chinese medicine traders examples illustrating the application of the licensing/registration condition that "the premises are in all respects suitable" referred to in sections 3(e), 4(d), 5(g) and 6(c) of the Chinese Medicine Regulation. The Legal Adviser added that the Administration had recently confirmed to the Secretariat that the relevant information had been included in the guidelines.

30. The Legal Adviser said that by these commencement notices, the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (SHWF) appointed 30 April 2003 as

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the date on which the relevant provisions in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance and the three Regulations would come into effect.

31. On the Shipping and Port Control Regulations (Amendment of Third and Seventh Schedules) Notice 2002 (L.N. 123 of 2002) (Commencement) Notice 2003, the Legal Adviser said that the Director of Marine appointed 1 March 2003 as the day on which the Notice, which re-aligned the existing Northern Fairway, the Western Quarantine Anchorage and the Western Dangerous Goods Anchorage for the increased safety of vessels in using the Fairway or Anchorages, would come into operation.

32. Members did not raise any queries on these items of subsidiary legislation.

33. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for amending these items of subsidiary legislation was 2 April 2003, or 30 April 2003 if extended by resolution.

IV. Further business for the Council meeting on 12 March 2003

(a) Questions

(LC Paper No. CB(3) 440/02-03)

34. The Chairman said that three Members had replaced their questions.

(b) Bills - resumption of debate on Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading

(i) Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2001

(ii) Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2001

35. The Chairman said that the relevant Bills Committees reported to the House Committee at the last meeting on 28 February 2003, and Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debates on the above two Bills.

V. Business for the Council meeting on 19 March 2003

(a) Questions

(LC Paper No. CB(3) 441/02-03)

36. The Chairman said that 20 questions (six oral and 14 written) had been scheduled for the Council meeting on 19 March 2003.

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(b) **Bills - First Reading and moving of Second Reading**

(i) **Law Amendment and Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2003**

(ii) **Construction Workers Registration Bill**

37. The Chairman said that the above two Bills would be introduced into the Council on 19 March 2003 and considered by the House Committee on 21 March 2003.

(c) **Bills - resumption of debate on Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading**

(i) **Housing (Amendment) Bill 2002**

38. The Chairman said that the Bills Committee reported to the House Committee at the last meeting on 28 February 2003, and Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the above Bill.

(ii) **Bills of Exchange (Amendment) Bill 2003**

39. The Chairman said that at the House Committee meeting on 21 February 2003, Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the above Bill.

(d) **Government motions**

(i) **Proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance relating to:**

— **the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Regulation 2003; and**

— **the Poisons List (Amendment) Regulation 2003**

(Wording of the proposed resolution issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 425/02-03 dated 27 February 2003.)
(*LC Paper No. LS 66/02-03*)

40. The Legal Adviser explained that the proposed resolution sought the Council's approval for the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Regulation 2003 and the Poisons List (Amendment) Regulation 2003.

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41. The Legal Adviser further explained that two Amendment Regulations sought to add three new drugs/medicines to part A of the First and Third Schedules to the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations and part A of Part I of the Poisons List. Their addition meant that pharmaceutical products containing any of these three substances must be sold in pharmacies by or under the supervision of a registered pharmacist and in his presence, with the support of prescriptions. The Legal Adviser added that SHWF had provided supplementary information on these three new drugs/medicines in the Annex to the Legal Service Division report.

42. The Legal Adviser further said that the two Amendment Regulations would come into operation on the day when they were published in the Gazette after being approved by LegCo.

43. Members did not raise any objection to SHWF moving the proposed resolution at the Council meeting on 19 March 2003.

(ii) **Proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance**

(Wording of the proposed resolution issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 428/02-03 dated 27 February 2003.)

(*LC Paper No. LS 70/02-03*)

(iii) **Proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour under the Pneumoconiosis (Compensation) Ordinance**

(Wording of the proposed resolution issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 427/02-03 dated 27 February 2003.)

(*LC Paper No. LS 71/02-03*)

44. The Legal Adviser said that the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (SEDL) had given notices to move the above two proposed resolutions to seek the Council's approval to amend the Third Schedule of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (ECO) to increase the amount of the daily rates of medical expenses that an employer has to pay under the Third Schedule, and to amend Part I of the Second Schedule to the Pneumoconiosis (Compensation) Ordinance (PCO) to increase the amount of medical expenses payable under the relevant provisions.

45. The Legal Adviser explained that the Administration proposed to revise the daily rates of medical expenses payable to persons entitled to compensation under ECO and PCO, as the fee structure for public health care services had recently been revised and the new increased fees would be effective from 1 April 2003. The Legal Adviser pointed out that the Administration intended to appoint 1 April 2003 as the date on which the

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amendments would come into operation.

46. The Legal Adviser informed Members that when the Panel on Manpower was briefed on the proposed amendments on 20 February 2003, some members had expressed concern about the implications of the proposals on the premium level of employees' compensation insurance policies. The Legal Adviser added that the Administration had advised members that details of changes to the premium level of employees' compensation insurance policies had yet to be worked out.

47. The Chairman said that as the proposals would affect a large number of employers and employees, Members might wish to examine the implications of the proposals on the premium level of employees' compensation insurance policies.

48. The Chairman proposed that a subcommittee be formed to study the two proposed resolutions. Members agreed. The following Members agreed to join : Mr Kenneth TING, Dr LAW Chi-kwong, Mr Henry WU and Mr Tommy CHEUNG.

49. The Chairman said that SEDL would be asked to withdraw his notices for moving the two proposed resolutions at the Council meeting on 19 March 2003.

(iv) Proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury under the Public Finance Ordinance

(Wording of the proposed resolution issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 426/02-03 dated 27 February 2003.)

(LC Paper No. LS 64/02-03)

50. The Legal Adviser said that the proposed resolution was made in accordance with section 7(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance. The purpose of the proposed resolution was to seek funds on account to enable the Government to carry on existing services between the start of the financial year on 1 April 2003 and the enactment of the Appropriation Ordinance. The Legal Adviser further said that the aggregate total sum sought under all heads was fixed at \$114,691,186,000 this year.

51. The Legal Adviser added that the legal and drafting aspects of the draft resolution were in order.

52. Members did not raise any queries on the proposed resolution.

Budget-related subsidiary legislation

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53. The Chairman referred Members to the letter from the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST) on Budget-related subsidiary legislation which was sent to Members on 6 March 2003 and also tabled at the meeting. The Chairman said that SFST intended to move two proposed resolutions on 19 March 2003 to seek the Council's approval to extend the duty concession for ultra low sulphur diesel for another year ending 31 March 2004, and extend the exemption for electric vehicles from motor vehicles first registration tax for another three years.

54. The Chairman further said that SFST had written to the President requesting that the 12-day notice requirement for the two proposed resolutions be waived. SFST would like to seek the House Committee's support for his request. Ms Miriam LAU said that SFST's request should be supported.

55. Members expressed support for SFST's request for the notice requirement to be waived.

(e) **Members' Bills - resumption of debate on Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading**

Dao Heng Bank Limited (Merger) Bill

56. The Chairman said that at the last House Committee meeting on 28 February 2003, Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the above Bill.

(f) **Members' motions**

(i) **Motion on "Opposing war"**

(Wording of the motion issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 449/02-03 dated 5 March 2003.)

(ii) **Motion on "Small and medium enterprises funding schemes"**

(Wording of the motion issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 450/02-03 dated 5 March 2003.)

57. The Chairman said that the above motions would be moved by Mr CHAN Kwok-keung and Mr HUI Cheung-ching respectively and the wording of the motions had been issued to Members.

58. Referring to Mr CHAN Kwok-keung's motion, Mr Howard YOUNG said that while he was not opposed to the motion, it was rare for Members to hold a debate on a subject matter which was not related to Hong Kong.

59. The Legal Adviser said that as provided for in the Basic Law, the

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powers and functions of LegCo included "to debate any issues concerning public interests".

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60. ASG3 said that the President would give permission for a motion for debate to be put on the Agenda of a Council meeting, if the motion concerned public interests. ASG3 further said that there had been past cases where the Council held debates on motions concerning non-local affairs.

61. Mr Fred LI pointed out that Council held a debate in May 1999 on the motion on "Condemning NATO", following the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia.

62. Mr CHAN Kwok-keung said that his motion concerned public interests as the taking of military actions by the United States against Iraq would increase oil prices and adversely affect Hong Kong's economy.

63. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of amendments, if any, to the motions was Wednesday, 12 March 2003.

VI. Report of Bills Committee and subcommittee

(a) Position report on Bills Committees/subcommittees *(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1372/02-03)*

64. The Chairman said that there were 14 Bills Committees and 10 subcommittees in action as well as two Bills Committees on the waiting list.

65. The Chairman further said that as there would be a vacant slot after the Bills Committee on Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001 had reported under item VI(b) below, the Bills Committee on Foreshore, Sea-bed and Roads (Amendment) Bill 2003 could commence work.

(b) Report of the Bills Committee on Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001

(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1386/02-03)

66. Mr LEUNG Fu-wah reported on behalf of Mr IP Kwok-him, Chairman of the Bills Committee, that the Bills Committee had held 15 meetings with the Administration, and had also considered the views of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (Privacy Commissioner) and other deputations.

67. Mr LEUNG said that members of the Bills Committee had raised various concerns about the Bill, in particular the privacy protection requirements and the use of personal data collected by the authorities. The Administration had undertaken to draw up a code of practice, in consultation with the Privacy Commissioner, to set out the rules on the collection, use of and access to smart identity (ID) card data and the conduct of privacy compliance audit. The

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Administration had also undertaken to provide a copy of the privacy compliance audit report to the Council after the audit was completed.

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68. Mr LEUNG further said that the Administration would propose an amendment to bring the Bill, if passed, into force on 12 May 2003. The Commissioner of Registration would then specify 26 May 2003 as the date on which the Smart Identity Card System (the System) would commence operation. The Administration planned to launch the territory-wide ID card replacement exercise, which would take place by phases, in late July 2003. Mr LEUNG added that Mr James TO had reservations about the Administration's amendment to appoint 12 May 2003 as the commencement date of the Bill.

69. Mr LEUNG said that the Administration had taken on board many of the views and suggestions of members, and would move other amendments to the Bill. Mr James TO had indicated that he would also give notice to move amendments to the Bill, as detailed in paragraph 75 of the Report.

70. Mr LEUNG informed Members that the Bills Committee would visit the Immigration Department on 8 March 2003 to view a demonstration on the prototype of the System to better understand the new work processes under the System.

71. Mr LEUNG added that the Bills Committee supported the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill on 19 March 2003.

72. Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill on 19 March 2003. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of Committee Stage amendments was 10 March 2003.

(c) Report of the Subcommittee on subsidiary legislation relating to Village Representative elections

73. Mr Andrew WONG, Chairman of the Subcommittee, said that to allow more time for the Subcommittee to study the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration of Electors) (Village Representative Election) Regulation and the Village Representative Election (Registration of Electors) (Appeals) Regulation, he would move a motion at the Council meeting on 19 March 2003 to extend the scrutiny period of the two items of subsidiary legislation to 9 and 30 April 2003 respectively. Mr WONG further said that a written report would be provided to the House Committee.

VII. Any other business

74. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

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