

Proposed Research Outline

The System of Chairmanship in Parliamentary Committees in Some Selected Places

1. Scope

1.1 The Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs, at its meeting on 20 January 2003, requested the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) to conduct a research on the system of chairmanship in parliamentary committees in some selected places.

2. Proposed Outline

2.1 Introduction

2.2 A detailed discussion on the system of chairmanship in parliamentary committees, including:

- types and functions of committees;
- the chairman's role in committees;
- the selection method of committee chairmen;
- the allocation of posts of committee chairman; and
- restrictions and conventions on chairmanship in committees.

2.3 Analysis

- A comparison of the various attributes of the system of chairmanship in parliamentary committees

3. Proposed Overseas Places to be Studied

3.1 RLSD proposes to study the following places:

- The United Kingdom (UK);
- New Zealand;
- The Province of Ontario in Canada (Ontario); and
- The State of California in the United States of America (California).

3.2 The UK is chosen because it is a typical parliamentary government, with the executive and the legislature being inseparable. New Zealand is chosen because of its experience in coalition governments with the introduction of a proportional representation election system in 1996. Ontario and California are selected because they can be useful references on local government level. In addition, California has a system of government with the executive and the legislature being two separate branches.

4. Proposed Completion Date

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research by April 2003.