

Committee on Rules of Procedure

List of issues studied during the 2002-2003 Legislative Council Session

(as at 30 June 2003)

Item	Issue	Reference	Progress/Remarks
1	Procedure for debate on the Policy Address	Rule 13 of Rules of Procedure (RoP)	<p>Arrangements based on a “3-day-5-session” format, which were proposed by the Committee on Rules of Procedure (CRoP) and endorsed by the House Committee (HC) at its meeting on 6 December 2002, were used for the debate on the 2003 Policy Address held on 15-17 January 2003.</p> <p>After review of these arrangements, CRoP concluded that they should continue subject to some adjustments being made to a few areas.</p> <p>Subject to CRoP’s further consultation with HC on the Administration’s view on the adjustment to speaking time limit for designated public officers, the adjusted arrangements were endorsed by HC at its meeting on 16 May 2003. The Administration’s view will be discussed at CRoP’s next meeting.</p>

Item	Issue	Reference	Progress/Remarks
2	Future timetable for delivering the Policy Address and the Budget	Articles 62(4) and 73(4) of Basic Law Rules 13(1A) and 67(1) of RoP	CRoP reported on the matter to HC at its meeting on 9 May 2003. HC took over the matter and discussed it with the Administration at its special meeting on 6 June 2003.
3	Allocation of debate slots to Panel chairmen for moving motions with no legislative effect	Rules 14, 14A and 15 of House Rules (HR)	CRoP's proposal of putting in place a procedure for such allocation and its proposed amendments to HR to give effect to the procedure were endorsed by HC at its meeting on 22 November 2002.
4	Consideration of whether it is appropriate for a Member to speak and vote against a motion moved by him at a Council meeting on behalf of a committee of the Council.	Rules 33(1) and 41 of RoP	CRoP recommended that, in respect of a motion which the committee chairman is not in favour of or does not want to move, the mover of the motion can be, but need not be, the chairman, the deputy chairman or another member of the committee. The recommendation was endorsed by HC at its meeting on 6 December 2002.
5	Resumption of Second Reading debates on bills	Rule 54(5) of RoP	The system of consultation required under Rule 54(5) of RoP and the amendment to Rule 54(5) proposed by CRoP were endorsed by HC at its meeting on 11 April 2003. The motion to amend RoP was approved by the Council at its meeting on 7 May 2003. The new consultation system applies to bills which resume Second Reading debates at or after the Council meeting on 28 May 2003.

Item	Issue	Reference	Progress/Remarks
6	Streamlining of procedure for shortening the duration of the division bell.	Rules 47(1)(c), 47(2)(c), 49(4) and 49(6) of RoP	CRoP's recommendation that the existing procedure in this respect should continue was endorsed by HC at its meeting on 16 May 2003.
7	Calling of emergency meetings and status of select committees and bills during the prorogation of the Legislative Council	Article 72(5) of Basic Law Rules 11(4), 15(1) and 78(5) of RoP Sections 6(3) and 11 of the Legislative Council Ordinance	CRoP decided to deliberate the matter further.
8	Consideration of whether CRoP should be chaired by a Member of the Council who is also a Member of the Executive Council (ExCo)	Rule 74 of RoP	CRoP decided not to make a decision on the issue of whether a LegCo Member who is also an ExCo Member may be the Chairman of CRoP. CRoP also agreed that a comprehensive study be conducted on the system of chairmanship of all the committees of LegCo, drawing reference from the experience and practice of other legislatures. The study is being undertaken by the Constitutional Affairs Panel.

Item	Issue	Reference	Progress/Remarks
9	Process of consultation on financial proposals for capital works projects	Rule 22(q) of HR	In response to the request of the Finance Committee (FC) for views, CRoP considers that the consultation arrangements for financial proposals on capital works projects suggested by Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) are not in conflict with any rules in RoP or current arrangements and that the matter should more appropriately be considered by FC and PWSC.
10	Procedure for endorsement of judicial appointment by LegCo under Article 73(7) of the Basic Law	Article 73(7) of Basic Law, Part G of RoP	In response to the request of the Administration of Justice and Legal Services Panel, CRoP offered views on the Panel's proposed procedure in March 2003.

Legislative Council Secretariat

30 June 2003