BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

RESOLUTION

(Under Article 75 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China)

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

RESOLVED that the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region be amended —

(a) in Rule 24 —

(i) in subrule (3), by repealing everything after "reply" and substituting a full stop;

(ii) by adding —

"(3A) Notwithstanding the provision in subrule (3), the President may, if in his opinion an additional question is an important one of public concern, allow a Member to ask that additional question.";

(iii) by adding —

"(5) The reference to "questions" in subrule (3) shall not include a question asked under Rule 26(6) or (6A) (Asking and Answering of Questions).";

(b) in Rule 26 —

(i) by repealing subrule (6) and substituting —

"(6) If a Member is not present to ask his question when that question is reached on the Agenda, the question may with his consent be asked by another Member.";

(ii) by adding —

"(6A) If the President is satisfied that a Member is not present to ask his question and no other Member present has the consent of the Member to ask the question under subrule (6), the President shall call upon the chairman of the House Committee to ask the question.

(6B) In subrule (6A), "the chairman of the House Committee" shall mean –

(a) "the deputy chairman of the House Committee" if the chairman of the House Committee is not present ; or

(b) "the Member present who has the highest precedence in the order of precedence of Members as determined in accordance with Rule 1A (Precedence of Members)" if both the chairman and deputy chairman of the House Committee are not present.";

(iii) by repealing subrule (8) and substituting —

"(8) No question of which notice has been given may be withdrawn, except —

(a) where the question is a question for which a written answer has been sought, the Member who has given notice of such question may withdraw it by giving notice to the Clerk not less than one and a half hours before the meeting at which the question is to be asked; or

(b) where a Member is called by the President to ask his question under subrule (3), he may, with leave of the Council, withdraw the question before the question is asked if there is no dissenting voice, and no debate may arise on the withdrawal of the question.".