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19 December 2006

The Hon Miriam Lau Kin-ye, G.B.S., J.P.
Chairman
House Committee
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miriam,

Legislative Programme 2006-07

On 20 October 2006, I wrote to you attaching a list of bills which the Administration intends to introduce into the Legislative Council in the current legislative session. In response to Members' request, I attach a note setting out the indicative timing for introducing these bills.

The bills to be introduced and the timing for introducing them are subject to change. This notwithstanding, we hope that Members will find the note helpful in planning their work ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elizabeth'.

(Miss Elizabeth Tse)
Director of Administration

Encl.

Legislative Programme 2006-07
(with indicative timing)

On 20 October 2006, the Government informed the Chairman of the House Committee the bills which the Government plans to introduce into the Legislative Council in the 2006-07 legislative session. This note sets out the indicative timing for introducing these bills. The bills to be introduced and the timing indicated below are subject to change in the light of the state of readiness of the bills and changing circumstances.

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	Indicative timing within 2006-07 legislative session
1. Prevention of Bribery (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To subject the Chief Executive to certain offences under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance while taking into account the Chief Executive's special constitutional position. 	Adm Wing	1st half
2. Civil Justice (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend several Ordinances to implement some of the recommendations made in the "Civil Justice Reform Final Report" of Chief Justice's working party. 	Adm Wing	2nd half
3. Mainland Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR Pursuant to Choice of Court Agreements between Parties Concerned signed on 14 July 2006. 	D of J	2nd half

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	Indicative timing within 2006-07 legislative session
4. Domicile Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To simplify the complex and confusing common law rules for determining a person's domicile and to make it easier to ascertain a person's domicile. 	D of J	1st half
5. Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make minor, technical and largely non-controversial amendments in order to update and improve our laws. 	D of J	2nd half
6. District Councils (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the financial assistance scheme for candidates in DC elections. 	CAB	1st half
7. Patents (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement a Protocol adopted by the World Trade Organization which, by amending the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, facilitates access to pharmaceutical products when addressing public health problems. 	CITB	2nd half
8. Communications Authority Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish the Communications Authority (CA) as the unified regulator for the electronic communications sector. The Telecommunications Authority and the Broadcasting Authority will be abolished and their powers will be transferred to the CA. 	CITB	2nd half

**Indicative
timing within
2006-07
legislative
session**

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	1st half
9. Employment (Amendment) (No. 1) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="507 465 979 965">• To provide workable modes of calculation for statutory entitlements under the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) in order to adequately express the original policy intention that “wages” as defined under section 2 of Cap. 57 should be used as the basis for all calculations of statutory entitlements.<li data-bbox="507 1016 979 1563">• To modify the existing mode of calculation of statutory entitlements by making reference to the average daily wages earned by an employee during the 12-month period, or such lesser period, when the employee is under the employment of the concerned employer, immediately preceding the relevant dates.	EDLB	1st half

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	Indicative timing within 2006-07 legislative session
10. Employment (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide that where an employee who has been unreasonably and unlawfully dismissed makes a claim for reinstatement/ re-engagement, the Labour Tribunal may make a reinstatement/ re-engagement order without the need to secure the consent of the employer. If such an order is made and the employer subsequently fails to comply, the employee may be awarded an additional compensation of up to \$50,000. To clarify the effects of a re-engagement order on the employer. 	EDLB	2nd half
11. Route 8 Control Area Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable the efficient and effective management of the Route 8 Control Area from Tsing Yi to Shatin. 	ETWB	2nd half
12. Energy Efficiency (Registration and Labelling of Products) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require the registration and affixing of energy labels on specified energy-using products. 	ETWB	2nd half
13. Product Eco-responsibility Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a legal framework for introducing producer responsibility schemes for specific products. 	ETWB	2nd half

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	Indicative timing within 2006-07 legislative session
14. Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To empower the Authority, i.e. the Director of Environmental Protection, to implement and enforce emission trading through the licensing provisions of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance. 	ETWB	2nd half
15. Securities and Futures (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give statutory backing to major requirements for listing and to make miscellaneous amendments to keep up with market development. 	FSTB	2nd half
16. Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve on the Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") scheme operation, and enhance supervision and regulation of the MPF scheme. 	FSTB	2nd half
17. Race Discrimination Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To render discrimination, harassment and vilification on the ground of race unlawful. 	HAB	1st half
18. Attachment of Income Order (Application to Government and Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clarify the Attachment of Income Orders legislation. 	HAB	2nd half

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	Indicative timing within 2006-07 legislative session
19. Housing (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend section 16 of the Housing Ordinance (Cap. 283) concerning determination of variation of rent by the Housing Authority with a view to introducing a more flexible and sustainable rent adjustment mechanism. 	HPLB	1st half
20. Buildings (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) to introduce a minor works control system under which owners may appoint registered contractors to carry out simple and small-scale building works through simplified procedures. 	HPLB	2nd half
21. Quarantine and Prevention of Disease (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To bring the legislative provisions in line with the requirements in the International Health Regulations promulgated by the WHO and to update the legal framework in respect of the performance of our disease prevention and control functions and duties. 	HWFB	2nd half

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	Indicative timing within 2006-07 legislative session
22. Pesticides (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To strengthen control over the registration of pesticides, ensure safe and appropriate use of pesticides by pest control service providers, etc., and introduce regulatory control measures to fulfill HKSARG's obligation under the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention.	HWFB	2nd half
23. Poultry Slaughtering Plant Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To put in place a regulatory regime for the future poultry slaughtering and processing plant.	HWFB	2nd half
24. Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To amend the Domestic Violence Ordinance to enhance the prevention of domestic violence and to render better protection for victims of domestic violence.	HWFB	2nd half
25. Hong Kong Port Areas Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To apply the laws of Hong Kong to Hong Kong Port Areas in the Mainland and provide for related purposes, so as to implement the arrangement whereby we co-locate the customs and immigration facilitates of the Mainland and Hong Kong in the Mainland.	SB	1st half

Title	Purpose of Legislation	Responsible Bureau/Unit	Indicative timing within 2006-07 legislative session
26. Independent Police Complaints Council Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enhance the credibility of the existing police complaints system by making the Independent Police Complaints Council a statutory body and specifying its composition, functions and powers in law.	SB	2nd half
27. Crimes (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve provisions concerning computer offences in the light of changing developments.• To extend geographical jurisdiction of certain computer offences.	SB	2nd half

Administration Wing
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office
December 2006