

CB2/H/3
2537 2442
2530 9167

24 November 2006

The Honourable Donald Tsang, GBM
The Chief Executive of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China
Chief Executive's Office
Hong Kong

**Meetings with Leaders of Central Government
visiting Hong Kong**

Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) have asked me to convey to you their request for a meeting with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Wu Bangguo, during his visit to Hong Kong from 2 to 4 December 2006. Members have also asked me to follow up with you on the undertaking made by the Administration in 1999 for conveying to the Central Government Members' wish to meet with visiting leaders in future.

The request for meetings to be held between visiting national leaders and Members of LegCo was conveyed by the former Chairman of the House Committee, Dr Hon Leong Che-hung, to the former Chief Executive, the Honourable Tung Chee-hwa, in July and October 1999. Members were of the view that being representatives of the Hong Kong people and being members of LegCo which is a constitutional body under the Basic Law, there was a need for Members to meet formally with visiting national leaders to discuss and exchange views on issues of public concern. In his reply dated 15 October 1999, the then Private Secretary to Chief Executive, Mr Richard Yuen, undertook to convey to the Central People's Government Members' wish to have meetings with visiting leaders when the Administration discussed with them about the programme of visiting leaders in future.

At the House Committee meeting on 24 November 2006, Members have expressed concern as to whether the Administration has conveyed to the Central Government the wish of Members to meet with visiting leaders as undertaken in 1999. Members want to know the past occasions on which the Administration has conveyed Members' wish. Members have also urged the Administration to convey to Mr Wu their request for meeting with him during his forthcoming visit to Hong Kong. The meeting will be for the purpose of discussing issues of public concern and reflecting the views of the Hong Kong people to the Central Government through Mr Wu, and hence should not be ceremonial or socialising in nature. The date, time and place of the meeting can be arranged at Mr Wu's convenience.

As Mr Wu will be visiting Hong Kong shortly, I look forward to your early reply.

(Miriam LAU Kin-ye)
Chairman
Legislative Council House Committee