

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 2525 4354

Date : 27 March 2009

From : Clerk to the Finance Committee

To : Members of the Finance Committee

Finance Committee

Special meeting on 24 March 2009

I forward for members' information a letter dated 25 March 2009 from the Chief Secretary for Administration to the Chairman of Finance Committee and the Chairman's reply dated 26 March 2009. The correspondence is related to the observance of the rules of order in the Committee.

(Mrs Constance LI)
Clerk to the Finance Committee

Encl.

中華人民共和國
香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室



CHIEF SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE
Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

25 March 2009

The Hon Jasper Tsang Yok-sing, GBS, JP
President

The Hon Miriam Lau Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Chairman, House Committee

The Hon Emily Lau, JP
Chairman, Finance Committee

Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear President, House Committee Chairman
and Finance Committee Chairman,

Special Finance Committee meeting on 24 March 2009

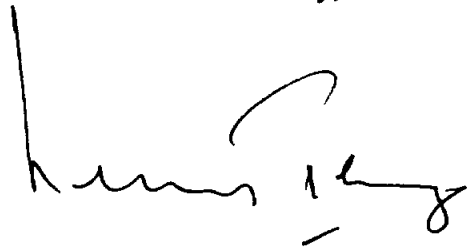
At the Special Finance Committee (FC) meeting yesterday when Members examined the Estimates of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, two Legislative Council (LegCo) Members repeatedly used vulgar and offensive language against the public officers attending the meeting, departing once again from Rules 10(2) and 41(4) of the LegCo Rules of Procedures which are applicable to FC meetings. We also note that FC Chairman had not reminded Members that they should not use such language which breached Rule 41(4).

We note that some Members have repeatedly challenged the Rules of Procedures by using grossly improper and offensive language and behaviour despite the fact that we have written several times to LegCo expressing our deep concern over such behaviour. Such acts seriously

departed from the spirit of mutual respect which underlies the Rules of Procedures and for which we express our deep regret.

We look to LegCo to adopt effective means as soon as possible to ensure public officers attending meetings of LegCo, including the remaining Special FC meetings, would not be subject to offensive language or behaviour.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Tang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Henry Tang)
Chief Secretary for Administration



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



立法會
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

來函檔號 YOUR REF :
本函檔號 OUR REF : CB1/F/1
電 話 TELEPHONE : 2869 9220
圖文傳真 FACSIMILE : 2869 6794

26 March 2009

The Hon Henry TANG Ying Yen, GBS, JP
Chief Secretary for Administration
12/F West Wing
Central Government Offices
Lower Albert Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear *Henry,*

Special Finance Committee meeting on 24 March 2009

I refer to your letter dated 25 March 2009 regarding your concern about the use of vulgar and offensive language by two Members at the special Finance Committee meeting on 24 March 2009.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee, I am responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the Committee. At the meeting on 24 March 2009, my attention had not been drawn to any vulgar or offensive language being used by Members against public officers. As you may probably be aware, I reminded Members twice at the special Finance Committee meeting yesterday that the Legislative Council does not accept the use of offensive language against Members and public officers at meetings of the Council and its committees. I also advised Members and public officers attending Finance Committee meetings to bring to my attention that such offensive or insulting language was used so that I could act in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the Finance Committee Procedure.

In view of your having written to the President and the Chairman of the House Committee concurrently on this matter, I am providing a copy of this letter to the President and all other Members for their information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Lau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emily" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lau".

(Emily LAU)
Chairman, Finance Committee

c.c. President of the Legislative Council
All other Members of the Legislative Council