

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

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### **Paper for the House Committee Meeting on 10 October 2008**

#### **Procedure for the election of Members for appointment to the Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Members' Interests and Committee on Rules of Procedure**

#### **Purpose**

This paper invites the House Committee (HC) to endorse the procedure for the election of Members for appointment by the President to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Committee on Members' Interests (CMI) and the Committee on Rules of Procedure (CRoP).

#### **Background**

2. PAC, CMI and CRoP are committees of the Council as stipulated in Rules 72, 73 and 74 of the Rules of Procedure respectively. The terms of reference of these committees are set out in **Annexes I, II and III** respectively. The respective sizes of these committees are as follows:

	<b>PAC</b>	<b>CMI</b>	<b>CRoP</b>
Chairman	1	1	1
Deputy Chairman	1	1	1
Members	5	5	10

Under the Rules of Procedure, members of these committees shall be appointed by the President in accordance with the election procedure determined by HC. Members of these committees serve on the committees until the end of a Legislative Council term.

## **Proposed election procedure**

3. The Secretariat proposes to adopt the following election procedure which is based on that adopted by the past three terms of the Legislative Council:

- (a) the election of Members to these committees should be by way of nominations at a meeting of HC. In making the nominations, Members should have regard to the need to ensure that the committees' membership is balanced and broadly representative of the membership of the Council. A valid nomination should be made orally by a Member, seconded by at least one other Member who should not be the Member being nominated, and accepted by the Member being nominated;
- (b) if there are more nominations than the places available for any one committee, an election by a show of hands should be conducted. A Member may vote for as many nominees as the number of places and no more, and the nominees who get the highest numbers of votes will be declared elected. In cases where a nominee would have been elected but for there being one or more other nominees having been given the same number of votes, a separate poll shall be taken in respect of that nominee and such other nominee(s) in accordance with the system of election mentioned above until all the remaining place(s) is/are filled;
- (c) after the election of members to these committees, the meeting of HC should be suspended for 10 minutes to enable the members to elect their respective chairmen and deputy chairmen from amongst themselves; and
- (d) the meeting of HC will then resume and HC will be asked to endorse the results of election of the chairmen and deputy chairmen of the committees.

4. Regarding the procedure for the election of chairmen and deputy chairmen of these committees referred to in paragraph 3(c) above, the Secretariat proposes to adopt the procedure set out in **Annex IV** of this paper. The procedure is modelled on the procedure for election of the chairman and deputy chairman of committees given in Appendix IV of the House Rules.

5. HC's recommendations in regard to the membership of the three committees will be submitted to the President for appointment.

## **Timing for election**

6. Subject to Members' endorsement of the election procedure set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above as well as Annex IV, the Secretariat recommends that the nomination and election of Members to the three committees be conducted at HC's meeting to be held on **17 October 2008**.

## **Advice sought**

7. Members are invited to:
  - (a) endorse the procedure for the election of Members for appointment to PAC, CMI and CRoP, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 as well as Annex IV; and
  - (b) agree on the timing for the election of Members for appointment to the three committees, as set out in paragraph 6.

Legislative Council Secretariat

8 October 2008

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**Public Accounts Committee**

**Terms of Reference**

- (1) To consider reports of the Director of Audit –
  - (a) on the accounts of the Government;
  - (b) on such other accounts required to be laid before the Council as the committee may think fit; and
  - (c) on any matter incidental to the performance of his duties or the exercise of his powers as the committee may think fit;
- (2) To consider any report of the Director of Audit laid on the Table of the Council which deals with examinations (value for money audit) carried out by the Director relating to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of any Government department or public body or any organization to which his functions as Director of Audit extend by virtue of any Ordinance or which receives public moneys by way of subvention; and
- (3) To make a report upon the report of the Director of Audit within 3 months of the date on which the Director's report is laid on the Table of the Council.

**Committee on Members' Interests**

**Terms of Reference**

- (1) To examine the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests;
- (2) To consider any proposals made by Members or others as to the form and contents of the Register;
- (3) To consider any complaint made in relation to the registration and declaration of Members' interests or any complaint of a failure to do so and, if it thinks fit after consideration, investigate such complaint;
- (4) To consider any complaint made in relation to the conduct of Members referred to in Rule 83AA (Claims for Reimbursement of Operating Expenses or Applications for Advance of Operating Funds) and, if it thinks fit after consideration, investigate such complaint;
- (5) To consider matters of ethics in relation to the conduct of Members in their capacity as such, and to give advice and issue guidelines on such matters; and
- (6) To report to the Council and make recommendations, including a recommendation as to a sanction under Rule 85 (Sanctions relating to Interests, Operating Expenses or Operating Funds).

**Committee on Rules of Procedure**

**Terms of Reference**

- (1) To review the Rules of Procedure of the Council and the committee system, and to propose to the Council such amendments or changes as are considered necessary; and
- (2) To examine matters of practice and procedure relating to the Council referred by the Council or its committees or the President, or raised by its own members.

**Procedure for election of the chairman and  
deputy chairman of the  
Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Members' Interests and  
Committee on Rules of Procedure**

Election of chairman

*Presiding member*

For the election of chairman of the committee, the member present who has the highest precedence shall preside at the election. If he is being nominated for the office, the member present who has the highest precedence among the members not nominated for the office shall preside.

2. For the election to fill a vacancy in the office of chairman during a term, the deputy chairman shall preside at the election. If the deputy chairman is absent or is being nominated for the office, the member present who has the highest precedence shall preside at the election. If he is being nominated for the office, the member present who has the highest precedence among the members not nominated for the office shall preside.

*Election procedure*

3. At the start of the election, the presiding member shall call for nominations for the chairmanship. A valid nomination shall be made orally by a member, seconded by at least one other member who should not be the member being nominated, and accepted by the member being nominated. A member who nominates an absent member for the office is required to state that the absent member's acceptance of the nomination has been secured.

4. If the presiding member is being nominated for the office, he shall be replaced in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 above, as appropriate, unless otherwise decided by the committee.

5. If there is only one nomination, the presiding member shall declare the nominee elected as chairman.

6. If there are two or more nominations, the presiding member shall announce a vote by secret ballot and shall order the clerk to distribute a ballot paper to each of the members present, including the presiding member.

7. A member present who wishes to vote shall put down in legible form the name of the nominee of his choice on the ballot paper, and place the ballot paper into the ballot box.

8. After all the members present who wish to vote have done so, the clerk shall count the ballot papers in front of all the members present and report the result to the presiding member who shall check the result for confirmation.

9. The presiding member shall declare elected as chairman the nominee who receives the highest number of valid votes among all the nominees.

10. If two or more nominees receive the same highest number of valid votes, the presiding member shall announce that lots will be drawn by him to decide how he shall give the casting vote in respect of these nominees.

11. The presiding member shall then draw lots and give the casting vote to one of the nominees in accordance with the lot drawn, and shall forthwith declare that nominee elected as chairman.

### Election of deputy chairman

#### *Presiding member*

12. The member to preside at the election of the deputy chairman of the committee is the chairman thereof. If the chairman is absent, the member present who has the highest precedence shall preside. If such a member is being nominated for the office, the member present who has the highest precedence among the members not nominated for the office shall preside.

#### *Election procedure*

13. The presiding member shall call for nominations for the deputy chairmanship. A valid nomination shall be made orally by a member, seconded by at least one other member who should not be the member being nominated, and accepted by the member being nominated. A member who nominates an absent member for the office is required to state that the absent member's acceptance of the nomination has been secured.

14. If there is only one nomination, the presiding member shall declare the nominee elected as deputy chairman.

15. If there are two or more nominations, the presiding member shall announce a vote by secret ballot and shall order the clerk to distribute a ballot paper to each of the members present, including the chairman.

16. A member present who wishes to vote shall put down in legible form the name of the nominee of his choice on the ballot paper, and place the ballot paper into the ballot box.



17. After all the members present who wish to vote have done so, the clerk shall count the ballot papers in front of all the members present and report the result to the presiding member who shall check the result for confirmation.

18. The presiding member shall declare elected as deputy chairman the nominee who receives the highest number of valid votes among all the nominees.

19. If two or more nominees receive the same highest number of valid votes, the presiding member shall announce that lots will be drawn by him to decide how he shall give the casting vote in respect of these nominees.

20. The presiding member shall then draw lots and give the casting vote to one of the nominees in accordance with the lot drawn, and shall forthwith declare that nominee elected as deputy chairman.