

(Translation prepared by the
Legislative Council Secretariat)

CB(3)/M/AD
2869 9461
2877 9600

6 July 2010

Urgent By Fax: 2537 3516

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Room 303, West Wing
Central Government Offices
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Dr LEUNG

Council meeting of 7 July 2010

**Application for moving a motion
for the adjournment of the Council**

You wrote to me on 2 July 2010 seeking my permission for you to move at the Council meeting of 7 July 2010 the following motion for the adjournment of the Council under Rule 16(2) of the Rules of Procedure:

“That this Council do now adjourn for the purpose of debating the severe threat to public health and hygiene posed by the successive occurrence of incidents of people being bitten by rodents within one month or so in Hong Kong, as well as how the Administration follows up the issue.”

Rule 16(2) of the Rules of Procedure provides that a motion for the adjournment of the Council may be moved with the permission of the President, if the President is satisfied that the adjournment is for the purpose of discussing a specific issue of urgent public importance.

As you pointed out in your letter, rodents are the media of transmission of many kinds of infectious diseases. If bitten by rodents, people may contract various kinds of serious illnesses, and this poses severe threat to public health and hygiene. As such, I agree that the issue raised by you is of public importance.

In considering whether the issue raised by you is urgent, I have made reference to the two established principles which are adopted for considering applications of the same type of motion debates, namely:

- (a) if the debate is not carried out at the Council meeting specified by the Member concerned, whether there will be any irreversible consequences; and
- (b) if the issue is not debated at that Council meeting, whether the Council will not debate the issue in the foreseeable future?

The issue for debate raised by you is “the severe threat to public health and hygiene posed by the successive occurrence of incidents of people being bitten by rodents within one month or so in Hong Kong, as well as how the Administration follows up the issue”. I understand that you have raised this issue because recently there were incidents of people being bitten by rodents in different districts in Hong Kong, causing members of the public to worry whether the rodent infestation rate has risen drastically and about the conditions of street hygiene. Having read the related press reports carefully and considered the general hygiene conditions of Hong Kong, I am of the view that the rodent problem is not so urgent that the issue you raised must be debated at the Council meeting of 7 July 2010; even if it is not debated at that Council meeting, there will not be irreversible consequences, and Members will not lose the opportunity to express views on that issue at Council meetings.

Based on the above reasons, I am unable to grant permission to your request.

Yours sincerely

(Jasper TSANG Yok-sing)
President
Legislative Council

c.c. All other Legislative Council Members