

(Translation prepared by the  
Legislative Council Secretariat)

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2869 9461  
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16 November 2010

**Urgent By Fax: 2151 9011**

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Room 602, Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms HO

**Council meeting of 17 November 2010**

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

You wrote to me on 15 November 2010 seeking my permission for you to move at the Council meeting of 17 November 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 following issue: concern over the resite policy for Choi Yuen Tsuen and non-indigenous inhabitants villages.”

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.

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?

I note that you mentioned in your letter that in reply to a question asked by a Member on 24 February this year, the Administration undertook to reach an agreement with the villagers on a date of removal convenient to them, and the Administration now decided to compel the villagers to move out on the 18th of this month, causing the public to query that the executive authorities failed to honour their undertaking. You also pointed out: "Since the extensive opening up and expansion of the North District of the New Territories will involve the rehousing of many non-indigenous inhabitants, the Administration's policy on rehousing such inhabitants will have profound and far-reaching impact on Hong Kong's future town planning and development. Thus, there is an urgent need for Members to debate this important issue."

I fully appreciate that the issue of rehousing the villagers of Choi Yuen Tsuen and non-indigenous inhabitants villages that you raised has all along been a great concern to Members of this Council. I have therefore tried to find out, through the Secretariat, the progress of the clearing of Choi Yuen Tsuen. The reply of the Administration is as follows: "Land resumption and demolition work in Choi Yuen Tsuen have commenced in phases since mid-October. The Administration will continue to carry out such work in phases, and will explore possible options to tie in with the house construction plans of some of the villagers in the coming few months." I therefore believe that the resiting of Choi Yuen Tsuen has been in progress for quite some time, and there will be further progress in the time to come. As such, I believe that Members will still have opportunities to debate this issue in the future.

Based on the above reasons, I am not satisfied that the issue raised by you is so urgent that it must be debated at the Council meeting of 17 November 2010. I am of the view that even if it is not debated at that Council meeting, there will not be any irreversible consequences, and

Members will not lose the opportunity to express views on that issue at Council meetings. Therefore, 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