

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/AJLS

LC Paper No. CB(2)274/11-12

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 13 October 2011, at 11:50 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Dr Hon Margaret NG (Chairman)
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
- Members absent** : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)3
- Staff in attendance** : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Assistant Secretary General 2
- Miss Ivy LEONG
Senior Council Secretary (2)3
- Ms Wendy LO
Council Secretary (2)3

Mrs Fony TSANG
Legislative Assistant (2)3

Ms Avil MA
Clerical Assistant (2)3

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman
[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)10/11-12]

Election of Chairman

Dr Margaret NG, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel. Dr Margaret NG was nominated by Dr Priscilla LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Mr LAU Kong-wah. Dr Margaret NG accepted the nomination.

2. Dr Priscilla LEUNG, the incumbent Deputy Chairman, presided over the election of Chairman. As there was no other nomination, Dr LEUNG declared Dr Margaret NG elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel. Dr Priscilla LEUNG was nominated by Mr TAM Yiu-chung and the nomination was seconded by Ms Audrey EU. Dr Priscilla LEUNG accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr Priscilla LEUNG elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2011-2012 session

5. Members agreed that the regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 4:30 pm, except the meetings in December 2011 and January 2012 which were re-scheduled as follows -

- (a) as 26 December 2011 was Christmas holiday, the meeting was re-scheduled for Tuesday, 20 December 2011, at 2:30 pm; and
- (b) as 23 January 2012 was Lunar New Year holiday, the meeting was re-scheduled for Monday, 30 January 2012, at 4:30 pm.

Action

6. Members also agreed that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on 28 November 2011.

(Post-meeting note: The meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 session was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)55/11-12 on 14 October 2011.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices II and III to LC Paper No. CB(2)10/11-12]

Discussion items for the special meeting

7. The Chairman said that a special meeting of the Panel would be held on Thursday, 20 October 2011 and the Panel was scheduled to receive a briefing from the Administration on the Chief Executive's 2011-2012 Policy Address. She further said that the Chief Executive-in-Council had decided to accept the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service to increase the pay for Judges and Judicial Officers for 2011-2012 by 4.22% with retrospective effect from 1 April 2011. It was the Administration's initial plan to seek the approval of the Finance Committee on the proposed pay adjustment on 18 November 2011. The Administration had offered to brief the Panel before its submission of the financial proposal. Members agreed that the Panel would discuss the financial proposal before its submission to the Finance Committee and the item "2011-2012 Judicial Service Pay Adjustment" would be added to the agenda of the special meeting. Members also agreed that the special meeting would be extended for 15 minutes, i.e. from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm, to allow sufficient time for the discussion of this item. Members further agreed that the Hong Kong Bar Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong should be invited to give views, if any, on the item.

Discussion items for the next regular meeting

8. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting to be held on 28 November 2011 -

- (a) Free legal advice service - a two-year pilot scheme to provide legal advice for litigants in person;
- (b) Propose creation of a supernumerary post of Deputy Principal Government Counsel in the Legal Policy Division of Department of Justice ("DoJ"); and
- (c) Supplementary Provision to Head 92 – DoJ Subhead 234 – Court costs.

Action

IV. Any other business

Joint Subcommittee on Amendments to Land Titles Ordinance

9. The Chairman said that the Joint Subcommittee on Amendments to Land Titles Ordinance set up under the Panel on Development and this Panel had decided to wind up its work for the time being until the Administration had come to a policy decision. A full report on the Subcommittee's deliberations was being prepared for submission to the two Panels shortly.

10. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:00 noon.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 November 2011