

立法會

Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 26th meeting
held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Friday, 4 July 2014, at 3:30 pm

Members present:

Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Claudia MO
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent:

Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public officers attending:

Ms Elizabeth TSE Man-yee, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Esther LEUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Alfred ZHI Jian-hong	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP	Secretary for Education
Ms Pecvin YONG Pui-wan	Acting Deputy Secretary for Education (1)
Ms Josephine KEA Chi-shun	Senior Assistant Executive Director (Headquarters Division 2), Vocational Training Council
Mrs Deanna TO	Assistant Executive Director (Headquarters Division 2), Vocational Training Council

Clerk in attendance:

Mr Andy LAU	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Jimmy Y T MA, JP	Legal Adviser
Ms Connie FUNG	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr Derek LO	Chief Council Secretary (1)5
Mr Daniel SIN	Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Mr Ken WOO	Senior Council Secretary (1)5

Miss Queenie LAM
Mr Frankie WOO
Ms Christy YAU

Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Legislative Assistant (1)7

Action

The Chairman advised members that three two-hour meetings had been scheduled for the day. The second meeting would commence ten-minute break after the first meeting. The third meeting would commence 30 minutes after the second meeting.

Motion of no confidence in the Chairman

2. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan raised a point of order under paragraph 10 of the Finance Committee procedure ("FCP"). He requested the Chairman to deal with his motion to express no confidence in the Chairman at the current meeting. Mr LEE said that he had already submitted a letter earlier indicating his intention to move that motion.

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had sought members' availability to attend a special meeting to be held on 8 July 2014 to deal with the motion proposed by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung seeking the Finance Committee ("FC") to express no confidence in the Chairman. As the majority of the responding members had indicated that they were not available on the proposed date, the meeting would not be held. The Chairman said that whilst the Secretariat had since tried to arrange another meeting on 24 July 2014 for the purpose, The Chairman added that as regular FC meetings were normally used to deal with Government funding items, he would not handle members' motion of no confidence against him at the current meeting. However, he would ask the Secretariat to schedule a special meeting on 9 July 2014 to deal with the matter.

4. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and a few members crossed the floor of the committee and approached the Chairman's bench, shouting slogans on their way. The Chairman asked Mr LEE to return to his seat, but to no avail. After a few repeated warnings, the Chairman ordered Mr LEE to withdraw immediately from the Committee for the remainder of the meeting.

5. Some members still gathered in front of the Chairman's bench. The Chairman ordered that the meeting be suspended for ten minutes.

6. The meeting was suspended at 3:38 pm and resumed at 3:49 pm.

7. The Chairman said that he had reviewed the video recording of the meeting proceedings, and had sought the views of the Legal Adviser and the Clerk. The Chairman said that as he had given several warnings to Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Mr LEE did not comply with his instruction. He considered that Mr LEE's conduct was grossly disorderly and he upheld his decision to order Mr LEE Cheuk-yan's withdrawal from the committee for the remainder of the meeting.

8. Some members including Mr Gary FAN and Ms Cyd HO crossed the floor of the committee and approached the Chairman's bench, shouting slogans. The Chairman asked Mr FAN and Ms HO to return to their seats. Despite repeated warnings, Mr FAN and Ms HO did not comply with the Chairman's instructions. The Chairman ruled that Mr FAN and Ms Cyd HO's conduct was grossly disorderly and ordered that Mr FAN and Ms HO be withdrawn immediately from the Committee for the remainder of the meeting.

9. As Mr James TO and Ms Claudia MO shouted in the conference room, the Chairman ruled that their behavior was grossly disorderly and he ordered that Mr James TO and Ms Claudia MO to withdraw immediately from the Committee for the remainder of the meeting.

Item No. 1 – FCR(2014-15)4

HEAD 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : EDUCATION BUREAU

Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent

New Item "Grant to the Vocational Training Council for implementing the Pilot Training and Support Scheme"

10. The Chairman said that the item sought the Committee's approval of a new commitment of \$144 million for the Vocational Training Council to implement the Pilot Training and Support Scheme ("the Pilot Scheme").

Motion under paragraph 39 of FCP to adjourn discussion on the item

11. Mr Albert CHAN proposed to move a motion to adjourn the discussion of FCR(2014-15)4 under paragraph 39 of FCP.

12. The Chairman invited Mr Albert CHAN to speak on the motion, and he directed that his speaking time should not exceed three minutes.

13. Mr Albert CHAN explained the rationale for his motion to adjourn discussion on the item. Mr CHAN said that the manner by which the

Chairman forced through the public works item in Kwu Tung North ("KTN") and Fanling North ("FLN") new development areas on 27 June 2014 had brought FC into disrepute. He also cast doubt on the Chairman's ability to conduct the deliberation on the proposed Pilot Scheme given his intricate personal pecuniary interests in many areas.

14. The Chairman invited other members to speak on the motion, and he directed that the speaking time for each member should not exceed three minutes.

15. Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen spoke in support of the motion and they echoed Mr Albert CHAN's views.

16. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that he did not support the motion and commented that Mr Albert CHAN was only trying to procrastinate the meeting. He appealed to members to approve the item as early as possible so that more young people could benefit from more training opportunities without further delay. Mr LEUNG Chi-cheung, Dr LO Wai-kwok, Dr LAM Tai-fai, Mr CHAN Han-pan raised similar views. Mr CHAN Kin-por, Mr IP Kwok-him and Miss Alice MAK expressed disagreement with Mr CHAN's motion and considered that the Committee should deal with the business in the agenda without further delay.

17. Mr Alan LEONG objected to Mr Albert CHAN's motion to adjourn discussion on the item as he as well as members of the pan-democratic camp considered the item, and the other funding proposals that followed were important and should be allowed to proceed without delay.

18. Mr Kenneth LEUNG criticized the Chairman for allowing three minutes speaking time on the current debate on the motions to adjourn discussion of an agenda item, whereas the Chairman restricted the speaking time to one minute during similar debates at the previous meetings while the Committee deliberated on the public works item on KTN and FLN new development areas.

19. The Chairman explained that according to FCP, the speaking time on a procedural motion should not be longer than any time period as decided by the Committee, or where no such decision had been made, for more than three minutes. At the previous FC meetings, the Committee had made a decision on the speaking time on debate on a motion to adjourn further proceedings of a meeting.

20. Mr Albert CHAN gave a concluding remarks.

21. The Chairman put the question on Mr Albert CHAN's motion to the Committee for its decision. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes. The Chairman announced that three members voted in favour of, and 47 voted against, the motion. The voting results of individual members were as follows –

For:

Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Mr CHAN Chi-chuen
(3 members)

Mr WONG Yuk-man

Against:

Mr Albert HO Chun-yan
Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing
Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan
Mr Vincent FANG Kang
Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long
Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen
Mr Ronny TONG Ka-wah
Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che
Mr IP Kwok-him
Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit
Mr Steven HO Chun-yin
Mr WU Chi-wai
Mr MA Fung-kwok
Mr CHAN Han-pan
Mr Kenneth LEUNG
Mr KWOK Wai-keung
Mr SIN Chung-kai
Mr IP Kin-yuen
Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong
Mr TANG Ka-piu
Mr Dr LO Wai-kwok
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen
(47 members)

Mr CHAN Kam-lam
Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
Mr WONG Kwok-hing
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung
Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Dr LAM Tai-fai
Mr CHAN Kin-por
Dr LEUNG Ka-lau
Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee
Mr James TIEN Pei-chun
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr Charles Peter MOK
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen
Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung
Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Elizabeth QUAT
Mr POON Siu-ping
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan
Mr Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun

22. The Chairman declared that the motion was negatived.

23. The meeting resumed discussion on the agenda item.

Motions to be moved under paragraph 37A of FCP

24. Mr WONG Yuk-man said that he supported the funding proposal, but he intended to move more than 18 000 motions to express views under paragraph 37A of FCP. Mr WONG said that he was not trying to delay the approval of the current item but he had to assert the principle that members had the unfettered right under paragraph 37A of FCP to express views on an agenda item. Mr WONG said that he had submitted the bulk of his proposed motions to the Secretariat before the Chairman had drawn a line to stop dealing with members' motions proposed under paragraph 37A of FCP. He expected the Chairman to look into his proposed motions and to rule whether they were directly related to the item under deliberation.

25. Mr Kenneth LEUNG agreed that members had the right to move as many motions as they wished under paragraph 37A of FCP to express views on an agenda item. However, he would not support Mr WONG Yuk-man's approach to move so many motions to express views on the current agenda item. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that while she respected members' right to express more than one view on an item under paragraph 37A of FCP, there should be a limit to the number of motions to be moved so as not to delay the proceeding of the Committee to approve funding proposals that were beneficial to the community.

Report of the Chairman of the Panel on Education

26. Dr LAM Tai-fai, Chairman of the Panel on Education, reported that the Panel was consulted on the proposed Pilot Scheme amongst other initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address on 27 January 2014. Panel members noted that the Administration intended to implement the Pilot Scheme through the Vocational Training Council ("VTC"). As the proposal would provide more opportunities for youngsters to pursue professional development, Panel members had no objection to the proposal.

Industries benefited from the Scheme to share the financial commitment

27. Mr IP Kin-yuen supported the proposed implementation of the Pilot Scheme through VTC. As the Scheme could help increase the supply of trained talents to relieve manpower shortage of the concerned trades, he considered it reasonable for the respective sectors to shoulder a larger share of the resources in the provision of training. He also commented that the participation of the trades in the implementation of the Scheme, particularly in the provision of job placements and in the evaluation of participants' performance, was essential to its success.

Selection of industries to be included under the Scheme

28. Mr Tony TSE supported the proposal. He asked about the criteria for selecting the enterprises to participate in the provision of job placement and training and whether small to medium enterprises would be invited. Senior Assistant Executive Director, VTC ("SAED") said that the Pilot Scheme would cover industries that were facing labour shortage and/or ageing problems, and had difficulties in hiring and retaining young people. The trades to be included in an industry should be specialized and should have a high level of technology contents. Partners of the Pilot Scheme should be committed to providing allowance on subsidy to trainees and to offer a certain salary level to trainees who had completed the apprenticeship training. SAED added that VTC would consult its relevant Training Boards in identifying the industries to be covered in the Pilot Scheme.

29. Mr Martin LIAO asked whether there were regular communication and co-operation between the Administration and the relevant industries in the implementation of the Pilot Scheme. SAED explained that 21 Training Boards had been set up by VTC to advise on the manpower demand and supply of various industries. Regular channels would be available for communication.

30. Mr Frankie YICK supported the proposal. He commented that the transport sector, especially ferry and marine transport operations, also experienced difficulties in recruiting and retaining skilled professionals such as captains and coxswains. Mr YICK asked if the Pilot Scheme would be expanded to cover maritime industries.

31. Acting Deputy Secretary for Education 1 ("DS(Ed)1") explained that during VTC's earlier discussion with the maritime transport sector, it was understood that the proposed Pilot Scheme might not meet the industries' needs. She said that the Administration had separately set up the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund to enhance manpower training support for the maritime and aviation sectors. SAED supplemented that VTC's Maritime Services Training Institute was offering ten-day training courses for maritime personnel.

32. Mr Frankie YICK commented that the training programmes the Administration mentioned were mainly focused on seafarers training. However, the maritime transport sector was experiencing shortage of more senior personnel such as coxswains and captains. SED said that the Administration would take into account members' views in the review of the Pilot Scheme.

33. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung commented that the Administration should present the full list of industries to be supported under the Pilot Scheme. He said that some industries, such as livestock rearing, were also facing an ageing labour problems; it was also unlikely that young people would find these industries attractive. SED advised that the Pilot Scheme would initially cover the electrical and mechanical industry where the labour shortage and ageing problems were obvious. Employers in that industry were willing to participate actively in the Pilot Scheme. SED said that VTC would consult the 21 Training Boards to identify other relevant industries for training and support.

Incentive allowance and other financial assistance

34. Mr POON Siu-ping expressed support for the funding proposal. He asked why the incentive allowance was to be provided for 11 months rather than 12 months each year. Mr POON noted that students under the Pilot Scheme would study full-time foundation programmes at VTC during the initial phase, and that students who were Secondary 3 school leavers were not required to pay tuition fees. Mr POON asked if the waiver of tuition fees could be extended to other young people joining the Pilot Scheme.

35. Assistant Executive Director, VTC ("AED") explained that during the first year of Pilot Scheme, a student would undergo 11 months of full-time study and would have one month of summer vacation. Incentive allowance was payable to students during the 11-month period. AED said that the arrangement was similar to the courses being offered for trainees of the construction industry. AED added that the Pilot Scheme would target at Secondary 3 to Secondary 6 school leavers and eligible adult learners. If the Pilot Scheme was found to be effective, it was possible that other young people with different educational attainment could be supported in similar schemes to be implemented in future.

36. Mr LIAO also asked whether the grant or allowance would be disbursed to apprentices only after the industries concerned had undertaken to employ the trainees at a particular salary level and to provide them with clear career progression pathways. Secretary for Education ("SED") advised that the Pilot Scheme was designed to encourage industries to employ trainees after having completed the apprenticeship training. It was therefore important for participating industries to give clear undertaking on employment terms and career progression pathways.

37. Dr Helena WONG also asked if students under the Pilot Scheme were eligible for the grant and loans offered by the Student Financial

Assistance Agency ("SFAA"), and the proportion of study time as compared with the working time. AED explained that employers of industries under the Pilot Scheme were advised to release students for one whole day and two evenings in a week for part-time study.

38. Mr LAM Tai-fai asked whether the target of benefitting 2 000 students was likely to be achieved and what monitoring measures would be introduced to ensure effective implementation of the Pilot Scheme and whether the Administration would recover incentive allowance from students if they were not able to complete the apprenticeship training.

39. AED said that VTC instructors would supervise progress of students and provide counselling as necessary. AED added that in other VTC apprenticeship training programmes, some students might have difficulties in adaptation during the first few months and dropped out. However, most of the students who remained after the initial settling-in period would complete their training. There was no plan to recover any incentive allowance paid if a student dropped out from the Pilot Scheme.

Gender perspective of the proposed Pilot Scheme

40. Dr Helena WONG asked if VTC was already offering training courses for the industries initially covered under the Pilot Scheme. She also queried about the fee levels of the courses. Dr WONG observed that the industries and trades to be covered under the Pilot Scheme appeared to be male-dominant and young female school leavers would be disadvantaged in receiving training and vocational opportunities. Dr Helena WONG asked the Administration to provide breakdown by gender of the number of students in the VTC training courses for such industries and she asked if the Administration had adopted a gender mainstreaming perspective in identifying industries to be covered under the Pilot Scheme.

41. SED said that the Pilot Scheme aimed at attracting young people to pursue vocational education and develop a career in industries which had been experiencing problems in recruiting and retaining sufficient manpower with specialized skills to sustain their development. Gender equality was not a key consideration in the selection of industries to be covered in the Pilot Scheme. AED supplemented that VTC was also offering courses for the retail or beautification trades where students were predominately female.

Admission of students with special educational needs, ethnic minority students and students of different educational attainment

42. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that Members belonging to the Labour Party supported the proposal. He asked if the Administration would introduce suitable measures to recruit students with special education needs to the Pilot Scheme.

43. AED advised that VTC were equipped with facilities to cater for the needs of students with special education needs. She added that in the past, VTC had a separate board to interview applicants with special education needs. If the applicants were considered suitable to join a particular industry being covered under the Pilot Scheme, VTC would provide necessary assistance to facilitate these students in completing their training.

44. Mr TANG Ka-piu asked what measures would be introduced to facilitate ethnic minority students to benefit from the Pilot Scheme as most instructors of apprenticeship training programmes used Cantonese as teaching medium. AED advised that in arranging job placement for ethnic minority students, VTC would identify employers who could provide instructors capable of communicating in English with ethnic minority students.

45. Mr TANG Ka-piu asked if the Pilot Scheme would admit Secondary 1 and Secondary 2 school leavers. AED said that only cohorts who had attained at least Secondary 3 education attainment would be considered for admission to the Pilot Scheme.

46. Mr WU Chi-wai asked if young people with sub-degree or degree qualifications would also be eligible for the Pilot Scheme. SED explained that the Pilot Scheme targeted at Secondary 3 to Secondary 6 school leavers and eligible adult learners. The Scheme did not preclude students with higher educational attainment. SAED said that some of the students undertaking higher diploma courses or other training programmes were having degree and other qualifications. By the same token, students at sub-degree level or above might also be eligible for the Pilot Scheme.

Publicity of the Pilot Scheme

47. Dr LO Wai-kwok declared that he was Honorary Fellow and Visiting Professor of VTC and the Chairman of VTC's Engineering Discipline Advisory Board. Dr LO said that he had participated in the development of the learn-and-earn approach adopted for the Pilot Scheme. Dr LO asked how

the Administration intended to promote and publicize the Pilot Scheme to ensure acceptance by concerned stakeholders.

48. SAED advised that VTC would launch publicity programmes for the Pilot Scheme following funding approval of by FC. At present, there were about 500 students undertaking foundation programmes in electrical and mechanical subjects. These students would be the initial targets of the publicity programmes.

Evaluation and extension of the Pilot Scheme

49. Mr TANG also asked under what circumstance the Administration would consider extending the Pilot Scheme to cohorts of intakes admitted to VTC's training for specific industries in the 2015/16 school year and beyond. AED said that factors such as the percentage of trainees who had successfully completed the apprenticeship training, the percentage of trainees who subsequently joined the relevant trades and the retention rate of participants in the relevant industries, would be taken into consideration.

50. Mr Alan LEONG sought clarification on which official would be the vote controller on the Pilot Scheme. He also asked how the controller would ensure that the Scheme was cost-effective, and how he would monitor the spending and implementation of the Pilot Scheme. He reminded the Administration to ensure that the Scheme would be properly implemented. Expenditures and records should be properly logged and filed for subsequent audit.

51. SED advised that the Permanent Secretary for Education was the vote controller of Head 156 under which the proposed new commitment for the Pilot Scheme would be created. The Education Bureau would require VTC to submit progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Scheme. Deputy Secretary for Education was a member of the VTC Council and would play a supervisory role on the operation of the Pilot Scheme. The Administration would monitor and review the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme during its implementation.

52. The Chairman announced that the meeting would be adjourned and the Committee would continue to deliberate the item at the next meeting.

53. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

19 December 2014