

## **NOTE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Special Meetings of the Finance Committee to Examine the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16 27 March - 2 April 2015**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with Rule 67 of Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council (LegCo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Financial Secretary will present the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16 to LegCo on **25 February 2015** when the Appropriation Bill 2015 is introduced into LegCo. The Government will provide Members of Finance Committee (FC) with copies of the Estimates on the same day. The President will refer the Estimates to FC for examination in special meetings before consideration of the Appropriation Bill in the Committee of the whole Council in accordance with Rule 71(11). The purpose of the examination is to ensure that the Government is seeking a provision no more than is necessary for the execution of the policy or measures concerned.

#### **THE SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Encl.

2. With the concurrence of the Chairman, FC will hold 20 sessions of special meetings over a period of five days from **27 March to 2 April 2015**. The programme for the special meetings is enclosed. The time slots for individual policy areas have reflected the experience of the special meetings in 2014.

3. Directors of Bureaux will attend the meetings with their key Controlling Officers. With the exception of the Controlling Officers in Session 3, each Director of Bureau or his authorised representative may make a brief presentation of not more than five minutes at the beginning to highlight the policies in his policy areas, priorities for the year ahead and the resources requirement as set out in the draft Estimates. The Chairman will then invite Members to ask questions on points directly related to the Estimates and to follow up on the replies to Members' initial written questions. The Government will aim to provide the main points of replies at the meeting, and provide supplementary information in writing after the meetings, if necessary.

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**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

4. Members may raise questions before the special meetings for written reply by Controlling Officers, through their respective Director of Bureau as appropriate. The Government will reply as expeditiously as possible. The Clerk to the Finance Committee (FC Clerk) will advise Members separately on the format and deadline for putting forward their written questions and other logistical details about the special meetings.

5. Given time and resource constraints, the Government will give priority to the **first 3 300** questions received from FC Clerk, and aim to provide written replies to Members at least one clear working day before the relevant sessions of the special meetings. For the rest, the Government will continue to try its best to respond before the third Budget Meeting on 22 April 2015.

6. Questions that are ruled “out of order” by the FC Chairman will not be processed in the context of the special FC exercise. The Government may decline a reply or provide a partial reply if the information sought is not readily available or the question cannot be reasonably answered through a simple special FC question. The Government may also offer consolidated response to questions of a similar nature.

7. To save paper, the Government will relay replies to special FC questions by electronic means through the LegCo website. Hard copies would no longer be issued unless specifically requested by individual Members with justification.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

8. As far as possible, Controlling Officers will respond to oral or written supplementary questions arising from the special meetings **before** the third Budget Meeting on 22 April 2015. However, priority will be accorded to the remaining initial questions (after the first 3 300) delivered by FC Clerk.

**Special Meetings of the Finance Committee  
to examine the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16  
27 March - 2 April 2015**

**Programme**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Session No.</b>	<b>Leading Director of Bureau (if applicable)</b>	<b>Subject</b>
27 March (Friday)	1 hr. (2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.)	1	Secretary for the Civil Service	Civil Service [CSB]
	1 hr. 15 mins. (3:25 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.)	2	Judiciary Administrator  Secretary for Justice	Administration of Justice [JA]  Legal Administration [SJ]
	1 hr. 40 mins. (4:50 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)	3		Miscellaneous including –  Administration Wing [CSO]  Audit Commission [AUD]  Chief Executive's Office [CEO]  Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC]  LegCo Commission [LC]  The Ombudsman [OMB]

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Session No.</b>	<b>Leading Director of Bureau (if applicable)</b>	<b>Subject</b>	
30 March (Monday)	1 hr. 10 mins. (9:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.)	4	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury	Financial Services [FSTB(FS)]	
	40 mins. (10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)	5		Public Finance [FSTB(Tsy)]	
	1 hr. 10 mins. (11:10 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.)	6	Secretary for the Environment	Environment [ENB]	
	1 hr. 30 mins (2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)	7	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development	Commerce, Industry and Tourism [CEDB(CIT)]	
	1 hr. 10 mins. (3:40 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.)	8		Communications and Technology [CEDB(CT)]	

31 March (Tuesday)	1 hr. 20 mins. (2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.)	9	Secretary for Home Affairs	Home Affairs [HAB]
	2 hrs. (3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)	10	Secretary for Security	Security [SB]

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Session No.</b>	<b>Leading Director of Bureau (if applicable)</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1 April (Wednesday)	1 hr. 45 mins. (9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)	11	Secretary for Transport and Housing	Housing [THB(H)]
	1 hr. 30 mins. (10:55 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.)	12		Transport [THB(T)]
	2 hrs. (2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	13	Secretary for Education	Education [EDB]
	1 hr. 30 mins. (4:10 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.)	14	Secretary for Development	Works [DEVB(W)]
	1 hr. 40 mins. (5:50 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)	15		Planning and Lands [DEVB(PL)]

2 April (Thursday)	1 hr. 40 mins. (9:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.)	16	Secretary for Food and Health	Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene [FHB(FE)]
	1 hr. 50 mins. (10:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.)	17		Health [FHB(H)]
	2 hrs. 20 mins. (2:00 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.)	18	Secretary for Labour and Welfare	Welfare and Women [LWB(WW)]
	1 hr. 30 mins. (4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)	19		Labour [LWB(L)]
	1 hr. 30 mins. (6:10 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.)	20	Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	Constitutional and Mainland Affairs [CMAB]

Words in brackets [ ] indicate the prefix of the “reply serial number” to be quoted on the reply form of respective sessions.

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