

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 23 January 2015

**Proposal for the appointment of a subcommittee under
the House Committee to study issues relating to
Mainland-HKSAR families**

Purpose

This paper invites Members to consider a proposal on the terms of reference, work plan and time frame of a subcommittee proposed to be appointed under the House Committee ("HC") to study issues relating to Mainland-HKSAR families.

Background

2. At the House Committee meeting on 16 January 2015, Members discussed the proposal for the appointment of a subcommittee under HC to study issues relating to Mainland-HKSAR families put forward by Hon Emily LAU and Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung following their meeting with a deputation on 16 December 2014 at the Public Complaints Office of Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat. Members agreed in principle to the appointment of the proposed subcommittee ("the Subcommittee"). Members noted that the LegCo Secretariat would, in accordance with Rule 20(k)(ii)¹ of the House Rules ("HR"), make a proposal on the terms of reference, work plan and time frame of the Subcommittee for consideration of HC.

3. The proposed terms of reference, time frame, work plan of the Subcommittee, which have been drawn up on the basis on the proposal of the two Members and the views expressed by Members at the HC meeting on 16 January 2015, are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

¹ Under Rule 20(k)(ii) of the House Rules, a proposal to appoint a subcommittee under HC should contain sufficient information on the proposed terms of reference, time frame, work plan and extent of work involved in the study of the specific issue or project to facilitate the consideration by HC.

Proposed terms of reference of the Subcommittee

4. The proposed terms of reference of the Subcommittee is as follows –

"To study issues relating to Mainland-HKSAR families and make recommendations where necessary."

Proposed work plan

5. The Subcommittee will focus its work on the following areas –

- (a) the population policy, in particular the immigration arrangements, in respect of Mainlanders whose family members are Hong Kong residents, and the impact of the policy on Mainland-HKSAR families;
- (b) progress of the implementation of the measure for Mainland "overage children"² of Hong Kong residents to apply for One Way Permit ("OWP") to settle in Hong Kong, including the timetable and processing time of various phases of applications;
- (c) the immigration and administrative arrangements for entry of Mainlanders whose family members are Hong Kong residents, particularly in respect of Mainland single parents with minor Hong Kong resident children, and Mainland adult children of Hong Kong residents who are ineligible for "overage children" OWP applications as they were above the age of 14 when their natural fathers or mothers obtained Hong Kong identity cards; and
- (d) provision of public services for new arrivals from the Mainland.

² Since 1 April 2011, Mainland "overage children" of Hong Kong residents may apply, in phases, for OWP to come to Hong Kong for reunion with their natural parents. "Overage children" eligible to apply for settlement in Hong Kong are those Mainland persons who were under the age of 14 at the time when their natural fathers or mothers obtained Hong Kong resident status before 1 November 2001.

Proposed time frame

6. Pursuant to HR 26(c), the Subcommittee is expected to complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to HC.

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to endorse the appointment of the Subcommittee with the proposed terms of reference, work plan and time frame as set out in paragraphs 4 to 6 above.

Council Business Division 2
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