立法會 Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 29th meeting held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Saturday, 30 January 2016, at 2:10 pm

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, 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 Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP

Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS

Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Hon WONG Yuk-man

Hon Claudia MO

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP

Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP

Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS

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

Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon KWOK Wai-keung

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, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent:

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP

Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP

Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP Hon WU Chi-wai, MH Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok Hon Kenneth LEUNG Hon Dennis KWOK 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 YAU Shing-mu, JP Under Secretary for Transport and

Housing

Ms Rebecca PUN Ting-ting, JP Deputy Secretary for Transport and

Housing (Transport) 1

Ms Judy CHUNG Sui-kei Principal Assistant Secretary for

Transport and Housing (Transport) 5

Mr Peter LAU Ka-keung, JP Director of Highways

Mr Albert LEE Wai-bun Project Manager (Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong

Project Management Office),

Highways Department

Mr MA Kuen Chief Engineer (Hong Kong Boundary

Crossing Facilities), Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Project Management Office, Highways

Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT Assistant Secretary General 1

Staff in attendance:

Ms Connie FUNG Legal Adviser

Mr Stephen LAM
Mr Derek LO
Mr Ken WOO
Mr Raymond SZETO
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Chief Council Secretary (1)5
Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Senior Council Secretary (1)7

Mr Keith WONG Council Secretary (1)5

Mr Frankie WOO Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3

Miss Yannes HO Legislative Assistant (1)6

Action

Item No. 1 – FCR(2015-16)45 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 19 DECEMBER 2015

PWSC(2015-16)14 HEAD 706 – HIGHWAYS

Transport - Roads

845TH – Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities – Reclamation and Superstructures

Motion to shorten the ringing duration of division bell

The Committee continued to deal with the motion moved without notice by Mr IP Kwok-him under paragraph 47 of the Finance Committee Procedures ("FCP"): that in the event of further divisions being claimed in respect of any motions or questions under the same agenda item, the Committee should proceed to each of such divisions immediately after the division bell had been rung for one minute.

2. Mr WONG Kwok-kin, Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Mr WONG Ting-kwong and Mr KWOK Wai-keung expressed support for Mr IP's motion. They criticized members of the pan-democratic camp for moving a large number of motions under paragraph 37A of FCP ("37A motions") with the sole purpose of filibustering. They also considered that shortening the ringing duration of the division bell would neither affect the voting results nor render members "voting machines". Mr IP Kwok-him expressed a similar view on his motion.

- 3. Ms Claudia MO, Ms Cyd HO, Mr SIN Chung-kai, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Mr WONG Yuk-man, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Albert CHAN spoke against Mr IP's motion. They criticized the Administration for not comprehensively answering the questions raised by members at the meeting, thus prompting them to move motions to pressure the Administration to face the issues. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung pointed out that since the motions were moved without notice, it would be reasonable to allow members sufficient time to comprehend them. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung worried that members would vote blindly like "voting machines" if the division bell should ring for one minute only.
- 4. After members had spoken, <u>the Chairman</u> put the motion to vote. At the request of members, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes. <u>The Chairman</u> announced that 33 members voted for and 14 members voted against the question. The votes of individual members were as follows –

For:

Mr CHAN Kam-lam
Mr Vincent FANG Kang
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung
Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee
Mr James TIEN Pei-chun
Mr Steven HO Chun-yin
Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr CHAN Han-pan

Mr LEUNG Che-cheung Mr KWOK Wai-keung Dr Elizabeth QUAT Mr POON Siu-ping Dr CHIANG Lai-wan Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen (33 members) Mr TAM Yiu-chung Mr WONG Kwok-hing

Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen

Ms Starry LEE Wai-king Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun

Mr IP Kwok-him

Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun

Mr NG Leung-sing

Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming

Mr MA Fung-kwok Miss CHAN Yuen-han Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen

Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung

Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong

Mr TANG Ka-piu

Mr Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun

Against:

Mr Albert HO Chun-yan Mr LEE Cheuk-yan

Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung
Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip Mr WONG Yuk-man
Ms Claudia MO Mr Charles Peter MOK

Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Mr SIN Chung-kai Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan

(14 members)

- 5. The Chairman declared that Mr IP Kwok-him's motion was passed.
- 6. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that he had ruled before the meeting that 39 of the 37A motions proposed by members were in order. Since received 602 more proposed motions from members so far, he had to adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes to process them.
- 7. <u>The Chairman</u> declared that the meeting be suspended for 15 minutes at 2:55 pm.
- 8. The meeting was resumed by the Chairman at 3:16 pm. The Chairman remarked that among the 602 proposed motions, he ruled that some motions were directly related to the agenda item and would be proceeded with, including three motions moved by Ms Claudia MO, nine motions by Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, two motions by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, and six motions by Mr WONG Yuk-man. He also suggested Dr Fernando CHEUNG to consolidate his proposed motions into five motions, so that there would be 64 proposed motions in total. The Chairman once again invited members who intending to move any motions to submit them to him as soon as possible.
- 9. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> asked the Chairman whether the 35 motions moved by him were all directly related to the item. If they were, on what basis or according to which provision in the Rules of Procedure that he ruled that only five motions were to be considered. He also pointed out that the Chairman should only consider whether the content of a motion was related to the agenda item when making a ruling.

- 10. The Chairman explained that dealing with all the motions moved by Dr Fernando CHEUNG would only delay proceedings of the meeting. In examining the proposed motions submitted by members, he would take into account the number of motions from individual members and the total number of motions submitted by all members, and allow members the same chances to propose their motions as far as possible in a fair manner, so as to avoid giving preference to a member or two, especially when members submitted proposed motions again at a later stage of the meeting, in which case he would rule that a fewer number of motions would be dealt with. Dr Fernando CHEUNG requested and the Chairman agreed to give a written explanation on his handling approach.
- 11. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung opined that it was not expressly stated out in FCP that the Chairman could limit the number of motions moved under paragraph 37A of FCP to be dealt with on the grounds of fairness. He requested the Legal Adviser to attend the meeting to give an explanation.
- 12. <u>The Chairman</u> responded that direct relevance to the agenda item was the basic requirement of a proposed motion to be dealt with. He implored members to accept the Legal Adviser's opinions should the opinions be different from theirs.
- Mr LEE Cheuk-yan asked the Chairman whether the motions moved by Dr Fernando CHEUNG were all related to the agenda item. If so, would other members be allowed to submit those motions ruled by the Chairman as not to be dealt with, so as to avoid the unfair situation referred to by the Chairman where he would not have to deal with too many motions moved by the same member. The Chairman responded that he would make his ruling after members had submitted their motions. He added that he would have had enough time to process the motions if members had submitted their motions according to the schedule proposed by him. Since he had already ruled that 64 motions would be dealt with, he would not handle a large number of motions submitted during the meeting.
- 14. At the Chairman's invitation, <u>Legal Adviser</u> explained that paragraph 37A of FCP stipulated that members could submit a proposed motion without notice. As the Chairman had a responsibility to preside over the meeting under paragraph 13 of FCP, after members had submitted their proposed motions, the Chairman had to consider how the meeting could be conducted smoothly, efficiently and orderly in deciding ways to deal with such motions. According to a recent court judgment on a relevant case, in order to ensure the proper and orderly conduct of meetings, the Chairman of the Finance Committee had the power to regulate meeting proceedings and put an end to

debates. Moreover, the Chairman could not act arbitrarily in exercising the power concerned. After taking these factors into consideration, the Chairman could make his judgement on how members' 37A motions should be dealt with.

- Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung opined that under paragraph 37A of FCP, members could propose a motion at any time during a meeting. The Chairman should decide how to deal with it after the motion had been proposed, rather than exercising his power to forbid members from moving a motion in advance. Legal Adviser explained that the Chairman needed to consider how to deal with a proposed motion after it had been submitted, including whether or not the motion was related to the agenda item, and that the Chairman's decision would be final. She added that according to her understanding, the Chairman had not forbidden members from further submitting 37A motions at the previous meetings. The Chairman supplemented that he was just encouraging members to submit their proposed motions as early as possible.
- 16. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> considered that paragraph 37A of FCP clearly stipulated that when a member proposed a motion without notice to express a view on the agenda item, the Chairman should decide whether the motion was directly related to the item, and if so, the question on the motion should be put to vote by the Committee to determine whether it should be dealt with. Hence, the power of the Chairman was to rule whether the proposed motion was directly related to the agenda item, and the Chairman had no power to override this procedure.
- 17. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that he would put an end to the discussion on the matter after the Legal Adviser had responded to Dr Fernando CHEUNG's question.
- 18. <u>Legal Adviser</u> explained that regarding the procedure for dealing with 37A motions, apart from paragraph 37A of FCP, paragraph 13 of FCP also provided the Chairman with the power to chair committee meetings. The Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal had made their judgement in relation to the power of the Finance Committee Chairman to chair meetings. Hence, in addition to paragraph 37A of FCP, members should also take into account the provisions set out in paragraph 13 of FCP.

Proposed motions on the item FCR(2015-16)45 to be moved by members under paragraph 37A of FCP

Motion proposed by Ms Claudia MO

19. <u>The Chairman</u> put to vote the question that motion proposed by Ms Claudia MO numbered <u>0008</u> be proceeded forthwith. At the request of members, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division for the proposed motion, and the division bell was rung for one minute. With the agreement of the Chairman, <u>Ms MO</u> read out her proposed motion during the ringing of the division bell. The question was negatived.

Motions proposed by Mr Gary FAN

20. <u>The Chairman</u> put to vote, one by one, the questions that the motions proposed by Mr Gary FAN numbered <u>0012 to 0016</u> be proceeded forthwith. As requested by members, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division for each of the proposed motions, and the division bell was rung for one minute for each division. With the agreement of the Chairman, <u>Mr FAN</u> read out each of his proposed motions during the ringing of the division bell. All the questions were negatived.

Motions proposed by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

The Chairman put to vote, one by one, the questions that the motions proposed by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung numbered 0092, 0096, 0102, 0106, 0107, 0111, 0114, 0141, 0157, 0158, 0171, 0172, 0193, 0196, 0202 and 0208 be proceeded forthwith. As members claimed a division, the Chairman ordered a division for each of the proposed motions, and the division bell was rung for one minute for each division. With the agreement of the Chairman, Mr LEUNG read out each of his proposed motions during the ringing of the division bell. All the questions were negatived.

Motions proposed by Dr Fernando CHEUNG

The Chairman put to vote, one by one, the questions that the motions proposed by Dr Fernando CHEUNG numbered <u>0218</u>, <u>0227</u> and <u>0228</u> be proceeded forthwith. As members claimed a division, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division for each of the proposed motions, and the division bell was rung for one minute for each division. With the agreement of the Chairman, <u>Dr CHEUNG</u> read out each of his proposed motions during the ringing of the division bell. All the questions were negatived.

Action

- At 4:10 pm, the Chairman declared that the meeting be adjourned. 23.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm. 24.

Legislative Council Secretariat 21 June 2016