

CSO/ADM/CR5/3231/99(00)

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26 April 2000

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Dr Hon Leong Che-hung, JP
Chairman of House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
Jackson Road
Hong Kong

**Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill 1999
Resumption of Second Reading Debate**

The Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill 1999 seeks to implement the recommendations of the Legal Aid Policy Review 1997. The Bills Committee for the scrutiny of this Bill concluded its deliberation on 20 April, and agreed that the Chairman of the Bills Committee would recommend to the House Committee on 28 April that the Second Reading debate on the Bill be resumed on 3 May. This timetable would enable the relevant Amendment Regulations to be vetted by the Legislative Council within the 1999 – 2000 legislative session.

Rule 54(5)(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council stipulates that, upon the recommendation of the House Committee, and with the permission of the President of the Legislative Council, the resumption of Second Reading debate of a Bill may take place at the next meeting of the Legislative Council after the relevant House Committee meeting. In the circumstance, I would like to request the House Committee's support on our proposed date for resumption of Second Reading debate. This will allow early implementation of the various improvements to the legal aid system contained in the Bill and the Regulations. Subject to the decision of the House Committee, we will give formal notice and seek the permission of the President of Legislative Council of resumption of Second Reading debate.

Thank you for your kind attention on the matter.

(Mrs Carrie Yau)
Director of Administration

c.c. The Hon Ambrose Lau
Chairman of the Bills Committee