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Proposed Priority in the Scrutiny of Bills by Members

Further to my letter of 2 March 2000 which proposed priority be given to the scrutiny of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2000, the Broadcasting Bill, the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2000, the Evidence (Amendment) Bill 1999, the Entertainment Special Effects Bill, and the Family Status Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 2000, I am grateful that Bills Committees have already been set up for the first two Bills.

In addition to the foregoing items, I would also like to suggest that priority be given, in seriatim, to the following items in your vetting of the bills introduced –

- (i) **Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill 1999.** The primary objective of the Bill is to strengthen the enforcement powers of the Customs and Excise Department in combatting the problem of supply and use of illicit fuel. Early enactment of the Bill would be conducive to tackling the problem of fire and environmental hazards and ensuring effective collection of revenue from duty on hydrocarbon oils;

- (ii) **Securities and Futures Legislation (Provision of False Information) Bill 2000.** The objective of the Bill is to criminalise the act of providing false, misleading or incomplete information to the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and front-line market operators. The introduction of the Growth Enterprises Market and recent market volatilities, particularly those relating to technology-related shares, have added urgency to this proposal which enhances the market monitoring capabilities of the SFC and the front-line market operators; and
- (iii) **Road Traffic Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2000.** The Bill seeks to increase the penalties for speeding offences, one of the major causes of accidents in Hong Kong. Early enactment of the Bill would help to better protect the lives of road users.

I should be grateful if you would put forward the above suggestions for Members' consideration at the coming House Committee meeting.

(Ms Miranda Chiu)
Acting Director of Administration