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Proposed Priority in the Scrutiny of Government Bills

I refer to my letter of 12 May 2000 regarding proposed priority in the scrutiny of Government Bills. We are glad to see that the scrutiny of the first six items on the revised priority list has already started and we appreciate Members' assistance and co-operation in according priorities to these bills.

As discussed at our meeting earlier this week, we understand that Members would like to focus their efforts on the scrutiny of the bills where Bills Committees are already in action and on the scrutiny of subsidiary legislation. We would nevertheless like to suggest that Members, if possible, accord priority to the scrutiny of the following two bills –

- (a) Rehabilitation Centres Bill. The bill seeks to provide for the appointment of rehabilitation centres for young offenders. Enactment of the bill would not only provide the court with an additional option when passing sentence on young offenders but would also fill a gap in the rehabilitation service for young offenders.
- (b) Adaptation of Laws (No. 27) Bill 1999. This bill proposes amendments to adapt three LegCo-related Ordinances to bring them into conformity with the Basic Law and with the status of Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region. The amendments are technical in nature.

Since the two bills are relatively less complicated, we hope Members would favourably consider our suggestion and accord priority to their scrutiny. I should be grateful if you would put forward our suggestion for Members' consideration at the coming House Committee meeting.

(Mrs Carrie Yau)
Director of Administration