

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2120/02-03  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/BC/9/02

**Bills Committee on Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2003**

**Minutes of meeting  
held on Friday, 9 May 2003 at 3:20 pm  
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members Present** : Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon SIN Chung-kai  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong  
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP  
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP  
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
- Member Absent** : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
- Public Officers Attending** : Mr Stephen FISHER  
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)
- Ms Esther LEUNG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (5)

Mrs Teresa CHU  
Assistant Commissioner for Inland Revenue (3)

Mr Thomas LI  
Senior Assessor (Research) (1)  
Inland Revenue Department

Mr Ryan CHIU  
Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (5)1

**Clerk in Attendance** : Miss Flora TAI  
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

**Staff in Attendance** : Mr Stephen LAM  
Assistant Legal Adviser 4

Miss Lolita SHEK  
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)7

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Action

**I. Election of Chairman**

Mrs Selina CHOW was elected Chairman of the Bills Committee.

2. Ms Cyd HO expressed dissatisfaction that a government official had lobbied her over her voting in respect of the election of the Chairman. She considered it most inappropriate and unusual for the executive authorities trying to exert influence on Legislative Council (LegCo) Members over the election of committee chairman, and hoped that similar incident would not happen again in future. Ms HO requested that her view be put on record.

3. Mr Andrew CHENG informed members that the government official had also lobbied him over the same subject. He said that he respected the result of the election of Chairman of the Bills Committee but considered that the executive authorities should not try to influence the decision of LegCo Members over the election of committee chairman. He commented that the Administration had tried to lobby Members to elect a Member who was supportive of its proposal as Chairman of the Bills Committee with a view to expediting the scrutiny of the Bill.

4. In response to members' comments, the Administration clarified that it had held discussions with different Members on the Bill before the meeting. However, it had already explained to the Members concerned that it did not try to influence their decisions but intended only to share its views on the various

aspects of the Bill with them so that they knew the stance of the Administration. The Administration stressed that it had all along been the practice of the Home Affairs Bureau to share its views on a particular Government policy with LegCo Members. However, it would apologize if members considered this act inappropriate.

5. Mr James TO commented that while the Administration might share its views on the Bill with Members, it should not try to exert its influence on LegCo Members over the election of the Chairman of the Bills Committee. He considered such act totally unacceptable and admonished the Administration for doing so.

## **II. Meeting with the Administration**

[The Bill; Legislative Council (LegCo) Brief on the Bill; and LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2000/02-03(02) to (11)]

6. The Committee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

Clerk

7. Members agreed that the LegCo Secretariat should prepare a summary of the submissions and views received by LegCo on authorization of football betting and the Bill, to which the Administration should provide a written response for future discussion.

Adm

Adm

8. At the request of the Bills Committee, the Administration agreed to take the following actions –

- (a) to provide a comprehensive paper on the dedicated fund for financing measures that would be taken to minimize the possible adverse effects of authorization of football betting on society, including the estimated number of people who would receive the services provided and the particulars of service providers;
- (b) to estimate the number of pathological gamblers before and after authorization of football betting;
- (c) to elaborate the Government policy on whether part of the tax revenue generated from football betting should be earmarked for the dedicated fund; and
- (d) to make reference to practices in other countries and consider whether part of the tax revenue generated should be allocated for the promotion of soccer sport.

### **III. Way forward**

#### Dates of future meetings

9. Members agreed to schedule future meetings as follows –

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Friday, 23 May 2003	immediately after the meeting of the House Committee scheduled for 2:30 pm on the same day
Wednesday, 28 May 2003	10:45 am
Friday, 6 June 2003	immediately after the meeting of the House Committee scheduled for 2:30 pm on the same day
Tuesday, 10 June 2003	8:30 am
Thursday, 12 June 2003	8:30 am

#### Invitation of public views

10. Members agreed that the Bills Committee would receive public views on the Bill at the meeting scheduled for 28 May 2003 and, if necessary, at the meeting scheduled for 10 June 2003.

11. Members further agreed that an invitation for views should be placed in local newspapers and also on the LegCo website. Invitations should also be issued to organizations and individuals which/who had provided submissions and views on authorization of football betting or the Bill to LegCo.

### **IV. Any other business**

12. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:25 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3 June 2003

**Proceedings of the meeting of the Bills Committee on  
 Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2003  
 on Friday, 9 May 2003 at 3:20 pm  
 in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
0000 - 0643	Ms Cyd HO Mr Tommy CHEUNG Mr James TO Mr Andrew CHENG Mr Andrew WONG Mr James TIEN Mr Michael MAK Dr Philip WONG	Election of Chairman	
0644 - 1712	Chairman Ms Cyd HO Mr James TO Admin Mr Andrew CHENG Ms Audrey EU	The appropriateness of the executive authorities to exert influence on Legislative Council Members over the election of committee chairman	
1713 - 2146	Admin Chairman	Introduction of the Bill	
2147 - 2158	Mr James TO Chairman	Invitation of public views on the Bill	
2158 - 2715	Mr Andrew CHENG Chairman	Submissions received on the authorization of football betting and the Bill	
2716 - 3609	Chairman Mr James TO Admin	Offer of fixed odds betting in authorized football betting	
3610 - 4224	Mr Michael MAK Admin Chairman	Measures that would be financed by the dedicated fund to minimize the possible adverse effects of authorized football betting on society	
4225 - 4756	Ms Cyd HO Admin	Membership of the Gaming Commission and the dedicated committee to be set up under the Home Affairs Bureau to manage the dedicated fund, and their role in ensuring that public education and related measures would be implemented to prevent gambling-related problems	

4757 - 5223	Mr Howard YOUNG Admin	Possible increase in the number of gamblers after authorization of football betting  Competitiveness of the operator of authorized football betting with a betting duty of 50% on gross profits	
5224 - 010432	Mr Andrew CHENG Admin Chairman Mr Timothy FOK	Estimated amount of annual turnover of football betting in Hong Kong  Measures to be taken by the Government to reduce the possible adverse effects of football betting on society  Use of the tax revenue generated from football betting for the promotion of soccer sport	
010433 - 011543	Chairman Mr Andrew CHENG Admin Ms Cyd HO Clerk Mr Tommy CHEUNG	Way forward and dates of future meetings	<b>Clerk and Admin (see paras. 4 and 5 of minutes of meeting)</b>

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3 June 2003