

立法會
Legislative Council

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House Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the special meeting
held in the Legislative Council Chamber
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 27 February 2004**

Members present : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP (Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Dr Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, GBS, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon HUI Cheung-ching, JP
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon SIN Chung-kai
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung, BBS
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP

Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon SZETO Wah
Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP
Hon LAU Ping-cheung
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP

Members absent : Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP

Public Officer attending : The Hon Donald TSANG Yam-kuen, GBM, JP
Chief Secretary for Administration

Agenda item I

Mr Andrew H W WONG, JP
Director of Administration

Agenda item II

Ms Kitty CHOI
Head, Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit

Agenda item III

Mr Stephen S L LAM, JP
Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Clerk in attendance : Mrs Justina LAM
Assistant Secretary General 2

Staff in attendance : Mr Jimmy MA, JP
Legal Adviser

Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mrs Constance LI
Chief Council Secretary (2)5

Miss Lolita SHEK
Senior Council Secretary (2)7

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The Chairman welcomed the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the other government representatives to the meeting.

2. The Chairman invited CS to make his introductory remarks before taking questions from Members. CS's introductory remarks are detailed in the **Appendix**.

I. Long term accommodation for the Legislative Council

3. Mr Henry WU said that the development of a new Legislative Council (LegCo) Complex had been discussed for a long time. He pointed out that the LegCo Commission held the view that the new LegCo Complex could be separately pursued at alternative sites. He asked whether the Administration had considered this option.

4. CS responded that the construction costs of the new LegCo Complex would be \$1.28 billion, and the additional annual recurrent costs would be about \$20 million. The costs would be more or less the same irrespective of the site chosen for the new LegCo Complex. CS said that the Administration was of the view that the Tamar site remained to be the ideal site for the construction of the new LegCo Complex and the new Central Government Complex.

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5. Regarding the Government's justifications for deferring the Tamar project, Mr Howard YOUNG asked whether "prevailing political climate" referred to the impending constitutional review.

6. CS explained that the Administration considered that it was not the right time to proceed with the Tamar project having regard to the budget deficits and public sentiments against substantial capital spending on office accommodation projects. CS added that the public considered that other major infrastructural projects should have priority over large-scale office accommodation projects like the new LegCo Complex.

7. Mr Abraham SHEK expressed disappointment that the Tamar project was accorded low priority. He asked whether the approach for developing the West Kowloon site could be adopted for the Tamar project in order to save costs.

8. CS said that the West Kowloon project would not require capital injection from the Administration as the project would be financed by the commercial facilities included in the project. However, the Tamar project could not adopt this approach because no commercial facilities would be provided. CS further said that the Administration welcomed suggestions on how the costs of the Tamar project could be reduced.

9. Ms Emily LAU said that the LegCo Commission was of the view that the new LegCo Complex should be constructed as soon as possible. Ms LAU enquired about the viable measures to meet the accommodation needs of LegCo by 2008 if, for instance, LegCo would have 120 Members after the constitutional review. Ms LAU pointed out that it would be more costly to refurbish the LegCo Building and hire additional office and conference facilities if a new LegCo Complex was not available by 2008.

10. CS said that the timing for the construction of a new LegCo Complex was not dependent on the constitutional review. Should there be an increase in the number of Members and staff of LegCo as a result of the constitutional review, the Administration would discuss with the LegCo Commission measures to resolve any accommodation problem of LegCo.

11. In response to Ms Emily LAU's enquiry, CS clarified that the building projects mentioned in paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper referred to those public works projects already approved by the Finance Committee (FC) of LegCo.

II. Co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

12. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired about the progress of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Mr SIN said that according to media reports, the Shenzhen city had proposed a double Y-shape design for the project, and he would like to know whether the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Advance Work Coordination Group would discuss the proposed design.

13. CS responded that FC had given funding approval for undertaking an investigation study and developing a conceptual design for the section of the proposed Bridge within the boundary of Hong Kong and the connecting road with the North Lantau Highway. Zhuhai and Macao would conduct their own investigation studies on the landing points within their respective boundaries.

14. As regards the design for the Bridge, CS said that the Shenzhen city had not proposed the double Y-shape design. According to newspaper reports, the design was suggested by some officials in the Guangdong Provincial Government. CS further said that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Advance Work Coordination Group had agreed to commission the China Highway Planning and Design Institute to undertake a feasibility study of the Bridge. It was estimated that the study would be completed before the end of 2004. CS added that Hong Kong would forward the result of its investigation study to the Institute. After considering all the relevant information as well as the views of Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao, the Institute would propose the best design option for the Bridge in terms of feasibility and cost effectiveness.

Assistance for local students to study in the Mainland tertiary institutions

15. Mr CHAN Kwok-keung said that some students in Hong Kong might wish to apply for admission to the undergraduate programmes offered by tertiary institutions in the Mainland. Mr CHAN asked whether the Government would provide information on whether these programmes were recognized locally and internationally.

16. Mr LEUNG Fu-wah expressed a similar concern and asked whether the Government would assist local students in enrolling in programmes offered by the Mainland tertiary institutions.

17. CS said that in enhancing Hong Kong's position as the hub for education in the region, the Government had made efforts to attract students from the Mainland to study in local tertiary institutions. The Government would also provide assistance for local students to enrol in Mainland tertiary institutions where necessary.

Promoting the Greater Pearl River Delta (GPRD)

18. Referring to the investment promotional activities of the GPRD region in Seoul and Japan in October 2003, Mr LAU Kong-wah said that it was reported by the media that Guangdong, and not Hong Kong, had been able to secure business contracts after these activities. Mr LAU asked whether the Government had reviewed its strategy and would make improvements in future investment promotion activities.

19. CS explained that unlike the Guangdong Government which could sign business contracts with enterprises during the investment promotional activities, the Hong Kong Government was not involved in commercial activities. CS said that as far as he was aware, Hong Kong businessmen had been able to secure business contracts after the promotional activities in Seoul and Japan. However, the contracts were signed by individual companies themselves, and there had not been much publicity probably because of the keen competition among these companies.

20. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that he noted that the Expert Group on Expanding the Hong Kong Guangdong Economic Cooperation Hinterland was organizing study visits to the mountain region, as well as the eastern and western regions in Guangdong, for Hong Kong businessmen. Mr LAU asked whether the Government had reviewed the experience of the trade promotion visit to Northwest China conducted in 2001, in order to ensure that Hong Kong investors would be able to benefit from the upcoming visits to Guangdong.

21. CS said that previous investment promotional activities had yielded good results, as demonstrated by the increase in the number of overseas and Mainland enterprises setting up their offices in Hong Kong. CS further said that future promotional activities would aim at assisting Mainland enterprises to enter the global market through Hong Kong, as this would also increase the commercial activities in Hong Kong. The visits to the western regions in Guangdong aimed to attract new investments and to encourage the use of facilities in Hong Kong, for example, the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge would facilitate enterprises in the western regions in Guangdong to export their products to overseas countries through Hong Kong.

22. In response to Mr LAU's further question, CS said that Zhaoqing would be included in the itinerary, but detailed arrangements for the visits to the eastern and northern regions in Guangdong had not yet been worked out. CS added that details of the visits would be provided to Members when available.

23. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that the nine provinces in the Pan Pearl River Delta region had invited economic cooperation from Hong Kong and Macao to form a "nine plus two" group in developing a regional economic system. Mr LAU asked whether any discussion had been held in this regard, and

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whether Hong Kong had conducted any evaluation on the likely benefits to Hong Kong through participation in such economic cooperation.

24. CS responded that Hong Kong's participation in the proposed regional economic system would enable the "nine plus two" group to benefit from the strengths of Hong Kong and the Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement. CS said that there had been initial discussions with Guangdong on this subject and Hong Kong would definitely participate in the proposed regional economic system. However, no formal meetings had yet been held, and more details on the mode and scope of economic cooperation were necessary before an evaluation could be made on its impact on Hong Kong's economy.

Exchange and notification mechanism on infectious diseases

25. Referring to paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper on Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation, Mr LEUNG Fu-wah asked whether Guangdong would notify Hong Kong of cases of infectious diseases only after approval had been obtained from the Ministry of Health.

26. CS said that agreement had recently be reached with Guangdong that it would notify Hong Kong and the Central Government of suspected and confirmed cases of infectious diseases simultaneously.

27. Ms LI Fung-ying asked whether such arrangements had already been put in place. Ms LI expressed concern that the Guangdong authorities had delayed notifying Hong Kong of the fourth case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Guangdong recently.

28. CS clarified that the agreement (paragraph 26 above) was obtained from the Central Government following discussion with the Guangdong authorities immediately after the recent incident. The arrangement had since been put into operation.

Environmental protection

29. Referring to paragraph 14 of the Administration's paper, Ir Dr Raymond HO asked why only the power plants were involved in the proposed pilot emissions trading scheme. He commented that other types of factories could also cause air pollution.

30. Dr HO also asked whether the Government had consulted the industries and professional bodies concerned on the proposed pilot emissions trading scheme. Dr HO said that the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers had not been consulted on the scheme.

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31. CS explained that according to previous environmental reports, the power plants had been identified as the major cause for air pollution in Hong Kong and Guangdong. The pilot emissions trading scheme had focussed on power plants for better cost-effectiveness. As regards consultation with the professional bodies, CS said that he would suggest the Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works to brief Members on the matter.

III. Work progress of the Constitutional Development Task Force

32. Mr Albert CHAN said that recently the Central Authorities had taken a leading role in directing the discussion on constitutional development, and such discussion had side-tracked from the issues on principles and legislative process raised by the Constitutional Development Task Force. Mr CHAN asked whether CS considered that the Task Force's role had been undermined by the Central Authorities, and how the Task Force could resume its leading role in future discussion.

33. Mr Andrew CHENG, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr YEUNG Sum shared the view that the recent discussion on the definition of "patriotism" was not relevant to the constitutional development in Hong Kong.

34. CS said that current discussion had centred on the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and the method for forming the LegCo after 2007, and these issues were relevant to the constitutional development in Hong Kong. CS added that it was natural for people to express different views on these important issues, and it did not mean that the Task Force no longer had a leading role in the discussion. CS stressed that the Task Force adopted an open and receptive approach in the consultation and review process, and would listen to the views of both the Hong Kong community and the Central Authorities. He believed that the on-going discussions would help clarify the principles and provide a common foundation for future discussions.

35. Mr Andrew CHENG commented that recent discussions on the definition of "patriotism" had become rather emotional. He asked whether CS had confidence that consensus could be reached on this issue, and that the Task Force could draw conclusions from such discussions.

36. CS said that the Task Force had made good progress since its formation one month ago. The issues of principle and legislative process relating to constitutional development in the Basic Law (BL) raised by the Task Force had been widely discussed by the community. The Task Force had also met with representatives of the Central Authorities as well as different organizations and individuals since January 2004 to listen to their views on these issues.

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37. CS further said that although quite a lot of emotions had been expressed in recent discussions, there had not been vast differences in opinion in the Hong Kong community regarding the definition of "patriotism". He was confident that the Task Force could draw conclusions from these discussions.

38. Mr Andrew CHENG asked about the timetable for drawing up specific proposals on constitutional development for public consultation. CS responded that the Task Force would end the present round of consultation at an appropriate time and report the progress to the Central Authorities before commencing the next stage of work.

39. Dr YEUNG Sum commented that discussions on "patriotism" often turned into "personal attacks" on individuals. As such arguments had become meaningless, he asked whether CS considered that the discussion on "patriotism" should come to an end. He also asked whether the Administration had avoided putting forward specific proposals for public consultation before the LegCo election in 2004, in order not to encourage people to vote in the election.

40. CS said that it would be for the community to decide whether discussion on the issues raised should continue or not. If no further views were put forward or the views expressed became repetitive, the Task Force would conclude the first round of meetings with different groups and individuals probably by the end of March 2004.

41. CS further said that the 2004 LegCo election was not a consideration in determining the timetable for drawing up specific proposals on the constitutional development for consultation. He stressed that sufficient time should be allowed for the public to express their views on the issues of principle and legislative process before proceeding to the second stage of work.

42. Mr IP Kwok-him said that the people of Hong Kong and Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong had expectations that the Task Force would reflect the views of the Hong Kong community to the Central Authorities. Mr IP asked whether the Central Authorities had set a timetable for the public consultation on constitutional development.

43. CS said that as he had reported on the Task Force's first visit to Beijing at the Council meeting on 11 February 2004, the Central Authorities had agreed that the issues set out by the Task Force should be dealt with first, and those issues on principles should be accorded higher priority. The next stage would start after completion of the present round of public discussion. CS added that all views obtained during the public consultation would be posted on the official website on constitutional development. Copies of all submissions

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received would also be placed in five public enquiry service centres of the Home Affairs Department.

44. Mr IP Kwok-him asked whether the next stage of work would be discussion on the relationship between the Central Authorities and Hong Kong. CS responded that members of the public could choose to express views on different issues at various stages.

45. Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked CS about the proportion of his time he spent on the work of the Task Force. CS responded that it had taken about 30% to 50% of his time.

46. Mr TAM Yiu-chung also asked about the timetable for the Task Force's next visit to Beijing. CS responded that the Task Force would consolidate the views obtained in the first round of public discussion and then liaise with the Central Authorities at an appropriate time for the next visit.

47. Referring to the list of organizations and individuals met by the Task Force, Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked whether they were invited by the Task Force. CS responded that most of these organizations and individuals were invited by the Task Force to give views. The Task Force would also be pleased to meet with organizations and individuals at their request.

48. Miss Margaret NG referred to the questions designed by the Task Force to gauge public views on the issues of principle and legislative process of the constitutional development. Miss NG said that there were criticisms that the questions were so complicated and difficult that an average citizen would not be able to provide sensible and cogent answers. She expressed concern that the presentation of these questions would not be conducive to public participation in the constitutional review, and it would be difficult for the Task Force to collate and analyse the responses so received.

49. CS explained that the questions covered the issues of principle and legislative process that he had reported earlier to Members and the Central Authorities. The Central Authorities had agreed that these issues should be dealt with first, as these would provide a common foundation which was beneficial to the future work of the Task Force.

50. CS said that it would not be conducive to the analysis of views if the questions were set in an over-simplified manner. The feedback received so far did not indicate that the respondents had problems with the questions. CS further said that the Task Force would not edit or abridge the views obtained, and all these views would be reflected to the Central Authorities and made available for public information.

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51. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Ms Cyd HO asked about the methodology for presenting the views obtained to the Central Authorities. Ms HO also asked whether a quantitative or qualitative approach would be adopted in the analysis of the views obtained, particularly if the views given were outside the scope of the questions raised by the Task Force. Ms HO suggested that the Task Force should quantify the views obtained based on objective criteria.

52. CS stressed that the Task Force would consider all the views collected and would not edit or abridge such views. CS reiterated that all these views would be forwarded to the Central Authorities and made available for public information.

53. As regards views on issues other than those covered by the present stage of work, CS said that views on the principles and legislative process would be dealt with in the present round of consultation, while those on other issues would be dealt with at a later stage.

54. Miss Margaret NG asked whether a deadline had been set for the present round of consultation. CS responded that in overall terms when the Task Force no longer received any new views on the issues raised, it would draw the present round of public consultation to an end. It was estimated that the present round of meetings with organizations and individuals would be completed by mid-March to end of March 2004.

55. Mr James TIEN said that Members belonging to the Liberal Party (LP) considered that the Administration should make known its position on constitutional development before the 2004 LegCo election, so that political parties could discuss and comment on it. Noting that the Task Force had held meetings with individuals, Mr TIEN asked whether the Task Force would be able to meet with all the organizations and individuals it had invited to give views before the end of March 2004.

56. Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) said that as at 20 February 2004, the Task Force had met with 53 organizations and individuals from different sectors of the community. The Task Force had arranged to meet with 10 more groups/individuals by early March 2004. In mid-March 2004, the Task Force would meet with members of the Election Committee and District Councils. It was estimated that this phase of meetings with different organizations and individuals would be completed by the end of March 2004. The Task Force would then decide on the appropriate time to commence the next stage of work.

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57. Mr James TIEN suggested that the public should be reminded to put forward their views on constitutional development to the Task Force before the end of March 2004. CS said that the public had been requested to furnish their views to the Task Force as soon as possible through the website of the Task Force and advertisements in the press.

58. Mr Fred LI pointed out that according to some press reports, the Central Authorities were of the view that methods for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) and forming LegCo had to be approved by the Central Authorities. Mr LI asked about the interpretation of Annexes I and II to the BL, as the Task Force had held discussion with representatives of the Central Authorities in February 2004.

59. SCA explained that the requirements for amending the method for selecting CE and forming LegCo were clearly set out in Annexes I and II to the BL. According to Annex I, if there was a need to amend the method for selecting CE for the terms subsequent to the year 2007, such amendments must be made with the endorsement of a two-thirds majority of all LegCo Members and the consent of CE, and be reported to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) for approval. According to Annex II, any amendments made to the method for forming LegCo after 2007 must be made with the endorsement of a two-thirds majority of all LegCo Members and the consent of CE, and be reported to NPCSC for record.

60. SCA further explained that Hong Kong's constitutional development would affect the implementation of the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" and the BL, and the Central Authorities had constitutional powers and responsibilities to oversee the constitutional development in Hong Kong. It was, therefore, necessary for Hong Kong to discuss the issues of principle thoroughly with the Central Authorities in order to achieve a common understanding before discussion on specific proposals for constitutional development.

61. In response to Mr Fred LI's further question, SCA said that BL 17 stipulated that laws enacted by LegCo must be reported to NPCSC for the record. If amendments to the methods for selecting CE and forming LegCo were considered to be not in conformity with the provisions in BL, NPCSC could return the law in question which would immediately be invalidated. It was, therefore, necessary for the amendments to be in conformity with the provisions in BL, and be agreed by LegCo, CE and the Central Authorities.

62. Mr Albert HO asked whether arrangements would be made for LegCo Members to meet with representatives of the Central Authorities to exchange views on issues relating to constitutional development. CS responded that the Central Authorities had indicated to the Task Force during its visit to Beijing in

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February 2004 that it was the responsibility of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to discuss with LegCo and the Hong Kong community on the issues of principle and legislative process. CS added that the Task Force would liaise with the Central Authorities at an appropriate time to report the progress and to reflect the views of the public.

63. Ms Emily LAU said that she shared the view of LP Members that the Task Force should formulate specific proposals for constitutional development for public consultation before the 2004 LegCo election. Ms LAU further said that the Task Force should fully reflect the views of Hong Kong people to the Central Authorities, so as to allay the concerns and worries of some people as revealed in recent discussions on the definition of "patriotism".

64. CS said that in its recent visit to Beijing, the Task Force had reflected the views of the Hong Kong community to the Central Authorities. The Central Authorities had indicated that they were aware that most people in Hong Kong loved the country and loved Hong Kong. CS added that to allay any worry about the definition on "patriotism", Hong Kong people could express their views through participation in open discussion on constitutional development.

65. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern that representatives of the Civil Human Rights Front was refused entry to the Central Government Offices for a meeting scheduled with the Task Force on 27 February 2004. Ms LAU asked whether the Task Force would arrange another meeting with the organisation.

66. CS expressed regret that the meeting did not take place, although he had waited for over an hour that day. He explained that representatives of the Civil Human Rights Front had been advised not to bring a loudspeaker and banner with them into the Central Government Offices on that day to avoid causing disturbance to the staff working there. However, the representatives had refused to take the advice despite explanation and had left without meeting with the Task Force. CS added that the representatives had indicated that they did not wish to meet with the Task Force again.

67. The Chairman thanked CS and other government representatives for attending the special meeting.

68. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:05 pm.

二月二十七日立法會內務委員會會議

政務司司長發言要點

立法會的長遠辦公地點

我跟隨各委員會之前所建議的議程，處理三個項目，讓我作出簡短的介紹。

2. 我知道立法會已在早於十年前開始與政府討論立法會長遠辦公地方問題。同樣，政府在過去十多年也一直考慮搬遷政府總部的長遠計劃。因此，我理解政府把包括新立法會大樓的添馬艦發展工程押後的決定，一定會令部份立法會議員感到失望。我明白議員在這段期間要繼續在環境欠佳的地方工作，情況是並不理想。不過，正如我對同樣受這個決定影響的政府同事

所講，希望大家也能夠以公眾利益為大前題，理解有關情況，並在這段期間，多加忍耐。

3. 就如我較早前向立法會行政管理委員會多次解釋，政府在經考慮現時的政治情況及去年非典型肺炎爆發後的財政狀況，認為目前並不是進行添馬艦工程或大型的辦公大樓工程的適當時候。押後位於添馬艦的新立法會大樓的添馬艦發展工程，將有助減低政府未來數年的財政壓力，並符合公眾利益，亦為公眾接受。政府會在公共財政情況有所改善的時候，即重新展開在添馬艦發展的新立法會大樓的工程。

4. 政府的長遠計劃，依然是把添馬艦用地發展為香港主要的公民及社區設施中心，並以新立法會大樓和新政府總部大樓為其核心部份。政府已經預留該用地作上述的用途。

5. 我留意到立法會秘書處最近就應付立法會未來可能產生的新辦公地方需要研究了幾個方案。我認為各個方案背後的假設都有值得商榷的地方。但，歸根究底，政府最重要的考慮是，若要如立法會建議，在 2008 年前完成興建新立法會大樓，政府必須確定在未來幾年可以承擔所需的約 13 億的全數建築費用的支出，以及新大樓運作後立法會每年額外所需的約 2 千萬經常性開支。

6. 正如我剛才指出，考慮到現時的政治情況，以及政府的財政狀況，我們認為目前並不是進行大規模公營辦公大樓工程的適當時候。與其他在公共工程計劃內的重要基礎設施項目比較，我們認為新立法會大樓或其他新的政府辦公大樓工程是較為次要的項目。

7. 最後，我想指出，政制發展絕不會因為立法會欠缺設施而受到任何牽制或影響。我們會與立法會行政管理委員會商討可行的短、中期措施，處理立法會可能出現辦公地方不足的問題，及日後因應政制發展，而可能需要增加立法會議席所引伸到的增加辦公室用地及設施的需要。

粵港合作事宜

8. 有關粵港合作事宜，會前我已經就近期的發展向各位議員提交了資料文件。總的來說，自去年八月召開了粵港合作聯席會議第六次會議，在兩地政府有關部門共同努力下，粵港合作的進展十分良好。

9. 首先，聯席會議第六次會議後的第一次工作會議訂下了十三個重點合作項目，這些項目已經全部實施，並且大部分也經已完成。例如舉辦粵港經貿合作研討會；聯合組織海外經貿推廣活動；共同參與香港國際旅遊博覽會等均已圓滿舉行。加強口岸處理人流及物流的各項措施、處理廣東省居民赴港旅遊、以及建立粵港傳染病通報機制等均已成功落實。其餘的合作項目也正在實施或開展了前期工作。

10. 在二零零四年上半年，雙方將會重點推進的幾方面工作包括積極推進在廣東省落實 CEPA；舉辦投資推廣活動和推動旅遊發展和推進大型基礎建設等。

11. 在推廣投資和推動旅遊發展方面，雙方繼去年成功在國外聯合舉辦招商活動和旅遊宣傳活動後，在二零零四年將再度合作，分別在歐洲合作舉辦經貿交流活動，以及聯合組團赴墨爾本、橫濱、柏林等地參加大型國際旅遊展，向世界推廣大珠江三角洲整體的旅遊形象。此外，特區政府會組織香港工商界赴廣東省東、西部和山區考察，首站是今年四月的粵西的陽江和湛江兩市。而廣東省則會支持內地的企業，特別是民營企業到香港發展。

12. 在推進大型基礎建設方面，兩地會繼續推進各項計劃。例如皇崗/落馬洲口岸新跨境公路橋已動工興建；在去年八月底動工的深港西部通道工程亦進展良好；皇崗地鐵口岸跨界人行橋興建工程已在一月展開等。

13. 在長遠規劃方面，雙方會加快港珠澳大橋的前期工作，並會委託中交公路規劃設計院(公規院)，在年底前完成可行性研究；而廣深港高速鐵路亦已完成了第一階段前期論証研究，確認了廣深港高速鐵路的策略重要性。目前雙方正就多個不同方案，進行第二階段研究，包括鐵路技術、投資估算等方面的分析。

政制發展專責小組工作進度

14. 就政制發展專責小組工作，我們今次向內務委員會提交了一份文件介紹專責小組自一月成立以來的工作。專責小組這個階段的工作是重要和務實的。

15. 我們認為無論大家追求的政制發展方案是怎樣的形式和速度，都要証明該方案能夠維持香港市民原有的生活方式和能促進香港社會長期享有繁榮穩定。這正是討論《基本法》的政制發展原則的重要性。國家定下「一國兩制」的重要國策主旨就是要保障香港能繼續行資本主義的制度，保持社會長期繁榮穩定。若然我們沒有探討怎樣能符合「一國兩制」的方針，怎樣才能兼顧香港各階層的利益及怎樣才能切合香港的實際情況等原則，日後，所提出的方

案也會脫離了鞏固香港制度的《基本法》及「一國兩制」國策下的憲制支柱，脫離了關乎市民利益的原則。所以，專責小組希望各位能對這些問題作深入討論，以市民福祉為依歸。

16. 就此項工作，專責小組所抱的宗旨是廣泛聽取意見及保持高透明度。

17. 自專責小組今年 1 月成立以來，我們已與超過 50 個來自社會不同界別的團體和人士會面，其中包括立法會、區議會、論政團體、法律界、學術界和商會等，從中收到 20 多份意見書。由現在到 3 月初，我們還會約見約 10 多個團體和人士，預料到三月中，還會與選舉委員會委員和區議會議員會面。

18. 此外，為了方便市民向我們表達意見和

取得有關政制發展的資料，我們設立了一個政制發展網頁，由上星期四開始啟用，並透過政府電視及電台廣告片作宣傳。我們亦在本地所有報章，刊登有關原則和法律程序的問題，以及將有關目前政制發展討論的文件複印本，存放在各區民政處，方便市民索閱，向我們提供意見。

19. 直至 2 月 26 日為止，我們透過不同渠道，包括這個網頁、傳真和郵遞，已收到 240 多份社會各界對原則和法律程序問題及其他政制發展事宜的看法。而瀏覽我們網頁的人數每天也達數千，反應不俗。

20. 就保持高度透明度，除了我們早前向立法會講述訪京的情況及出席立法會政制事務委員會的會議交代小組工作進展外，我們更會由

下星期一開始，把專責小組已會面的團體和人士名單上網，並且定時更新，不願意公開會面的人士或團體除外。此外，這些團體和人士交來的書面意見，除非他們要求不作公開，否則我們也會將這些意見書的副本由下星期一起存放在香港島、九龍東、九龍西、新界東及新界西（即灣仔、觀塘、油尖旺、沙田和荃灣）。五區的民政事務處諮詢服務中心，供市民參閱。

21. 主席，我曾經向立法會講述中央確定專責小組現時所羅列的原則問題極為重要，是香港未來政治體制發展的基礎，必須優先處理。在我們這個月的工作中，明顯地各界已由較早前祇集中討論《基本法》法律程序問題，轉向比較深化研究我們提出的原則問題。

22. 他們的觀點反映了不同界別的團體和人

士對政制發展的考慮。我們認為現階段的工作，實有利各方表達關注，尋找對這些原則及法律程序的共同理解，使我們日後研究具體方案時，可以引用這些大家已同意的原則，去審視個別方案是否符合《基本法》的原則及「一國兩制」政策方針，因為這些都關乎國家及香港的利益，保障香港長期的繁榮穩定。

23. 專責小組會繼續積極聽取社會各界的意見，如實把港人意見反映給中央，但同時特區是需要與中央就政制發展作充分商討及獲得到中央支持。

24. 如果議員對我們以上三項的工作有什麼問題，我們會盡量回答。