

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 2703/03-04

Ref: CB2/SC

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 11 June 2004

**Allocation of a debate slot to the Select Committee to
inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority**

Purpose

This paper invites the House Committee to consider the request of the "Select Committee to inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority" for allocation of a debate slot to its Chairman to move a motion on its Report at the Council meeting of 7 July 2004.

Background

2. On 29 October 2003, the Council appointed by resolution a select committee to inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority (HA) in order to examine the performance and accountability of the Government and HA and their officers at policy-making and management levels in that regard. The resolution passed by the Council is in **Appendix I**.

Motion debate on the Report of the Select Committee

3. As at the date of this paper, the Select Committee has obtained evidence from 73 witnesses in 30 hearings. The Select Committee is now at the final stage of its deliberations and drafting of its Report on the inquiry. The Select Committee will table its Report at the Council meeting of 7 July 2004.

4. The matters inquired by the Select Committee are of wide public concern. For the purpose of enabling Members and public officers to debate the findings and observations of the Select Committee, the Select Committee has decided that its Chairman, Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong, should move a motion on its Report for debate at the Council meeting of 7 July 2004. The wording of the motion is in **Appendix II**.

5. The Select Committee wishes to request the House Committee to recommend to the President, under rule 13(a) of the House Rules (HR), that three debates on Members' motions be held at the Council meeting of 7 July 2004, and to allocate one of the debate slots to Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong to move the motion for debate on behalf of the Select Committee. HR 13(a) provides that not more than two debates initiated by Members, which may be two motion debates, two adjournment debates, or one motion debate and one adjournment debate, should be held at each regular Council meeting. However, more than two such debates may be allowed by the President under special circumstances upon the recommendation of the House Committee.

6. For Members' reference, debates were held on the Report of the "Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances leading to the problems surrounding the commencement of the operation of the New Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok since 6 July 1998 and related issues", and the First Report of the "Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units". Details are in **Appendix III**. On these two occasions, the debate on the report of the select committee concerned was accorded priority in the allocation of a debate slot and was one of the two debates on Members' motions with no legislative effect held at the relevant Council meeting. As the Council meeting of 7 July 2004 is the last Council meeting of the current term, the Select Committee does not wish to seek priority allocation of a debate slot under HR 14A in order not to deprive other Members of a debate slot to apply for.

7. The Select Committee also requests that, similar to the previous two debates on reports of select committees, the speaking time limit for the debate on its Report at the Council meeting of 7 July 2004 should be 15 minutes for each Member.

8. The Select Committee hopes that Members would appreciate that the Select Committee is working under a very tight time schedule and would not be able to table its report at a Council meeting earlier than 7 July 2004. However, the Select Committee would try its best to present its Report to the Council as soon as it is ready, before 7 July 2004.

Advice sought

9. Members are invited to consider the requests of the Select Committee in paragraphs 5 and 7 above.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat

10 June 2004

HC-motion.doc

2003 年 10 月 29 日(星期三)
立法會會議席上
羅致光議員就“委任專責委員會”
提出的議案

議案措辭

“本會委任一個專責委員會，調查政府與醫院管理局對嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發的處理手法，藉此審視政府與醫院管理局及其決策及管理階層人員在此方面的表現及須承擔的責任；而該委員會在執行其職務時獲授權根據《立法會(權力及特權)條例》(第 382 章)第 9(2)條行使該條例第 9(1)條所賦予的權力。”

**Motion on “Appointment of a select committee”
to be moved by Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 29 October 2003**

Wording of the Motion

“That this Council appoints a select committee to inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority in order to examine the performance and accountability of the Government and the Hospital Authority and their officers at policy-making and management levels in that regard; and that in the performance of its duties the committee be authorized under section 9(2) of the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382) to exercise the powers conferred by section 9(1) of that Ordinance.”

2004年7月7日(星期三)
立法會會議席上
羅致光議員就“專責委員會報告”
提出的議案

議案措辭

“本會通過《調查政府與醫院管理局對嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症爆發的處理手法專責委員會報告》。”

**Motion on “Report of the Select Committee”
to be moved by Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 7 July 2004**

Wording of the Motion

“That this Council endorses the Report of the Select Committee to inquire into the handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority.”

**Previous cases of the chairman of a select committee
moving a motion for debate on behalf of the committee**

<u>Date of House Committee meeting</u>	<u>Motion</u>
22 January 1999	<p>Motion on "Report of the Select Committee"</p> <p>Hon Mrs Selina CHOW, Chairman of the "Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances leading to the problems surrounding the commencement of the operation of the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok since 6 July 1998 and related issues" requested that a slot be allocated to her to move a motion on the Report of the Select Committee for debate at the Council meeting on 3 February 1999.</p> <p>The House Committee agreed that Hon Mrs Selina CHOW be allocated the debate slot, as requested. No amendments should be proposed to the motion, and Mrs CHOW would not be regarded as having sponsored a motion for the purpose of the queuing system.</p> <p>The House Committee also agreed that the speaking time limit was 15 minutes for each Member.</p>
10 January 2003	<p>Motion on "First Report of the Select Committee"</p> <p>Hon Miriam LAU, Chairman of the Select Committee on Building Problems of Public Housing Units, requested for priority allocation of a debate slot under rule 14A of the House Rules for her to move a motion on the First Report of the Select Committee for debate at the Council meeting on 12 February 2003.</p> <p>The House Committee agreed that Hon Miriam LAU be allocated the debate slot under rule 14A.</p> <p>The House Committee also agreed that the speaking time limit was 15 minutes for each Member.</p>