

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CROP 57/02-03

Ref: CB(3)/CROP/3

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 16 May 2003

Committee on Rules of Procedure

Proposed arrangements for the debate on the next Policy Address

Purpose

This paper informs the House Committee (HC) of the results of the consultation by the Committee on Rules of Procedure (CRoP) with all Legislative Council (LegCo) Members on the arrangements for the debate on the Policy Address (the Debate) in the 2002-03 LegCo session, and invites HC to endorse the arrangements proposed for the Debate on the next Policy Address.

Background

2. At its meeting on 7 April 2003, CRoP reviewed the arrangements for the Debate in the 2002-03 LegCo session and considered the views of some LegCo Members and the Administration on the arrangements. After discussion, CRoP was of the view that the arrangements for the Debate in the current session should continue, but the following six issues required further review:

- (a) speaking time limit for designated public officers;
- (b) arrangements for the release of the Policy Address-related publications i.e. the Progress Report and Policy Agenda to LegCo;
- (c) policy briefings for Panels;
- (d) time gap between the delivery of the Policy Address and the Debate;
- (e) speaking time limit for Members; and
- (f) number of times that Members may speak in each session of the Debate.

CRoP decided that all LegCo Members should be consulted on the six issues.

Results of the consultation

3. 56 Members responded to the questionnaire. Their views on the six issues covered in the questionnaire are detailed in the **Appendix**.

4. Members' views on the issue of speaking time limit for designated public officers are as follows:

- (a) 27 Members support the Administration's proposal of allowing each designated public officer to speak for a maximum of 15 minutes, irrespective of the number of public officers speaking in a debate session;
- (b) 18 Members support the arrangement for the Debate in the current session, i.e. the total speaking time limit for designated public officers in each debate session should be:
 - (i) for three or less officers, 45 minutes; and
 - (ii) for four or more officers, to be calculated on the basis of 12-minute speaking time limit for each officer; and
- (c) 11 Members propose an arrangement which is the same as that in the current session in respect of three or less officers, but calculates the speaking time limit for four or more public officers on the basis of 15-minute for each officer.

5. A majority view has been reached on each of the other five issues.

Proposed arrangements for the Debate on the next Policy Address

6. Having considered the consultation results at its meeting on 5 May 2003, CRoP agreed that the arrangements for the Debate in the current session should continue subject to the following adjustments in respect of the six issues:

- (a) the total speaking time limit for designated public officers in each debate session should be -
 - (i) for one or two officers, each officer may speak for not less than 15 minutes, subject to the total speaking time limit of 45 minutes; and
 - (ii) for three or more officers, to be calculated on the basis of 15-minute speaking time limit for each officer;

- (b) as in the 1997-98 and 1998-99 sessions, the Progress Report and Policy Agenda should be published separately. The Progress Report should be released shortly (e.g. two days) before the delivery of the Policy Address. The Chief Secretary for Administration should then hold a briefing to introduce the Progress Report on the day of its publication;
- (c) there should be policy briefings for Panels after the delivery of the Policy Address and before the commencement of the Debate;
- (d) the Debate should be held two weeks after the delivery of the Policy Address;
- (e) the total speaking time limit for a Member in the five debate sessions should be 20 minutes; and
- (f) provided that no Member may speak after the designated public officer(s) has/have spoken and that the overall 20-minute speaking time limit for a Member is not exceeded, each Member should be allowed to speak once in each session of the Debate. The HC Chairman may speak for more than once in the fifth session on the amendment(s) and in reply respectively. The HC Chairman should, as mover of the Motion of Thanks (the Motion), have an additional 15-minute speaking time for moving the Motion and in reply. If there is/are amendment(s) to the Motion, she should have another five minutes to speak on the amendment(s).

As the Administration has not been consulted on CRoP's proposal in paragraph 6(a) above, the Secretariat is seeking the Administration's view on the proposal.

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to endorse the proposed arrangements for the Debate on the next Policy Address set out in paragraph 6 above. Should the Administration have different view on CRoP's proposal in paragraph 6(a) above, CRoP will consult HC further.

Legislative Council Secretariat
14 May 2003

**Members' views on the arrangements for the debate on the
Policy Address in the 2002-03 Legislative Council session**

Item No.	Issues for review	Members' views			
1	Arrangements for the release of Policy Address-related publications i.e. the Progress Report and Policy Agenda to the Legislative Council	<p>(a) As in the 1997-98 and 1998-99 sessions, the Progress Report and Policy Agenda should be published separately. The Progress Report should be released shortly (e.g. two days) before the delivery of the Policy Address. The Chief Secretary for Administration should then hold a briefing to introduce the Progress Report on the day of its publication.</p>	<p>(b) As in the 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 sessions, the Progress Report should be published together with the Policy Agenda in a composite book on the same day the Policy Address is delivered. There is no need to hold a briefing on the Progress Report.</p>	<p>(c) As in the current session, the Progress Report and Policy Agenda should be published separately. There is no need to hold a briefing on the Progress Report.</p>	<p>(d) As suggested by the Administration, the arrangements for the publication of the Progress Report and the Policy Agenda should be decided by the Administration having regard to the circumstances of each year.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Party^a (11 Members) - Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB)^b (10 Members) - Hon Cyd HO - Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai - Hon LEE Cheuk-yan - Hon Margaret NG (<u>either (a) or (b) is acceptable</u>) - Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung - Hon LAU Chin-shek - Hon Emily LAU - Hon LI Fung-ying - Hon Henry WU - Hon Michael MAK - Hon Albert CHAN - Hon Frederick FUNG - Hon Audrey EU <p align="right">(Total: 34 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liberal Party^c (8 Members) - Hon Eric LI - Dr Hon David LI - Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah - Hon NG Leung-sing - Hon Margaret NG (<u>either (a) or (b) is acceptable</u>) - Hon Abraham SHEK <p align="right">(Total: 14 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hong Kong Progressive Alliance (HKPA)^d (4 Members) - Hon Bernard CHAN - Hon LEUNG Fu-wah - Dr Hon LO Wing-lok <p align="right">(Total: 7 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting - Hon MA Fung-kwok <p align="right">(Total: 2 Members)</p>

Item No.	Issues for review	Members' views	
2	Policy briefings for Panels	(a) Individual Panels should decide on the need for briefings by the Administration on the Policy Address and whether such briefings should be held before or after the Debate.	(b) There should be policy briefings for Panels after the delivery of the Policy Address and before the commencement of the Debate.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAB^b (10 Members) - Hon Eric LI - Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah - Hon NG Leung-sing - Hon Margaret NG - Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting - Hon Abraham SHEK - Hon LEUNG Fu-wah <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 17 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Party^a (11 Members) - Liberal Party^c (8 Members) - HKPA^d (4 Members) - Hon Cyd HO - Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai - Hon LEE Cheuk-yan - Dr Hon David LI - Hon Bernard CHAN - Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung - Hon LAU Chin-shek - Hon Emily LAU - Hon LI Fung-ying - Hon Henry WU - Hon Michael MAK - Hon Albert CHAN - Dr Hon LO Wing-lok - Hon Frederick FUNG - Hon Audrey EU - Hon MA Fung-kwok <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 39 Members)</p>

Item No.	Issues for review	Members' views	
3	Time gap between the delivery to the Policy Address and the Debate	(a) The Debate should be held one week after the delivery of the Policy Address.	(b) The Debate should be held two weeks after the delivery of the Policy Address.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon Margaret NG - Hon Bernard CHAN - Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting - Hon Albert CHAN - Hon LEUNG Fu-wah - Hon Frederick FUNG <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 6 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Party^a (11 Members) - DAB^b (10 Members) - Liberal Party^c (8 Members) - HKPA^d (4 Members) - Hon Cyd HO - Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai - Hon LEE Cheuk-yan - Hon Eric LI - Dr Hon David LI - Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah - Hon NG Leung-sing - Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung - Hon LAU Chin-shek - Hon Emily LAU - Hon Abraham SHEK - Hon LI Fung-ying - Hon Henry WU - Hon Michael MAK - Dr Hon LO Wing-lok - Hon Audrey EU - Hon MA Fung-kwok <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 50 Members)</p>

Item No.	Issues for review	Members' views	
4	Speaking time limit for Members	(a) 20 minutes, as in the Debate held in the current session.	(b) 30 minutes.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAB^b (10 Members) - Liberal Party^c (8 Members) - HKPA^d (4 Members) - Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai - Hon Eric LI - Dr Hon David LI - Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah - Hon NG Leung-sing - Hon Bernard CHAN - Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting - Hon LI Fung-ying - Hon Henry WU - Hon Albert CHAN - Hon LEUNG Fu-wah - Dr Hon LO Wing-lok - Hon MA Fung-kwok <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 35 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Party^a (11 Members) - Hon Cyd HO - Hon LEE Cheuk-yan - Hon Margaret NG - Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung - Hon LAU Chin-shek - Hon Emily LAU - Hon Abraham SHEK - Hon Michael MAK - Hon Frederick FUNG - Hon Audrey EU <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 21 Members)</p>

Item No.	Issues for review	Members' views	
5	<p>Number of times that Members may speak in each session of the Debate (Provided that no Member may speak after the designated public officer(s) has/have spoken and that the overall time limit of a Member is not exceeded)</p>	<p>(a) Each Member should be allowed to speak once in each session of the Debate, as in the Debate held in the current session.</p>	<p>(b) Each Member should be allowed to speak more than once in each session of the Debate.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAB^b (10 Members) - Liberal Party^c (8 Members) - HKPA^d (4 Members) - Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai - Hon Eric LI - Dr Hon David LI - Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah - Hon NG Leung-sing - Hon Bernard CHAN - Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting - Hon Henry WU - Hon LEUNG Fu-wah - Hon Frederick FUNG - Hon MA Fung-kwok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Party^a (11 Members) - Hon Cyd HO - Hon LEE Cheuk-yan - Hon Margaret NG - Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung - Hon LAU Chin-shek - Hon Emily LAU - Hon Abraham SHEK - Hon LI Fung-ying - Hon Michael MAK - Hon Albert CHAN - Dr Hon LO Wing-lok - Hon Audrey EU
		<p>(Total: 33 Members)</p>	<p>(Total: 23 Members)</p>

Item No.	Issues for review	Members' views		
6	<p>Speaking time limit for designated public officers</p>	<p>(a) As in the Debate held in the current session, the total speaking time limit for designated public officers in each debate session should be:</p> <p>(i) for three or less officers, 45 minutes; and</p> <p>(ii) for four or more officers, to be calculated on the basis of 12-minute speaking time limit for each officer.</p>	<p>(b) As suggested by the Administration, each designated public officer should be allowed to speak for a maximum of 15 minutes, irrespective of the number of public officers speaking in a debate session.</p>	<p>The total speaking time limit for designated public officers in each debate session should be:</p> <p>(a) for three or less officers, 45 minutes; and</p> <p>(b) for four or more officers, to be calculated on the basis of <u>15-minute</u> speaking time limit for each officer. (*see Note)</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon Cyd HO - Ir Dr Hon HO Chung-tai - Hon LEE Cheuk-yan - Hon Eric LI - Dr Hon David LI - Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah - Hon NG Leung-sing - Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung - Hon LAU Chin-shek - Hon Emily LAU - Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting - Hon Abraham SHEK - Hon LI Fung-ying - Hon Henry WU - Hon Michael MAK - Hon LEUNG Fu-wah - Hon Audrey EU - Hon MA Fung-kwok <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 18 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAB^b (10 Members) - Liberal Party^c (8 Members) - HKPA^d (4 Members) - Hon Margaret NG - Hon Bernard CHAN - Hon Albert CHAN - Dr Hon LO Wing-lok - Hon Frederick FUNG <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 27 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Party^a (11 Members) <p style="text-align: right;">(Total: 11 Members)</p>

*Note: The 15-minute speaking time limit for each designated public officer was not set out in the questionnaire on Members' views on the arrangements for the debate on the Policy Address in the 2002-2003 Legislative Council session and is proposed by the Democratic Party in its return of views thereon.

Democratic Party^a
(11 Members)
Hon Albert HO
Hon Martin LEE
Hon Fred LI
Hon James TO
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon SIN Chung-kai
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Hon Andrew CHENG
Hon SZETO Wah
Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong
Hon WONG Sing-chi

Democratic Alliance for
Betterment of Hong Kong
(DAB)^b
(10 Members)
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung
Hon CHAN Yuen-han
Hon CHAN Kam-lam
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon Jasper TSANG
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon TAM Yiu-chung
Hon IP Kwok-him

Liberal Party^c
(8 Members)
Hon Kenneth TING
Hon James TIEN
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG
Hon Howard YOUNG
Hon LAU Wong-fat
Hon Miriam LAU
Hon Tommy CHEUNG

Hong Kong Progressive
Alliance (HKPA)^d
(4 Members)
Dr Hon David CHU
Hon HUI Cheung-ching
Hon Ambrose LAU
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong

The following 4 Members have
not given any views:

Hon Mrs Rita FAN
Hon Andrew WONG
Dr Hon Philip WONG
Hon LAU Ping-cheung