### 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. LS56/05-06

#### Paper for the House Committee Meeting on 21 April 2006

#### Legal Service Division Report on Subsidiary Legislation Gazetted on 7 April 2006

**Date of Tabling in LegCo** : 26 April 2006

Amendment to be made by : 24 May 2006 (or 14 June 2006 if extended by

resolution)

## REVISION OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Chinese Nationality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 540)

Chinese Nationality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule – Fees Revision) Order 2006 (L.N. 67)

L.N. 67 increases the fees payable for making nationality applications under the Chinese Nationality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 540) by 15% to 20% with effect from 19 June 2006. These fees have not been revised since their introduction in July 1997. The details of the increase are set out below:

Item	<b>Existing Fee</b>	New Fee
(a) Application for naturalization as a Chinese national - on application	\$1,365	\$1,570
(b) Application for naturalization as a Chinese national – on demand for a certificate	\$1,365	\$1,570
(c) Application for renunciation of Chinese nationality	\$480	\$575

(d) Application for restoration of Chinese nationality	\$960	\$1,150
(e) Application for supply of a certified copy of any certificate issued on approval of applications for nationalization as Chinese nationals and for renunciation or restoration of Chinese nationality	\$155	\$185

2. Members may refer to the LegCo Brief (File Ref.: SBCR 3/3231/66) issued by the Security Bureau on 3 April 2006 for background information.

# Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passports Ordinance (Cap. 539) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passports Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule – Fees Revision) Notice 2006 (L.N. 68)

3. L.N. 68 increases the prescribed fees payable on applying for the issuance of, the amendment of and the making of an endorsement on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") passports under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passports Ordinance (Cap. 539) by 16% to 21% with effect from 19 June 2006. The fees for issuing HKSAR passports were last revised in November 2000 while those for amending and making endorsement on HKSAR passports have not been revised since July 1997. The details of the increase are set out below:

Item	<b>Existing Fee</b>	New Fee
(a) Issuing a passport of 32 pages valid for 10 years to a person aged 16 or above	\$320	\$370
(b) Issuing a passport of 32 pages valid for five years to a person under the age of 16 years	\$160	\$185
(c) Amending an existing passport	\$70	\$84
(d) Making on both a previous passport and a replacement passport an endorsement to the effect that the previous passport bears a visa which is still in force	\$140	\$170

4. Members may refer to the LegCo Brief (File Ref.: SBCR 3/3231/66) issued by the Security Bureau on 3 April 2006 for background information.

Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115)
Immigration (Fees Revision) Regulation 2006 (L.N. 69)

Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap. 177)
Registration of Persons (Fees Revision) Regulation 2006 (L.N. 70)

- 5. L.N. 69 and L.N. 70 are made by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury under section 29A of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) by virtue of section 59 of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) and section 7 of the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap. 177) respectively to revise with effect from 19 June 2006 the fees payable for certain documents, visas, permits and identity cards issued and services provided by the Immigration Department. Most of these fees have not been revised since October 1997.
- 6. L.N. 69 amends Schedule 2 to the Immigration Regulations (Cap. 115 sub. leg. A) to increase the fees of 16 items set out in the Schedule by 6% to 20% and to reduce the fees of three items by 4% to 30%. The increased fees include those relating to the issue of visas and permits, and travel documents such as seaman's identity books, re-entry permits and documents of identity. The three reduced fee items relate to the issue of a 92-page document of identity and the additional fee for delivering a seaman's identity book or a document of identity to a place outside Hong Kong by double registered mail or by express dispatch service to other places outside Hong Kong, except Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe.
- 7. L.N. 70 amends Schedule 2 to the Registration of Persons Regulations (Cap. 177 sub. leg. A) to increase the fee for replacement of an identity card requiring alteration by 6% and to reduce the fees for replacement of a lost or destroyed, damaged or defaced identity card and the fee for furnishing a certificate or certified copy by 3% to 15%.
- 8. Details of the fee revision provided in L.N. 69 and L.N. 70 are set out in Annex C to the LegCo Brief on these two items of subsidiary legislation (File Ref: SBCR 3/3231/66) issued by the Security Bureau on 3 April 2006.
- 9. According to the LegCo Briefs on L.N. 67 to L.N. 70, the fee increases are in line with the Government policy that fees should in general be set at levels sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services.

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- 10. The Panel on Security was consulted on the Administration's proposals to revise the fees and charges for services under the purview of the Security Bureau which do not directly affect people's livelihood or general business activities by circulation of paper on 8 July 2005 (LC Paper No.CB(2)2124/04-05(01)) and at the meeting on 6 December 2005. The proposals include those detailed in L.N. 67 to L.N. 70. At the Panel meeting, a member considered that the proposed increase in the fee for the issue of a HKSAR passport was acceptable. Members did not raise queries on the other proposals.
- 11. No difficulties relating to the legal and drafting aspects of the above items of subsidiary legislation have been identified.

Prepared by

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