

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1698/06-07
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/BC/5/06

Bills Committee on Revenue Bill 2007

**Minutes of the first meeting
held on Monday, 14 May 2007, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon TAM Heung-man

Member absent : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP

Clerk in attendance : Miss Polly YEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (1)5

Staff in attendance : Mr Stephen LAM
Assistant Legal Adviser 4

Ms Rosalind MA
Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Mr Justin TAM
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Sharon CHAN
Legislative Assistant (1)8

Action

I Election of Chairman

Mr James TIEN, the member who had the highest precedence in the Council among all members of the Bills Committee, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Bills Committee. He invited nominations for the chairmanship of the Bills Committee.

2. Mr CHAN Kam-lam was nominated by Mr WONG Ting-kwong and seconded by Mr Tommy CHEUNG. Mr CHAN accepted the nomination. Mr James TIEN was nominated by Mr Vincent FANG but Mr TIEN declined the nomination. There being no other nominations, Mr CHAN Kam-lam was elected the Chairman. Mr CHAN took over the chair.

II Any other business

Application for late membership

3. The Chairman sought members' views on Miss CHAN Yuen-han's application for late membership on the ground of absence from Hong Kong during the time for signification of membership of the Bills Committee. The Bills Committee had no objection. The Chairman decided to accept Miss CHAN's late application. He also informed members that as the Bills Committee would henceforth consist of 12 members, four members would be requested to form a quorum.

Invitation for views

4. Members were concerned about the proposed reduction in the duty on wine from the existing ad valorem rate of 80% to 40% and that on alcoholic beverages with an alcoholic strength not more than 30% (other than wine) from 40% to 20%. They further agreed that the Bills Committee would hold the next meeting on Friday, 25 May 2007 to receive views from deputations on the Bill, in particular on the aforesaid proposal. The Bills Committee considered that organizations representing the wine and alcoholic beverages importers, wholesalers and retailers (including the catering industry, hotel industry and supermarket chain groups) should be invited to attend the meeting on 25 May 2007 and respond to members' concerns, including the price adjustment mechanism for the alcoholic beverages and reasons for the reduction in duty on alcoholic beverages not being reflected in the retail prices of the beverages concerned. In addition, a general invitation for submissions on the Bill should be posted on the website of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the Internet. In line with the usual practice, the 18 District Councils (DCs) would also be invited to submit views on the Bill.

(*Post-meeting note:* Invitation for submissions on the Bill was posted on the LegCo website on 15 May 2007. Invitation letters were sent to relevant organizations and the 18 DCs on 15 and 16 May 2007. A proposed list of invitees was issued for members' information vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1623/06-07(01) on 15 May 2007.)

Legislative timetable

5. On the proposed legislative timetable, members noted that the expiry date of the Public Revenue Protection (Revenue) Order 2007 (L.N.32 of 2007) (the Order) was 28 June 2007. Given the tight timeframe, members considered that the Administration's confirmation should be sought on the timing for the resumption of Second Reading debate of the Bill. In reply to the Chairman, the Clerk informed the Bills Committee of the following critical dates assuming that the Second Reading debate of the Bill would take place on 20 June 2007 or 27 June 2007:

Council meeting	Date of reporting to House Committee	Deadline for giving notice of Committee Stage Amendment
20 June 2007	1 June 2007	9 June 2007
27 June 2007	8 June 2007	16 June 2007

Dates of subsequent meetings

6. Members agreed to schedule a further meeting on Monday, 28 May 2007 at 8:30 am in addition to the one on 25 May 2007
7. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:15 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 May 2007

**Proceedings of the
Bills Committee on Revenue Bill 2007
First meeting on Monday, 14 May 2007, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action Required
000000 – 000122	Mr James TIEN Mr WONG Ting-kwong Mr Tommy CHEUNG Mr Vincent FANG	Election of Chairman	
000123 – 000226	Chairman	Application for late membership from Miss CHAN Yuen-han	
000227 – 001501	Mr Tommy CHEUNG Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Mr James TIEN Mr SIN-Chung-kai Mr WONG Ting-kwong Chairman Mr Vincent FANG Clerk ALA4	(a) Invitation for views (b) Legislative timetable (c) Dates of subsequent meetings	