

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CROP 16/07-08

Ref: CB(3)/CROP/3/43

### **Paper for the House Committee meeting on 25 January 2008**

#### **Committee on Rules of Procedure**

#### **Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure regarding short questions on statements made by designated public officers for elucidation**

#### **Purpose**

This paper invites the House Committee (HC) to endorse the proposed amendments to Rule 28(2) of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) regarding short questions on statements made by designated public officers for elucidation.

#### **Background**

2. Under RoP 28(2), Members may raise short questions on a statement made by a public officer, at a meeting of the Legislative Council, only for the purpose of elucidating it. In practice, on numerous occasions in the past, Members asked questions on a statement not only for elucidation. As a result, the President had no choice but to interrupt the Member concerned to assist him in rephrasing his question, so that it would comply with the rule. This situation is not conducive to the smooth conduct of Council business. At the suggestion of the President, the Committee on Rules of Procedure (CRoP) has reviewed RoP 28(2).

#### **CRoP's recommendation**

3. CRoP considers that to facilitate Members in asking questions on a statement made by a designated public officer and to ensure the smooth conduct of Council business, RoP 28(2) should be amended to the effect that short questions may be asked on a statement made by a designated public officer not only for seeking elucidation, subject to the following:

- (a) the questions raised should be relevant to the statement; and
- (b) no debate may arise on the statement and the subsequent questions or answers.

The proposed amendments to RoP are in the **Appendix**.

### **The Administration**

- 4. The Administration has been informed of CRoP's recommendation.

### **Advice sought**

- 5. Members are invited to endorse the recommendation proposed by CRoP and the proposed amendments to RoP 28(2) in the **Appendix**. Subject to HC's endorsement, a resolution to amend RoP 28(2) will be moved by the chairman of CRoP at the Council meeting of 20 February 2008.

Legislative Council Secretariat  
22 January 2008

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regarding short questions on statements made by  
designated public officers for elucidation**

**28. Statements by Designated Public Officers**

\* \* \* \*

(2) No debate may arise on such a statement but the President may ~~in his discretion~~ allow short *and succinct* questions to be put to the public officer making the statement ~~for the purpose of elucidating it, if in his opinion the questions are relevant to the statement.~~

\* \* \* \*

Legend:

Texts proposed to be added are shown in *italics*.

Texts proposed to be deleted are shown with deletion lines.