

**Bills Committee on Construction Industry Legislation
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2012**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 5 May 2012**

At the above meeting, members of the Bills Committee met with seven deputations and listened to their views on the proposed Bill. While most deputations were in support of the Bill, they have nevertheless expressed a number of concerns which required written response of the Administration.

Staffing arrangements upon amalgamation of Construction Industry Council and Construction Workers Registration Authority

2. During the meeting, representatives from the Construction Industry Council ("CIC") Staff General Union pointed out that there were a number of employees of CIC currently performing registration functions for the Construction Workers Registration Authority ("CWRA"). Transitional staffing arrangement might have left out these employees. These employees, together with those serving under direct employment of CWRA, were gravely concerned whether the CIC management would honour their promises over staffing arrangements after the amalgamation of CIC and CWRA. In the view of the Union, there should be no change to the salaries, fringe benefits as well as the conditions of service of the existing staff. Members were informed that worries of the staff side arose from the unpleasant experiences in the amalgamation of CIC and the Construction Industry Training Authority some years ago. Notwithstanding the assurance of the Administration at the time, CIC management was taking unilateral steps to change the conditions of service of serving staff, thereby failing to honour the promise and dealing a severe blow to staff morale. In this regard, the Union hoped that the Administration could commit to "follow through" on the staffing arrangements in post-amalgamation years to ensure that the same problem would not happen. Further, the Union also expressed concerns about CIC management's failure to address the problems of adverse promotion prospects and tight manpower position faced by serving staff at present.

3. Members took note of the concerns of the Union. The Administration said that it would meet with the Union after the meeting to achieve a thorough understanding of the issues raised, and report back to the Bills Committee as soon as possible.

Efforts to consolidate construction-related cards

4. While members of the Bills Committee and deputations in general supported the Administration's plan to consolidate all construction-related cards/certificate issued by different authorities into one single card, they continued to voice out concerns at the meeting. Apart from repeating concerns expressed at last meeting, they urged the Administration to think of feasible ways to protect the privacy of the card holders and to monitor the card-issuance work of CIC to ensure that personal information of the workers would not be leaked out to any third party. They also hoped that the Administration could regulate the use of card-readers at work sites. The Administration was requested to respond to members and deputations' concerns after the meeting.

Enhancement of administrative and operational efficiency

5. In its paper, the Administration stressed that the amalgamation of CIC and CWRA would enhance the administrative and operational efficiency of CIC in future. Members and deputations queried ways and measures to be taken by CIC in achieving these ends, bearing in mind that amalgamation could result in structural inflation, rigidity and inefficiency. The Administration was requested to respond to members and deputations' concerns in a paper after the meeting.