

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CP 861/12-13

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 21 June 2013

**Priority allocation of a debate slot to
a Duty Roster Member**

Purpose

This paper seeks the agreement of the House Committee to allocate a debate slot under Rule 14(i) of the House Rules ("HR") to Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung, in his capacity as a Duty Roster Member ("DRM"), for moving a motion for debate on the issues highlighted by a complaint case handled under the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Redress System.

The complaint case handled by DRMs

2. Under the LegCo Redress System, the public can lodge complaints with Members on problems arising from Government policies, decisions and procedures, as well as issues of public concern. In groups of seven, Members take turns to be on duty each week to meet with deputations and individuals ("DRMs").

3. On 3 June 2013, DRMs including Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung, together with invited Members¹ Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, Hon KWOK Wai-keung, Hon IP Kin-yuen and Hon TANG Ka-piu, met with a deputation of parents of autistic children and children who are mildly or moderately mentally handicapped. The hardships of persons with such disabilities and their parents reflected by the deputation are as follows:

- (a) persons who are autistic, or mildly or moderately mentally handicapped have to wait for a long time for allocation of places

¹ Invited Members are Members who are not DRMs of the week but are named by deputations to handle their complaint cases.

in Day Activity Centres or sheltered workshops; as at December 2012, there were 3 649 persons on the waiting list and the waiting time for those living in Tai Po, the Northern District, Tuen Mun and Yuen Long is the longest. As most of them have graduated from special schools and are staying at home almost all the time, the lack of social support and recreational activities weakens their general abilities and gives rise to other problems such as emotional distress. Although the Social Welfare Department has, since 2009, started to provide group activities and training through District Support Centres to persons with such disabilities before their admission to Day Activity Centres or sheltered workshops, the activities and training, which are offered on a short term basis, are far from beneficial. Moreover, since they are normally not allowed to apply for enrolment in Day Activity Centres in other districts, the training and support services available to them are very limited; and

- (b) as carers of their children with such disabilities, these parents have almost no personal time and freedom, and they cannot take up part-time jobs to earn money to ease the financial burden of the family. The lack of support from the Government has put many of these parents under immense pressure, and some suffer from mental illness as a result and have to seek psychiatric treatment. When such parents have to go for medical consultations of their own, they have no choice but to leave their children alone at home irrespective of potential hazards. Moreover, since these parents have to devote full attention to their children with disabilities, they can spare little time to cater for the welfare of their other children, often resulting in family disputes and poor family relationship. Some of these parents have even contemplated suicide to end their own and their children's miserable lives.

4. In view of the above, the deputation suggests that the Government should adopt the following measures:

- (a) places in Day Activity Centres and sheltered workshops should be increased substantially with a view to cutting short the waiting time; the provisions and facilities of Day Activity Centres and sheltered workshops should be improved to provide adequate support to persons with such disabilities; and adequate transport facilities should be provided to facilitate their visits to Day Activity Centres in other districts;

- (b) for optimal use of resources, consideration should be given to converting vacated school premises to Day Activity Centres and sheltered workshops;
- (c) since it may take time for new Day Activity Centres to be established, consideration should be given to enhancing the respite services during the interim and to streamlining the application procedures for respite services; and
- (d) in-depth surveys should be conducted to obtain comprehensive information on the needs of persons with such disabilities for timely planning and provision of services to address the acute demand.

Motion debate

5. Members handling the complaint case note with grave concern the inadequate planning, interfacing and co-ordination of the relevant services by the Government. These Members consider that during the prolonged waiting for allocation of places in Day Activity Centres and sheltered workshops, persons who are autistic, or mildly or moderately mentally handicapped may forget what they have already learnt in special schools and the skills they have acquired. Not only is their best learning time lost, previous resources devoted to their training in special schools are also wasted. Members are of the view that there is an urgent need for the Government to address the issues highlighted by the complaint case, i.e. the serious shortfall of places in Day Activity Centres and sheltered workshops and the immense hardships faced by these persons and their parents, without further delay. Members suggest that this subject should be debated in Council for Members to express views and to urge the Administration to take immediate follow-up actions.

6. Under HR 14(i), Members may be given priority in respect of the allocation of slots for debates on urgent, important and topical issues. Members handling the complaint case therefore propose to seek the agreement of the House Committee for priority allocation of a debate slot to Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung, in his capacity as a DRM, to move a motion for debate on the issues at the Council meeting of 17 July 2013. The wording of the motion is in the **Appendix**. Members handling the complaint case also propose that should the House Committee accede to the request, the debate slot shall not be counted as Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung 's own slot.

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to consider the proposals of Members handling the complaint case as set out in paragraph 6 above.

Public Complaints Office
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 June 2013

張超雄議員將於2013年7月17日(星期三)的立法會會議席上
就"日間展能中心及庇護工場名額不足及殘疾人士的福祉"
動議的議案

議案措辭

"本會促請政府提供足夠的日間展能中心及庇護工場名額、加強暫託服務，並為殘疾人士的父母和照顧者提供足夠的支援服務，以妥善照顧殘疾人士的福祉。"

(Translation)

Motion on " The shortfall of places in Day Activity Centres and sheltered workshops and the well-being of persons with disabilities "
to be moved by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
at the Council meeting of Wednesday, 17 July 2013

Wording of the Motion

"That this Council urges the Government to properly cater for the well-being of persons with disabilities by providing adequate places in Day Activity Centres and sheltered workshops, enhancing respite services, and providing adequate support services to the parents and carers of persons with disabilities."