

By fax (2840 0569)

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24 April 2015

The Hon John TSANG, GBM, JP
The Financial Secretary
25/F, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear Financial Secretary,

Appropriation Bill 2015

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 2015 to the President, who has directed me to reply on his behalf.

The President has ruled admissible 618 Committee stage amendments (“CSAs”) to the Appropriation Bill 2015 (“the Bill”) in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. While noting the disagreement between the Legislature and the Executive Authority on the interpretation of Article 74 of the Basic Law (“BL 74”), the President adheres to the Council’s view that BL 74 does not apply to his consideration of admissibility of proposed CSAs to bills.

The President notes the Administration’s views on the timing for the passage of the Bill by the Council. He stated in his ruling and reiterated at the start of Committee stage of the Bill that it is incumbent upon the Council to complete consideration of the Bill within a reasonable time. The President will continue to preside over meetings of the Council in accordance with the Basic Law and the Rules of Procedure.

Yours sincerely

(Odelia LEUNG)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

