

Committee on Rules of Procedure

List of issues studied during the period from October 2014 to June 2015

Item	Issue	Relevant rule(s)	Progress/remarks
1	Proposed procedures for dealing with filibusters	Rule 57(4)(d) of the Rules of Procedure	As members of the Committee cannot reach a consensus on the measures to deal with filibusters, the Committee considers that there is no need to further study the subject matter at this stage.
2	Matters relating to quorum calls at Council meetings	Article 75(1) of the Basic Law and Rules 17(2) and 17(3) of the Rules of Procedure	Members of the Committee have divergent views on the matter. Their views have been conveyed to the President for his consideration.
3	Debate on the Motion of Thanks in respect of the Chief Executive's Policy Address	Article 73(4) of the Basic Law and Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure	The Committee agrees that there is no need to change the wording of the Motion of Thanks, the voting arrangement and the mode of debate in five sessions, each with specific policy areas. As regards the speaking time for each Member, members of the Committee are requested to consult Members belonging to their political parties/groupings on the proposal to shorten it from 30 minutes to 25 minutes for each Member in order that the first two days of the three-day debate could end at 8:00 pm and the third day could end at around 10:00 pm.

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4	Amendments to a motion proposed during the period of extension of a committee meeting	Rules 22(p) and 24A of the House Rules	The Committee agrees that amendments to a motion could be proposed during the period of extension of a committee meeting. The Committee considers that suitable guidelines should be provided in the handbooks for committee chairmen.
5	Pecuniary interests of committee chairmen	Rules 83A and 84(1) of the Rules of Procedure	The Committee considers that the existing provisions in the Rules of Procedure and the practices and procedures established by various committees regarding disclosure of interests are sufficient. It is not necessary to amend the Rules of Procedure to regulate the chairing of meetings by a committee chairman who has direct pecuniary interests in a matter to be scrutinized by the committee.
6	Handling of deputations from groups/ organizations to submit written submissions and/or register to give oral representations at committee meetings	Rule 25(c) of the House Rules	The Committee notes that when groups/organizations register to give oral representations at committee meetings or submit written submissions, the committee chairmen have the discretionary power to rule out names of groups/organizations with connotation that could give rise to serious concern that the dignity or solemnity of the proceedings of the committees might be compromised. In such cases, the representatives of the groups/organizations concerned may choose to give views in their personal capacity. The Committee considers that suitable

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			<p>guidelines should be provided in the handbooks for committee chairmen.</p>
7	<p>Amendments to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure proposed by the Committee on Members' Interests</p>	<p>Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure</p>	<p>The Committee supports the proposal of the Committee on Members' Interests to amend Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure. With the support of the House Committee, the Chairman of the Committee on Members' Interests moved a motion to amend Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure at the Council meeting of 18 March 2015. However, the motion was negated at the Council meeting.</p> <p>The Committee supports the proposal of the Committee on Members' Interests that suitable guidelines should be provided in the handbooks for committee chairmen on the following two principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a committee chairman does not have the power to require a member to disclose pecuniary interests or rule whether a member should disclose a certain interest; and ii. it is for individual members to judge whether they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the matter under consideration and disclose such interests accordingly.