

中華人民共和國
香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室



CHIEF SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE
Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

14 January 2016

The Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Chairman
House Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Andrew,

The Government Legislative Programme

At our regular meeting yesterday, I expressed some grave concern on the timely processing of a large number of Government bills through the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the current legislative session. As you are aware, since the 2015/16 session is the final one in the current term of LegCo, bills that fail to receive LegCo approval before this summer will automatically lapse and have to be re-introduced into LegCo in the next term. This naturally means abortive work on the part of the Government and the LegCo, and clearly not in the public interest.

Save for the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014¹ and the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Bill 2015² which are currently under deliberation or pending resumption of second reading debate and third reading at a Council sitting, another 18 bills as listed in the **Enclosure** are under LegCo's scrutiny. The Government also plans to introduce two more bills into LegCo in the first half of the current legislative session. As in previous years, the 2016-17 Budget to be delivered by the Financial Secretary on 24 February 2016 will involve an Appropriation Bill and possibly other legislative proposals which also require timely approval.

¹ On the agenda since 9 December 2015 and discussed at the Council sittings of 16 December 2015 and 6 January 2016.

² On the agenda since 16 December 2015.

As I have pointed out in my letter of 8 January 2016 to the LegCo President, the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 has gone through the due process of public consultation, relevant Panel discussion and Bills Committee's deliberation. This applies equally to the other Bills in the Enclosure as appropriate. Many of these legislative proposals are related to matters of importance to our economic development such as the Deposit Protection Scheme (Amendment) Bill 2015 and the Financial Institutions (Resolution) Bill which aim at strengthening Hong Kong's financial infrastructure as well as livelihood matters of public concern such as the Private Columbaria Bill, the Property Management Services Bill and the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences)(Amendment) Bill 2015.

Efficiency in processing the Government legislative programme has always been a matter of mutual concern as addressed in the Chief Secretary for Administration's regular meetings with the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the LegCo House Committee. In the spirit of upholding that co-operation between the Executive and the Legislature, I hope you would appeal to Members for their understanding and concerted effort in processing the Government bills before the end of the current LegCo term.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Carrie Lam)
Chief Secretary for Administration

Encl.

c.c. The Hon. Ma Fung-kwok, Vice-chairman of House Committee
Secretary General, Legislative Council Secretariat

Bills under the scrutiny of Legislative Council

1. Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (Amendment) Bill 2015
2. Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2015
3. Deposit Protection Scheme (Amendment) Bill 2015
4. Eastern Harbour Crossing Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2015
5. Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Bill 2015
6. Financial Institutions (Resolution) Bill
7. Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2015
8. Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2015
9. Human Reproductive Technology (Amendment) Bill 2015
10. Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill 2015
11. Interception of Communications and Surveillance (Amendment) Bill 2015
12. Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Bill
13. Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill 2015
14. Patents (Amendment) Bill 2015
15. Private Columbaria Bill
16. Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Electrical Equipment and Electronic Equipment) (Amendment) Bill 2015
17. Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Product Container) (Amendment) Bill 2015
18. Property Management Services Bill