

立法會
Legislative Council

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Date : 9 March 2016

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

**Government bills scheduled for
resumption of Second Reading debate**

Members are invited to note that the President has acceded to the following proposal of the Administration for changing the order of consideration of Government bills at Council meetings as set out in its letter dated 8 March 2016 to the Clerk to the Legislative Council (English version only):

- (a) the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 be placed as the last bill amongst all Government bills on the Agenda for the Council meeting of 16 March 2016 and all subsequent Council meetings in the remainder of the current term; and
 - (b) irrespective of the progress of the Government bills at the Council meeting of 16 March 2016, the Appropriation Bill 2016 be placed as the first bill amongst all Government bills on the Agenda for the Council meetings of 13 and 20 April 2016 as well as any subsequent meetings at which the said Bill is put on the Agenda.
2. The Administration's letter is attached for Members' information.

(Ms Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(只備英文本)

(English version only)

香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室轄下行政署



The Government of
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8 March 2016

Mr Kenneth Chen, SBS
Clerk to the Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Kenneth,

Government Bills Scheduled for Resumption of Second Reading Debate

I write to inform you of the Government's proposed priority of Government bills scheduled for resumption of second reading debate at the Legislative Council (LegCo).

Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014

The processing of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 straddled over eight Council meetings but still could not be completed at the Council meeting of 2 March 2016. Apart from the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014, there are five government bills pending resumption of second reading debate on the Agenda of the Council meeting of 2 March 2016. The Government has also given notice to resume second reading debate on the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill 2015 and the Interception of Communications and Surveillance (Amendment) Bill 2015 at the Council meeting of 16 March 2016. The prolonged deliberation of the Copyright

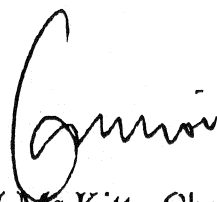
(Amendment) Bill 2014 has affected the timely processing of other Government bills in the pipeline. Having reviewed the overall situation, the Government has decided to place the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 as the last bill amongst all Government bills on the Agenda of the Council meeting of 16 March 2016 and all subsequent Council meetings in the remainder of the current LegCo term.

Appropriation Bill 2016

The Council meetings of 13 April 2016 and 20 April 2016 are the second and third Budget meetings respectively. As you are aware, the Appropriation Bill is time-critical in nature and its timely passage is of utmost importance. Taking into account the spending pattern of the interim funding under the Vote on Account resolution during the past few years, the Appropriation Bill has to be passed by the middle of May to ensure that all payments due to be made in the first week of June will not need to be deferred. We therefore propose that, irrespective of the progress of the Government bills at the Council meeting of 16 March 2016, the Appropriation Bill 2016 be placed as the first bill amongst all Government bills on the Agenda of the Council meetings of 13 April 2016 and 20 April 2016 as well as any subsequent meeting or meetings in which the said Bill is put on the Agenda.

I should be grateful if you could relay our proposals to the President for his consideration.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Kitty Choi)
Director of Administration

cc Chief Secretary for Administration
Financial Secretary
Director, Chief Executive's Office

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Secretary for Security
Secretary for the Environment
Secretary for Home Affairs