



立法會 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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26 April 2017

The Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, GBS, MH, JP The Financial Secretary 25/F, Central Government Offices 2 Tim Mei Avenue Tamar Hong Kong

Dear Financial Secretary

Appropriation Bill 2017

Thank you for your letter of 26 April 2017 to the President, who has directed me to reply on his behalf.

The President has ruled admissible 185 Committee stage amendments ("CSAs") proposed by 20 Members to the captioned Bill. In making his ruling, the President has stressed that he has duly considered, among other things, the time-critical nature of the Bill, and has adhered to the Council's view that Article 74 of the Basic Law ("BL") does not apply to his consideration of admissibility of Members' CSAs to bills.

As stated in the President's ruling, in the discharge of its powers and functions under BL 73(2), the Council should complete examining and voting on the Bill within a reasonable time. As you know, the President announced on 25 April 2017 and reiterated at the start of the Committee stage of the Bill on 26 April that all the remaining proceedings on the Bill, including debates on the CSAs thereto, are expected to be completed within about 60 meeting hours. Where necessary, the President will adjust the time allocated to debates in accordance with the actual situation.

Yours sincerely

(Dora WAI) for Clerk to the Legislative Council