

立法會  
*Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)2039/16-17

Ref : CB2/H/5/16

**House Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 30th meeting  
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex  
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 7 July 2017**

**Members present :**

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yeet, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Kenneth LEUNG

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-ki, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon HO Kai-ming  
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP  
Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Hon LUK Chung-hung  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu  
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho  
Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung  
Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim  
Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

**Clerk in attendance :**

Miss Flora TAI

Clerk to the House Committee

**Staff in attendance :**

Mr Kenneth CHEN, SBS	Secretary General
Ms Connie FUNG	Legal Adviser
Miss Odelia LEUNG	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Dora WAI	Assistant Secretary General 3
Mr Matthew LOO	Assistant Secretary General 4
Mr Timothy TSO	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr Stephen LAM	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mr Kelvin LEE	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Ms Amy YU	Principal Council Secretary 1
Ms Hallie CHAN	Head (Public Information)
Ms Alice LEUNG	Chief Council Secretary (2)6
Miss Joyce CHAN	Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr Bonny LOO	Assistant Legal Adviser 4
Miss Winnie LO	Assistant Legal Adviser 7
Mr YICK Wing-kin	Assistant Legal Adviser 8
Mr Richard WONG	Senior Council Secretary (2)6
Ms Jasmine TAM	Senior Council Secretary (2)8
Miss Connie AU	Council Secretary (2)6
Ms Anna CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (2)3
Miss Meisy KWOK	Legislative Assistant (2)6

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Action

**I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting**

**Minutes of 29th meeting held on 30 June 2017**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2)1798/16-17)*

The minutes were confirmed.

**II. Matters arising**

**Report by the Chairman on her meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration**

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Expectations for the new-term Government

2. The Chairman said that she and the Deputy Chairman had conveyed to the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") their expectations for the new-term Government to make its best efforts to enhance its communication and interaction with Members. They had also requested CS to expeditiously review and reset, in the light of the policy objectives of the new-term Government, the priorities of government bills, motions and funding proposals to be submitted to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") and inform LegCo of the review outcome in due course. Furthermore, they had suggested that CS should communicate more with Members on the scheduling of agenda items for the Finance Committee ("FC") with a view to identifying an approach acceptable to all Members to deal with such items.

3. The Chairman further said that she and the Deputy Chairman had indicated to CS that Members welcomed the Chief Executive ("CE") to attend Council meetings more frequently to take their questions and they also appreciated CE's willingness to consider and discuss the proposal of shortening the period for giving notice of questions to facilitate the asking of questions on topical issues by Members in a timely manner. Subject to the outcome of consultation with all Members and necessary amendments to the relevant Rules of Procedure ("RoP") and the House Rules ("HR"), it was anticipated that the proposal could be implemented in the next session after completion of the necessary procedures.

4. The Chairman further informed Members that she and the Deputy Chairman had raised with CS their requests for the Administration to provide meeting papers to LegCo as early as practicable so as to allow sufficient time for Members to peruse the papers, and to field appropriate officials to attend committee meetings to answer Members' questions. The Deputy Chairman added that he had also pointed out to CS that Members had the responsibility to put questions to government officials during the course of scrutiny of the Administration's funding proposals and the Administration should not consider such act as "filibustering".

5. In response, CS had indicated that the new-term Government would show "a new style" and bring "a new atmosphere", adding that improving the relationship between the Executive Authorities and the Legislature would be one of its most important tasks. CE had already instructed all Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux to attend meetings of the Council more frequently in order to enhance communication with Members. The new-term Government would

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review the priorities of government bills, motions and funding proposals to be submitted to LegCo and inform LegCo of the review outcome in due course. Given the huge backlog of items on the agenda of FC, CS hoped that Members would make a concerted effort to complete scrutiny of these items before the start of the LegCo recess in mid-July 2017. CS had also advised that he would meet with Members from different political parties and groupings in a bid to enhance communication with them. He would also remind government bureaux and departments to provide papers to LegCo in a timely manner.

**III. Business arising from previous Council meetings**

**(a) Legal Service Division reports on bills referred to the House Committee in accordance with Rule 54(4)**

**(i) Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) (Amendment) Bill 2017**  
*(LC Paper No. CB(2)1803/16-17(01))*  
*(LC Paper No. LS88/16-17)*

**(ii) Companies (Amendment) Bill 2017**  
*(LC Paper No. CB(2)1803/16-17(01))*  
*(LC Paper No. LS89/16-17)*

6. The Chairman invited Members to note that the Director of Administration had conveyed, in her letter dated 3 July 2017, the Administration's views concerning the arrangement of the Bills Committee in connection with the above two Bills. She referred Members to LC Paper No. CB(2)1803/16-17(01) for details. The Chairman further said that she would first invite Legal Adviser ("LA") to brief Members on the two Bills. Should Members consider it necessary to study the two Bills in detail, she would invite Members to consider the proposal set out in the said letter from the Director of Administration.

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, LA briefed Members on the reports prepared by the Legal Service Division ("LSD") on the two Bills respectively.

8. Mr James TO and Mr Kenneth LEUNG considered it necessary to study the two Bills in detail. The Chairman said that the Director of Administration had proposed that the two Bills be considered together by one single Bills Committee as the two Bills were similar in background and nature. Members agreed that one Bills Committee should be formed

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to study the two Bills. Mr James TO, Mr Kenneth LEUNG and Mr Holden CHOW agreed to join the Bills Committee.

**(iii) Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill 2017**

*(LC Paper No. LS91/16-17)*

9. At the invitation of the Chairman, LA briefed Members on the report prepared by LSD on the Bill.

10. Mr Kenneth LEUNG considered it necessary to form a Bills Committee to study the Bill in detail. Members agreed. Mr Kenneth LEUNG agreed to join the proposed Bills Committee.

**(b) Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 30 June 2017 and tabled in Council on 5 July 2017**

*(LC Paper No. LS90/16-17)*

11. At the invitation of the Chairman, LA briefed Members on the report prepared by LSD on four items of subsidiary legislation (i.e. L.N. 135 to L.N. 138) which were gazetted on 30 June 2017 and tabled in Council on 5 July 2017.

12. Mr James TO considered it necessary to form a subcommittee to study in detail the three orders made under section 49(1A) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to give effect to three Comprehensive Agreements for Avoidance of Double Taxation respectively (i.e. L.N. 135 to L.N. 137). Members agreed. Mr James TO agreed to join the proposed subcommittee.

*(Post-meeting note: Members were informed vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1334/16-17 issued on 20 July 2017 that since only two Members had signified to join the proposed subcommittee by the deadline for signification of membership, the proposed subcommittee was not formed in accordance with the relevant HR.)*

13. Members did not raise any question on the Industrial Training (Clothing Industry) Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order 2017 (L.N. 138).

14. Members noted that the deadline for amending the above four items of subsidiary legislation would be the second Council meeting in the next session (i.e. 18 October 2017), or the first Council meeting held not earlier than the 21st day after the second Council meeting in the next session (i.e. 8 November 2017) if extended by a resolution of the Council.

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**IV. Further business for the Council meeting of 12 July 2017**

**(a) Tabling of papers**

**Report No. 24/16-17 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1801/16-17)

15. The Chairman said that the Report covered six items of subsidiary legislation and the period for amending them would expire at the Council meeting of 12 July 2017. No Member had indicated intention to speak on any of these items of subsidiary legislation.

**(b) Bill - First Reading and moving of Second Reading**

16. The Chairman said that the Road Tunnels (Government) (Amendment) Bill 2017 would be introduced at the meeting, and the House Committee ("HC") would consider the Bill at its last meeting of the current session to be held after the summer recess in October 2017.

**(c) Government motion**

**Proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Development under section 34(2) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) in relation to the Waterworks (Amendment) Regulation 2017**  
(LC Paper No. CB(3)813/16-17)

17. Members noted that the Secretary for Development would move the above proposed resolution at the meeting.

**V. Reports of Bills Committees and subcommittees**

**(a) Report of the Subcommittee on Legislative Amendments for Imposing Conditions on Vessels Navigating in the Vicinity of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge**  
(LC Paper No. CB(4)1342/16-17)

18. Mr Steven HO, Chairman of the Subcommittee, briefed Members on the deliberations of the Subcommittee as detailed in its report. Members noted that the Subcommittee in general supported the three items of subsidiary legislation relating to the control and regulation of marine traffic following the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (i.e. L.N. 82 to L.N. 84).

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**(b) Proposed arrangements for extension of period of work of subcommittees on policy issues**  
(*LC Paper No. CB(2)1799/16-17*)

19. The Chairman said that the paper invited Members to consider the proposed arrangements for extension of period of work of subcommittees on policy issues ("policy subcommittees") in the Sixth LegCo. As at 6 July 2017, a total of 18 policy subcommittees had been appointed, of which 10 were in operation and eight on the waiting list, as set out in Appendices I and II to the paper. Five of the policy subcommittees currently in operation (i.e. Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities, Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways, Subcommittee on Children's Rights, Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project and Subcommittee on Retirement Protection) had submitted their proposals for extension of period of work, details of which were set out in Appendices III to VII to the paper.

20. The Chairman further said that to ensure that the policy subcommittees on the waiting list could commence work as early as possible and in view of the prevailing staffing resources constraints, Members were invited to consider the following proposed arrangements for extension of period of work of policy subcommittees as detailed in paragraph 12(a) to (c) of the paper:

- (a) upon completion of the 12-month period, a subcommittee currently in operation would vacate its slot for activation of a subcommittee on the waiting list. If the subcommittee considered it necessary for it to work beyond the 12-month period, upon obtaining HC's endorsement, it would be put on the waiting list for re-activation;
- (b) pursuant to Members' agreement at the HC meeting on 28 October 2016 to give priority to the activation of four subcommittees, namely Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Relating to the Three-runway System at the Hong Kong International Airport, Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways, Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project and Subcommittee on Retirement Protection ("the Four Selected Subcommittees"), these four subcommittees would be given permission for continuation of work in the 2017-2018 session if they proposed to do so; and



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- (c) if Members agreed to the proposed arrangements in (a) and (b) above, four slots would be available for activation of work for subcommittees on the waiting list.

21. The Chairman invited Members' views on the above proposed arrangements.

22. Mr James TO said that Members of the pro-democracy camp generally agreed that permission be given for the Four Selected Subcommittees to continue their work in the 2017-2018 session if they proposed to do so. However, he wished to seek clarification as to whether the maximum number of policy subcommittees that might be in operation at any one time would be reduced from 10 to eight under the proposed arrangements.

23. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary General ("SG") clarified that under HR 26(a), the maximum number of policy subcommittees that might be in operation at any one time was 10. In view of the prevailing staffing resources constraints as detailed in paragraphs 8 to 11 of the paper, if Members agreed to the proposed arrangements in paragraph 20(a) and (b) above, four slots would be available for activation of work for policy subcommittees on the waiting list. The Secretariat would review its available manpower against the demand from various other committees closer to the time, with the objective of finding the necessary resources to support the activation of subcommittees on the waiting list as soon as practicable.

24. Mr James TO pointed out that some Members of the pro-democracy camp considered that in addition to the Four Selected Subcommittees, permission should also be given for some of the remaining six policy subcommittees currently in operation to continue their work in the 2017-2018 session. He suggested that the slots to be vacated by policy subcommittees in operation be allocated in such a way that an equal number of vacant slots be made available respectively for extension of period of work of policy subcommittees in operation and for activation of policy subcommittees on the waiting list. Mr TO further suggested that lots could be drawn to determine which of the remaining six policy subcommittees currently in operation should be given permission to continue their work beyond the 12-month period if they proposed to do so.

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25. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, the Clerk advised that according to the broad principles for activation, operation and extension of period of work of policy subcommittees ("the Broad Principles") adopted by the Fifth LegCo, where a subcommittee considered it necessary to extend the period of its work but there were subcommittees on the waiting list awaiting activation, HC might, if considered appropriate, give permission for the subcommittee to continue to operate for three more months in the first instance after the expiry of its period of work to allow time for it to wrap up its current stage of work, after which the subcommittee would, if necessary, be placed on the waiting list for re-activation of work. Given that there were currently eight policy subcommittees on the waiting list, if HC allowed all policy subcommittees in operation which sought for extension of period of work another three more months to wrap up their current work, all subcommittees on the waiting list would need to wait much longer for activation of their work.

26. The Clerk further pointed out that while the maximum number of policy subcommittees that might be in operation at any one time remained unchanged at 10, it was noteworthy that there were no precedents that the Secretariat needed to service two investigation committees together with one select committee established under RoP 20(6) concurrently. In view of the prevailing staffing resources constraints and with the aim of ensuring that policy subcommittees on the waiting list could commence work as early as possible, the Secretariat had put forward the proposed arrangements for extension of period of work of policy subcommittees for Members' consideration.

27. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that Members of the pro-establishment camp also agreed that permission be given for the Four Selected Subcommittees to continue to operate in the 2017-2018 session if they proposed to do so. He further said that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, however, had reservations about Mr James TO's suggestions. Pointing out that there were already many policy subcommittees on the waiting list and a policy subcommittee was actually required under HR to complete its work within 12 months of its commencement, Mr CHAN considered that it would be unfair to the policy subcommittees on the waiting list if, other than the Four Selected Subcommittees, certain policy subcommittees in operation were given permission to extend the period of their work under the lot-drawing arrangement as suggested by Mr TO. In Mr CHAN's view, it was more appropriate to adopt the proposed arrangement in paragraph 20(a) above, which was largely in line with the Broad Principles adopted by the Fifth LegCo.

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28. Mr YIU Si-wing echoed the views expressed by Mr CHAN Hak-kan. Mr YIU further remarked that all policy subcommittees should strive to carry out their work in a more efficient manner with a view to completing their work within 12 months of their commencement.

29. Mr SHIU Ka-fai said that as the Administration might introduce its legislative proposal for the regulation of medical devices in the near future, there was urgency for the activation of the Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices and Development of the Beauty Industry on the waiting list, so as to facilitate more focused and in-depth discussions with the Administration on the relevant issues before the legislative proposal was introduced into LegCo. He hoped that Members would have regard to the urgency for individual subcommittees on the waiting list to activate their work in considering the proposed arrangements under discussion.

30. Mrs Regina IP said that she also had reservations about Mr James TO's suggestions. In her view, policy subcommittees which had been placed on the waiting list for a long time should be given opportunities to commence their work as early as possible. Mrs IP further said that she had proposed the setting up of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Development of Chinese Medicine, which was currently on the waiting list. Pointing out that it had been announced in the Policy Address 2017 that the Administration would finance the construction of a Chinese medicine hospital in Tseung Kwan O and the Chinese medicine industry was greatly concerned about the hospital's future mode of operation, Mrs IP expressed hope for the early activation of the Subcommittee to follow up on the relevant issues.

31. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that he was the Chairman of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy and the Subcommittee on Children's Rights. Dr CHEUNG further said that as CE had stated in her election manifesto that she would consider setting up a Commission on Children and the Commission might be established in the coming few months, it was necessary for the Subcommittee on Children's Rights to be able to continue to operate for six more months beyond the 12-month period to follow up on the matter. He appealed to Members' support for the proposal of the Subcommittee on Children's Rights to continue its work until 17 May 2018.

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32. Mr Paul TSE said that he was the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities. While he had no views on the proposed arrangements for extension of period of work of policy subcommittees as set out in paragraph 12 of the paper, he wished to point out that many members of the Subcommittee as well as a number of non-governmental organizations had requested the Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2017-2018 session. Ms Claudia MO expressed support for the Subcommittee's proposal to continue its work until 1 November 2018, adding that the Subcommittee had provided a much-needed forum for more focused discussions on the problems faced by ethnic minorities which straddled various policy areas.

33. Mr James TO suggested that in addition to the Four Selected Subcommittees, permission be also given for the Subcommittee on Children's Rights and the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities to extend the period of their work to 17 May 2018 and 1 November 2018 respectively, given that these two Subcommittees had already submitted the relevant proposals for HC's consideration. As for the remaining four policy subcommittees in operation, he agreed that they should vacate their slots upon completion of the 12-month period for the activation of policy subcommittees on the waiting list.

34. Mr HUI Chi-fung considered that the existing queuing system for policy subcommittees would only encourage Members to put forward more proposals for setting up policy subcommittees, thereby resulting in an unduly long list of subcommittees awaiting activation. He further said that unless Members could reach an agreement on which subcommittees should be given priority for activation or permission to extend the period of their work, lots should be drawn to determine which subcommittees could continue to operate or be activated as it would be fairer to all subcommittees.

35. Mr LAU Kwok-fan said that he was the Chairman of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project and the Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways. While he appreciated that different Members might be concerned about different issues or projects, it was impractical to set up policy subcommittees to study each and every issue or project which was of concern to Members. Pointing out that the issues intended to be studied by some policy subcommittees on the waiting list (e.g. the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Shopping Centres, Markets and Carparks in Public Rental Housing Estates and Home Ownership Scheme Estates and the Subcommittee on Issues

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Relating to Public Markets) were quite similar, Mr LAU suggested that consideration might be given to combining these subcommittees into a single one.

36. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that it was fair to determine which policy subcommittees should be activated or given permission to extend the period of their work by drawing lots if Members could not reach an agreement on the matter. In his view, the crux of the problem was whether the Secretariat had adequate manpower resources to cope with the servicing work for various types of committees. He requested the Chairman to relay to CS at their next meeting his view that additional resources should be made available to the Secretariat to support Members' work in respect of more policy subcommittees.

37. In response to Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, the Chairman said that while the Secretariat would examine the need to bid for additional resources in the coming Resources Allocation Exercise, it was necessary for HC to consider the proposed arrangements under discussion before additional resources were made available to the Secretariat.

38. The Chairman concluded that as no Member had raised objection to the proposed arrangement in paragraph 20(b) above, the Four Selected Subcommittees were given permission by HC to continue to operate in the 2017-2018 session if they proposed to do so. She further said that given that Members had expressed different views on the proposed arrangement in paragraph 20(a) above and proposals had been put forward at this meeting that permission be given for the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities and the Subcommittee on Children's Rights to extend the period of their work to 1 November 2018 and 17 May 2018 respectively, she would put the respective proposals to vote.

Proposal for the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities under HC to extend the period of its work to 1 November 2018

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39. After consulting Members on the voting arrangements, the Chairman first put to vote the proposal for the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities under HC to extend the period of its work to 1 November 2018. Mrs Regina IP requested a division. The Chairman proposed and Members agreed that the meeting would proceed to vote immediately on other proposal(s) under this agenda item without the ringing of the voting bell if a division was claimed or ordered.

Action

The following Members voted in favour of the proposal:

Mr James TO, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr Abraham SHEK, Prof Joseph LEE, Mr WONG Kwok-kin, Mr Paul TSE, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Ms Claudia MO, Mr WU Chi-wai, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr Kenneth LEUNG, Ms Alice MAK, Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr KWOK Wai-keung, Mr Dennis KWOK, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr POON Siu-ping, Mr Alvin YEUNG, Mr Andrew WAN, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Mr HO Kai-ming, Mr LAM Cheuk-ting, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Dr Pierre CHAN, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Mr LUK Chung-hung, Dr CHENG Chung-tai, Mr KWONG Chun-yu, Mr Jeremy TAM, Mr Nathan LAW, Dr YIU Chung-yim and Dr LAU Siu-lai.

(36 Members)

The following Members voted against the proposal:

Mr Tommy CHEUNG, Mr Jeffrey LAM, Mr WONG Ting-kwong, Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Mr CHAN Kin-por, Mrs Regina IP, Mr Michael TIEN, Mr Steven HO, Mr Frankie YICK, Mr YIU Si-wing, Mr MA Fung-kwok, Mr CHAN Han-pan, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Mr Christopher CHEUNG, Dr Elizabeth QUAT, Mr Martin LIAO, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan, Mr Jimmy NG, Dr Junius HO, Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Mr Wilson OR, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Mr Kenneth LAU.

(27 Members)

40. The Chairman declared that 36 Members voted for and 27 Members voted against the proposal, and no Member abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the proposal was supported.

Proposal for the Subcommittee on Children's Rights under HC to extend the period of its work to 17 May 2018

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41. The Chairman then put to vote the proposal for the Subcommittee on Children's Rights under HC to extend the period of its work to 17 May 2018. The Chairman ordered a division.

Action

The following Members voted in favour of the proposal:

Mr James TO, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Prof Joseph LEE, Mr Paul TSE, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Michael TIEN, Mr WU Chi-wai, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr Kenneth LEUNG, Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr Dennis KWOK, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr POON Siu-ping, Mr Alvin YEUNG, Mr Andrew WAN, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Mr LAM Cheuk-ting, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Dr Pierre CHAN, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Dr CHENG Chung-tai, Mr KWONG Chun-yu, Mr Jeremy TAM, Mr Nathan LAW, Dr YIU Chung-yim and Dr LAU Siu-lai.

(31 Members)

The following Members voted against the proposal:

Mr Tommy CHEUNG, Mr Jeffrey LAM, Mr WONG Ting-kwong, Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Mr CHAN Kin-por, Mr WONG Kwok-kin, Mr Steven HO, Mr Frankie YICK, Mr YIU Si-wing, Mr MA Fung-kwok, Mr CHAN Han-pan, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Ms Alice MAK, Mr KWOK Wai-keung, Mr Christopher CHEUNG, Dr Elizabeth QUAT, Mr Martin LIAO, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan, Mr Jimmy NG, Dr Junius HO, Mr HO Kai-ming, Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Mr Wilson OR, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, Mr LUK Chung-hung, Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Mr Kenneth LAU.

(29 Members)

42. While the vote count results were being displayed on the plasma screens in the conference room (i.e. 31 Members voted for and 29 Members voted against the proposal, and no Member abstained from voting) and before the Chairman declared the result of the division, Mr Abraham SHEK indicated that it had been his intention to vote against the proposal but he had failed to cast his vote using the Electronic Voting System ("EVS") because his tablet did not function properly. Upon verification by the Clerk, the Chairman confirmed that Mr SHEK's vote had not been counted in the division.

43. Ms Regina IP said that she and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan had not yet cast their votes, but it was their intention to vote in favour of the proposal.

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44. Dr Helena WONG, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung considered that although the Chairman had not declared the result of the division, it should be out of order to allow any Member to have his vote altered after the voting process had been completed and the vote count results displayed on the plasma screens. They cautioned that it was possible for Members to manipulate the result of the division if they were allowed to have their votes altered after the vote count results had been made known to Members. Mr LEUNG added that he was concerned that it would set a bad precedent should Mr Abraham SHEK be allowed to have his vote altered, even though the final result of the division would not be affected by such adjustment in the present case.

45. Mr LAU Kwok-fan said that he recalled that there were precedents where a Member claimed after voting that he/she had voted in error and requested putting on record his/her actual voting intention. In such cases, the voting records were not adjusted and the result of the division was not affected. If the same practice was to be followed, Mr Abraham SHEK's intention to vote against the proposal would be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

46. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting expressed disagreement with Mr LAU Kwok-fan. He pointed out that the Chairman indicated earlier that she had not declared the result of the division, which in his view apparently implied that the vote count results being displayed on the plasma screens might not be final. He sought LA's advice as to how the matter should be dealt with under RoP.

47. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Clerk advised that according to RoP 49(3), if a Member stated that he voted in error or that his vote had been counted wrongly, he might claim to have his vote altered, if his statement was made before the President or Chairman had declared the result of the division. The Clerk further explained that the above rule applied in Mr Abraham SHEK's case as he had indicated before the Chairman declared the result of the division that he had attempted but failed to cast his vote using EVS. However, the same rule did not apply in Mrs Regina IP's and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's case as they had not cast or attempted to cast any votes when the Chairman declared the close of the voting process.

48. Mr Martin LIAO said that Mr Abraham SHEK had clearly indicated that it had been his intention to vote against the proposal but he had failed to cast his vote using EVS because his tablet did not function properly. Given that Mr SHEK had raised the matter with the Chairman



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before she declared the result of the division, Mr SHEK's claim to have his vote altered should be allowed under RoP 49(3).

49. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that as he sat right in front of Mr Abraham SHEK, he did hear Mr SHEK say before the vote count results were displayed on the plasma screens that he had failed to cast his vote using EVS.

50. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that it was his understanding that RoP 49(3) was formulated at the time when a division was conducted by a show of hands. Under such voting arrangement, the vote count results and the result of the division were not known to Members until they were declared by the President or the Chairman. However, following the introduction of EVS, the vote count results were displayed on the plasma screens before the President or the Chairman declared the result of the division. He considered that the vote count results, once displayed, should be regarded as final and Members should not be allowed to have their votes altered after the vote count results had been made known to them. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung echoed Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's views, adding that if Mr Abraham SHEK had encountered any problems in casting his vote, he should have brought the matter to the Chairman's attention and requested more time for voting before the Chairman declared the close of the voting process.

51. Prof Joseph LEE said that he recalled that the Chairman had indicated clearly that the meeting would proceed to vote immediately on the proposal for the Subcommittee on Children's Rights under HC to extend the period of its work to 17 May 2018 without the ringing of the voting bell. The Chairman had also asked whether any Member needed more time to cast his/her vote before she declared the close of the voting process and ordered that the vote count results be displayed on the plasma screens. In the circumstances, it should be a Member's responsibility if, for various reasons, the Member had not been paying attention to the Chairman's instructions and had not requested more time for voting before the Chairman declared the close of the voting process. Prof LEE further said that while the Members concerned might request putting on record their actual voting intention, the vote count results which had been displayed on the plasma screens should be taken as final.

52. Mr WONG Kwok-kin, Mr SHIU Ka-fai and Mr CHAN Kin-por commented that Mr Abraham SHEK's claim to have his vote altered should be dealt with in accordance with RoP 49(3), which had clearly set out the circumstances under which such claim might be made and

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accepted. Mr CHAN added that should any Member consider the arrangement provided under RoP 49(3) unreasonable, he might seek to amend the rule if he so wished.

53. The Deputy Chairman considered that RoP 49(3) did not apply in Mr Abraham SHEK's case as Mr SHEK had not cast his vote. In his view, the precondition for applying this rule was that a Member voted in error or that his vote had been counted wrongly. The Deputy Chairman added that Mr SHEK should have informed the Chairman that he had attempted but could not cast his vote using EVS and requested more time for voting before the Chairman declared the close of the voting process.

54. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that in considering whether and how RoP 49(3) should be applied in dealing with a Member's claim to have his vote altered, the Chairman might also need to take into account the situation where a Member who encountered problems in casting his vote had attempted but failed to bring the matter to the Chairman's attention before the Chairman declared the close of the voting process.

55. Mr James TO and Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that as the Chairman's ruling on Mr Abraham SHEK's claim to have his vote altered would set a precedent and have read-across implications on similar claims that might be raised at other committee meetings in future, the Chairman should consult LA and watch the video recording of the relevant proceedings of the meeting before making the ruling.

56. At the invitation of the Chairman, LA advised that according to RoP 49(3), if a Member stated that he voted in error or that his vote had been counted wrongly, he might claim to have his vote altered, if his statement was made before the Chairman had declared the result of the division. It was for the Chairman to decide whether the Member's claim should be accepted, having regard to, among other considerations, whether the voting procedures were in order. In response to Mr Michael TIEN, LA said that it was clear under RoP 49(3) that a Member might claim to have his vote altered so long as he stated before the Chairman had declared the result of the division that he voted in error or that his vote had been counted wrongly.

57. Mr Michael TIEN said that he was convinced that even after the vote count results had been displayed on the plasma screens, a Member might still claim to have his vote altered under RoP 49(3) if he stated before the Chairman had declared the result of the division that he voted in error or that his vote had been counted wrongly.

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58. The Chairman said that she had noted Members' views and concerns expressed on Mr Abraham SHEK's claim to have his vote altered. Given that whether or not Mr Abraham SHEK's claim was accepted would not affect the result of the division on the proposal under discussion, and taking into consideration that the meeting would need to be suspended under agenda item VII for the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Investigation Committee established under RoP 49B(2A) in respect of the motion to censure Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding, she would consider and make a ruling on Mr SHEK's claim during the break. The Chairman declared that the proposal for the Subcommittee on Children's Rights under HC to extend the period of its work to 17 May 2018 was supported by HC.

*(Post-meeting note: The Chairman's ruling on Mr Abraham SHEK's claim to have his vote altered was issued to Members vide LC Paper CB(2)1849/16-17 in the evening of the day of the meeting. The Chairman ruled that having considered RoP 49(3), she was satisfied that Mr Abraham SHEK's vote had been counted wrongly, and had therefore accepted Mr SHEK's claim to have his vote altered, as well as instructed the Clerk to record in the minutes of meeting Mr SHEK's intention to vote against the proposal and reflect the same in the voting result.)*

59. Summing up, the Chairman said that Members agreed to adopt the following arrangements for extension of period of work of policy subcommittees in the Sixth LegCo:

- (a) pursuant to Members' agreement at the HC meeting on 28 October 2016 to give priority for the Four Selected Subcommittees to be activated, upon completion of the 12-month period, these four Subcommittees would be given permission for continuation of work in the 2017-2018 session if they proposed to do so; and
- (b) upon completion of the 12-month period, a policy subcommittee currently in operation (with the exception of the Four Selected Subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities and the Subcommittee on Children's Rights) would vacate its slot for activation of a subcommittee on the waiting list. If the subcommittee considered it necessary for it to work beyond the 12-month period, upon obtaining HC's endorsement, it would be put on the waiting list for re-activation. The order of activation for

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subcommittees on the waiting list, unless decided otherwise by HC, would be set in accordance with the date on which they were put on the waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis.

60. Members noted that in accordance with the above arrangements, two slots would be available for activation of work for subcommittees on the waiting list. The Secretariat would review its available manpower against the demand from various other committees closer to the time.

**VI. Position on Bills Committees and subcommittees**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2)1800/16-17)*

61. The Chairman said that as at 6 July 2017, there were 12 Bills Committees (one of which would need to work beyond three months since its commencement), 13 subcommittees under HC and five subcommittees on policy issues under Panels in action. Eight subcommittees on policy issues were on the waiting list.

**VII. Election of Members for appointment to the Investigation Committee established under Rule 49B(2A) of the Rules of Procedure in respect of the motion to censure Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding**

*(LC Paper No. CB(1)1256/16-17)*

62. The Chairman said that under RoP 73A(1), an investigation committee established under RoP 49B(2A) should consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and five members who should be Members appointed by the President in accordance with an election procedure determined by HC. At the HC meeting on 23 June 2017, Members agreed to adopt the procedure set out in Appendix II to LC Paper No. CB(1)1176/16-17 for the election of Members for appointment by the President to the Investigation Committee established under RoP 49B(2A) in respect of the motion to censure Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding ("the Investigation Committee").

63. The Chairman further said that according to LC Paper No. CB(1)1256/16-17, a total of nine nominations were received by the nomination deadline (i.e. 12:00 midnight on Monday, 3 July 2017) for the election of Members for appointment to the Investigation Committee. The nine nominees were Mr James TO, Mr Abraham SHEK, Mr WONG Ting-kwong, Mr Charles MOK, Mr Dennis KWOK, Mr Martin LIAO, Mr Jimmy NG, Mr LUK Chung-hung and Dr YIU Chung-yim.

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64. Mr Charles MOK indicated that he would like to withdraw from the election. As the total number of nominations was now eight which exceeded the number required for appointment (i.e. seven Members), the Chairman ordered that a poll be taken by using the Electronic Voting System. The outcome of the vote was as follows:

Mr James TO	44 votes
Mr Abraham SHEK	31 votes
Mr WONG Ting-kwong	31 votes
Mr Dennis KWOK	30 votes
Mr Martin LIAO	31 votes
Mr Jimmy NG	31 votes
Mr LUK Chung-hung	31 votes
Dr YIU Chung-yim	45 votes

65. The Chairman declared that the following seven Members were elected for appointment to the Investigation Committee:

Mr James TO  
Mr Abraham SHEK  
Mr WONG Ting-kwong  
Mr Martin LIAO  
Mr Jimmy NG  
Mr LUK Chung-hung  
Dr YIU Chung-yim

66. The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow the elected Members to elect amongst themselves the Members to be nominated for appointment as the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Investigation Committee.

*(The meeting was suspended at 3:49 pm and resumed at 4:00 pm.)*

67. The Chairman informed Members that Mr Abraham SHEK and Mr Martin LIAO were nominated for appointment as the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Investigation Committee respectively. Members endorsed the results of the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Investigation Committee.

68. The Chairman said that the membership of the Investigation Committee would be submitted to the President for appointment.

**VIII. Request of Hon HUI Chi-fung to seek the House Committee's recommendation for an adjournment debate under Rule 16(4) of the Rules of Procedure at the Council meeting of 12 July 2017 on Mr Liu Xiaobo being diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer and granted medical parole**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2)1803/16-17(02))*

69. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr HUI Chi-fung said that Mr LIU Xiaobo was a prominent human rights activist, a Nobel Prize laureate and one of the authors of Charter 08, which called for political reforms and democratization in China. Pointing out that Charter 08 represented the desire of the Chinese people to live in a free and democratic country, Mr HUI stressed that Mr LIU had done nothing wrong and did not deserve to be sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment, separated from his wife Ms LIU Xia since then, or suffering from late-stage liver cancer at present. As it was reported that Mr LIU was terminally ill and could be approaching the end of his life, Mr HUI considered that Mr LIU should be set free in his last days and it was incumbent upon LegCo to voice out for Mr LIU. He appealed to Members' support for his proposal to hold an adjournment debate under RoP 16(4) at the Council meeting of 12 July 2017 on Mr LIU Xiaobo being diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer and granted medical parole.

70. At 4:04 pm, the Chairman invited Members who wished to speak on Mr HUI Chi-fung's proposal to so indicate. The Chairman further said that as the FC meeting to be held after this HC meeting was scheduled to start at 4:30 pm, she had to "draw a line" on the discussion of this agenda item.

71. Mr Alvin YEUNG expressed support for Mr HUI Chi-fung's proposal. He also called on Members of the pro-establishment camp to support the proposal on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Mr YEUNG further said that under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong was the only place within the territory of China where people could speak openly on issues considered to be politically sensitive in the Mainland. He therefore considered it incumbent upon LegCo to voice out for Mr LIU Xiaobo or any other political dissident in China who was in critical condition.

72. Mr WONG Kwok-kin said that while he also wished Mr LIU Xiaobo a full recovery, he did not see any direct relevance between Mr HUI Chi-fung's proposal and humanitarian concerns given that

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Mr LIU had been granted medical parole and was receiving treatment at a high-quality hospital in Shenyang. Mr WONG further said that he considered it inappropriate for LegCo to hold the proposed adjournment debate as this would amount to interference with the judicial system of the Mainland by the Hong Kong legislature, violating the principle of "one country, two systems". In his view, there were various other forums where individual Members might express their views on the matter. Mr WONG added that Members of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions objected to Mr HUI's proposal.

73. Mr Charles MOK stressed that the proposed adjournment debate would provide an opportunity for Members to convey to the Central Authorities Hong Kong people's concern for Mr LIU and their wish for Mr LIU to be allowed to receive medical treatment abroad, and not at a hospital in China. He therefore supported Mr HUI Chi-fung's proposal, adding that there was urgency for holding the proposed adjournment debate as the Council meeting of 12 July 2017 would be the last Council meeting before the summer recess. Pointing out that LegCo had held motion debates concerning the 4 June incident and Members had even voted on such motions in the past, Mr MOK considered that the holding of the proposed adjournment debate would not give rise to any question of the Hong Kong legislature interfering with the Mainland judicial system as suggested by Mr WONG Kwok-kin.

74. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that while Mr LIU Xiaobo, the first Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was widely regarded as "the conscience of the Chinese people", the Central Government had thrown him into jail and deprived him of his civil rights. Noting that Mr LIU was still confined in China, Dr KWOK pointed out that the freedom to choose the location for receiving medical treatment was a basic human right and the European Parliament had also passed a resolution calling upon the Chinese government to allow Mr LIU to seek medical treatment wherever he wished. He stressed that it was incumbent upon LegCo to hold a debate on the matter and he supported the holding of the proposed adjournment debate.

75. Pointing out that many human rights organizations from around the world as well as the European Parliament had already expressed support for Mr LIU Xiaobo's request for receiving medical treatment abroad on humanitarian grounds, Mr Nathan LAW commented that all Members should feel ashamed that the matter had yet to be discussed by LegCo. He criticized some Members for putting forward various absurd reasons in a bid to forestall the holding of the proposed adjournment debate.

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Mr LAW further said that Mr LIU was a true patriot who had made significant contributions to the human rights movement in China. He hoped that patriotic Members who wished to see freedom of speech and human rights take root in China would support the holding of the proposed adjournment debate.

76. Referring to Mr WONG Kwok-kin's earlier remarks, Ms Claudia MO clarified that it was the wish of many Hong Kong people that Mr LIU Xiaobo be allowed to seek medical treatment abroad with his wife, and not to receive treatment under detention at a hospital in China. She strongly disagreed that the holding of the proposed adjournment debate would amount to interference with China's internal affairs by the Hong Kong legislature, adding that LegCo had also held numerous debates concerning the 4 June incident since 1997. She appealed to Members' support for Mr HUI Chi-fung's proposal.

77. Ms Tanya CHAN considered it unreasonable and absurd that Mr LIU Xiaobo was imprisoned for co-writing Charter 08, given that the main concepts advocated therein, including human rights and freedoms, were already enshrined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. Expressing concern about Mr LIU and his wife, Ms CHAN hoped that the proposed adjournment debate could be held as soon as possible. She further pointed out that the proposed adjournment debate only served to provide an opportunity for Members to express their views on the matter and Members did not necessarily have to vote on the adjournment motion. She stressed that if freedom of speech and human rights still existed in Hong Kong, no Member should oppose the holding of the proposed adjournment debate.

78. Mr WU Chi-wai said that although Mr LIU Xiaobo had been released on medical parole, he was still under close surveillance by the Mainland authorities and visits by his friends were either forbidden or restricted. Furthermore, Mr LIU's wife Ms LIU Xia had not been able to obtain permission for Mr LIU to receive medical treatment in a country of his choice where he could experience freedom. Mr WU considered that the proposed adjournment debate would provide an opportunity for Members to express their concern for Mr LIU. It would also enable Members to urge the Central Government to address the situation that many Chinese citizens still could not enjoy the civil rights enshrined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China to date.



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79. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said that whether or not the proposed adjournment debate could be held would help prove whether LegCo could still speak out against injustice and duly discharge the responsibilities expected of it. He cited an excerpt from the statement "I Have No Enemies: My Final Statement", which was written by Mr LIU in 2009, to illustrate Mr LIU's hope that every Chinese citizen would be able to enjoy the freedom of expression in future. Mr SHIU further said that Members should have nothing to fear from Mr LIU and the holding of the proposed adjournment debate would enable LegCo to regain its dignity and respect from the public. He supported Mr HUI Chi-fung's proposal.

80. Mr KWONG Chun-yu expressed support for the holding of the proposed adjournment debate. Pointing out that Mr LIU Xiaobo, a Noble Peace Prize laureate, had been put behind bars by the Mainland authorities for many years, Mr KWONG commented that any person with conscience and compassion should speak out against injustice and in no way should the holding of the proposed adjournment debate be regarded as an attempt by LegCo to interfere with China's internal affairs. He added that Hong Kong was a place where the freedom of expression was respected and it was incumbent upon Members to speak for righteousness.

81. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting said that he considered it absurd for Mr WONG Kwok-kin to argue that the holding of the proposed adjournment debate by LegCo would be tantamount to interfering with the Mainland judicial system by the Hong Kong legislature. He hoped that voices in support of Mr LIU Xiaobo could be made in LegCo.

82. Dr LAU Siu-lai expressed support for Mr HUI Chi-fung's proposal. Dr LAU pointed out that Hong Kong people had been very concerned about Mr LIU Xiaobo and his wife Ms LIU Xia, and many of them shared the view that permission should be given for Mr LIU to receive medical treatment abroad. She therefore considered it reasonable for LegCo to hold the proposed adjournment debate in order to enable Members to convey Hong Kong people's concern for Mr LIU.

83. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan said that while many Members of the opposition camp opined that Mr LIU should be allowed to receive medical treatment abroad, any such request should be submitted by Mr LIU's family members and dealt with by the Mainland authorities in accordance with their established systems and procedures. Furthermore, as it remained unclear as to whether Mr LIU's condition permitted him to seek medical treatment abroad, it was questionable whether a meaningful

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and informed discussion could be conducted if the proposed adjournment debate was held. Mr CHEUNG added that given the large number of items to be dealt with at the Council meeting of 12 July 2017, even if the holding of the proposed adjournment debate was supported by HC and allowed by the President, there was little chance that the debate could be held at that meeting.

84. At 4:31 pm, the Chairman invited Mr HUI Chi-fung to respond to Members' views expressed. In response to some Members' queries about why the Chairman did not invite other Members who had indicated their intention to speak to do so, the Chairman said that in view of time constraints, she had already informed Members earlier that she had to "draw a line" on the discussion of this item. Given that Members had expressed different views on Mr HUI's proposal, she had to reserve some time for putting the proposal to vote. She added that Members who had not yet spoken on the proposal might express their views through other channels.

*(Some Members spoke aloud in their seats in protest of the Chairman's decision.)*

85. The Chairman further explained that the decision to "draw a line" was made after taking into consideration that a FC meeting had been scheduled for 4:30 pm on the day of this HC meeting. She stressed that it was a common practice for committee chairmen to "draw a line" on the discussion of an item as necessary when chairing meetings. She had already sought the consent of the Chairman of FC for this HC meeting to continue for not more than 15 minutes beyond the scheduled starting time of the FC meeting, in order to allow HC to conclude its business on the agenda. She invited Mr HUI Chi-fung to respond to Members' views expressed.

*(Despite the Chairman's repeated requests to stop speaking aloud in their seats, some Members stood up and spoke aloud.)*

86. The Chairman said that if the order of the meeting could not be restored, she would have no choice but to close the meeting.

87. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr HUI Chi-fung said that the Chairman should allow sufficient time for Members to express their views on his proposal before putting it to vote. He expressed strong protest against the Chairman's decision not to allow Members who had requested to speak but had not yet spoken on his proposal to do so.

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Mr HUI further said that according to HR, when a FC meeting was scheduled to be held in the same afternoon, the HC meeting concerned would, if necessary, be suspended at such time when the FC meeting was scheduled to begin and resumed to deal with the unfinished business on the agenda after the FC meeting.

88. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr CHAN Kin-por said that the FC meeting scheduled to be held after this HC meeting would have to be cancelled if it could not start by 4:45 pm. He considered that if the order of the meeting could not be restored, the Chairman should close the meeting.

89. The Chairman reiterated that if individual Members continued to speak aloud in their seats, she would consider that the order of the meeting could not be restored and declare that the meeting be closed.

*(Some Members continued to stand up and speak aloud in their seats.)*

90. At 4:37 pm, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.