

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(3) 268/16-17

Ref: CB(3)/M/MM
CB(3)/P/2 (V)

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 13 January 2017

Arrangements for the debate on the 2017 Policy Address

Purpose

This paper invites the House Committee (“HC”) to take note of the arrangements for the debate on the 2017 Policy Address. The arrangements are largely the same as those for the debates on the Policy Addresses in the Fifth Legislative Council.

Schedule for debate

2. According to Rule 13(1) of the Rules of Procedure, at a Council meeting not less than 14 days after the Chief Executive (“CE”) has presented a Policy Address to the Council, a motion may be moved for an address of thanks to CE for his address. In line with the established practice, such a motion (generally known as “Motion of Thanks”) is moved by the Chairman of HC.
3. CE will deliver the 2017 Policy Address to the Council on 18 January 2017, and the debate on the Motion of Thanks will be held at the Council meeting on 15, 16 and 17 February 2017.
4. To enable Members to have the opportunity to understand the contents of the Policy Address and the policy commitments of Policy Bureaux, policy briefings for Panels have been scheduled to be held between 20 January and 7 February 2017 after the delivery of the Policy Address and before the commencement of the debate.

Arrangements for debate

5. The arrangements for the debate on Policy Address are as follows:

Duration of debate

- (a) the debate will be held on three consecutive days in five sessions. Each session will be dedicated to a group of policy areas to be agreed between the Administration and HC;
- (b) the sequence of the debate sessions will be agreed between the Administration and HC. The starting time of each debate session will depend on the length of the previous session;
- (c) the first day of the debate (15 February 2017) will start at 11:00 am, and the second and third days (16 and 17 February 2017) at 9:00 am. The ending time for each of the three days of the debate will be about 10:00 pm but may be extended for 30 minutes if necessary, provided that the total duration of the debate does not exceed three days;
- (d) there will not be any meal breaks on any of the three days of the debate;

Mode of debate

- (e) a Member may speak once in each of the five debate sessions, but subject to the total speaking time limit of 30 minutes. The HC Chairman, as the mover of the Motion of Thanks, will have an additional 15-minute speaking time for moving the Motion and making her reply;
- (f) Members' speeches in a session should be confined to the policy areas specified for that session;
- (g) after Members have spoken in each session, there will be a 10-minute suspension of the meeting for the public officers attending that session to co-ordinate their response to the Council. The President may exercise discretion not to suspend the meeting if the public officers consider the break not necessary;

- (h) the total speaking time limit for public officers in each debate session is as follows:
 - (i) for one or two public officers, each public officer may speak for not less than 15 minutes, subject to the total time limit of 45 minutes. Under this arrangement, where two public officers are to speak, the public officer speaking first should not speak for more than 30 minutes, leaving at least 15 minutes for the other public officer. Subject to such a restriction, it is up to the public officers to determine their actual speaking time; and
 - (ii) for three or more public officers, it will be calculated on the basis of 15-minute speaking time limit for each public officer;
- (i) at the end of a debate session and before the start of the next session, Members will be informed of the balance of their speaking time;
- (j) after all public officers for a particular debate session have spoken, the next session will begin immediately unless the time is approaching 10:00 pm; and
- (k) if there is/are amendments to the Motion of Thanks, the HC Chairman will have another five minutes to speak on the amendment(s) at the end of the last debate session. Voting on the amendment(s) will then take place. The HC Chairman may then use the remainder of the 15 minutes (which have been given to her for moving the Motion) to make her reply. No Member may speak after the mover of the Motion has made her reply. The Council will then vote on the Motion.

Advice sought

6. Members are invited to take note of the arrangements for the debate on the 2017 Policy Address set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 above.

Council Business Division 3
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 January 2017