



立法會主席

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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9 October 2019

Hon James TO, Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, Prof Hon Joseph LEE, Hon Claudia MO, Hon WU Chi-wai, Hon Charles Peter MOK, Hon CHAN Chi-chuen, Hon Kenneth LEUNG, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki, Hon Dennis KWOK, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Hon Helena WONG, Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon Alvin YEUNG, Hon Andrew WAN, Hon CHU Hoi-dick, Hon LAM Cheuk-ting, Hon SHIU Ka-chun, Hon Tanya CHAN, Hon HUI Chi-fung, Hon KWONG Chun-yu, Hon Jeremy TAM, Hon Gary FAN, Hon AU Nok-hin

Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Members

### **Request for calling a special meeting of the Council**

Thank you for your letter dated 4 October 2019 (**Appendix**) in which you demanded that a special meeting of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) be convened immediately under Rule 15(2) of the Rules of Procedure (“RoP”) concerning the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation (“the Regulation”) made under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance (Cap. 241).

RoP 15(2) provides that during any period when the Council is in recess between the end of one session and the beginning of the next session, the President may call a special meeting of the Council on such day and at such hour as he may specify. As I pointed out in my previous letters to Members on requests for holding special Council meetings (available on the LegCo website), in exercising the power under RoP 15(2), I need to consider all relevant factors.

One of the key factors is the readiness of the conference facilities of the LegCo Complex, which was stormed and seriously damaged by protestors on 1 July 2019. As I told the media yesterday, the repair works inside the Chamber and other conference rooms in the LegCo Complex have largely been completed. The various systems are now under testing, with a view to ensuring that the conference facilities will be fully ready for holding the first Council meeting in the 2019-2020 session, which is scheduled for 16 October 2019.

As you are aware, the Regulation, which has taken effect since 5 October 2019, is a piece of subsidiary legislation subject to negative vetting under section 34 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) and the relevant provisions in RoP. Under the relevant procedures, the Regulation will first be considered by the House Committee (“HC”) on 11 October 2019. HC may appoint a subcommittee to scrutinize the Regulation before it may be debated or amended in the Council. The commencement of the scrutiny work of the subcommittee, if formed, does not hinge on whether or not a Council meeting is held. Moreover, there are other forums available to Members to follow up matters relating to the Regulation in LegCo.

The last session of the current term will commence next Wednesday. It is expected to be a very busy one, with a large number of items to be dealt with by the Council and its committees. I sincerely appeal to Members to join hands to ensure the smooth and proper operation of LegCo with a view to helping Hong Kong ride out the current challenges and build a better future.

Yours sincerely



(Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen)

President

Legislative Council

c.c. All other Members of Legislative Council