

# Legislative Council

## Agenda

Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 11:00 am

### I. Laying of Papers on the Table of the Council

6 items of subsidiary legislation and 4 other papers to be laid on the Table of the Council set out in **Appendix 1**

### II. Questions

Members to ask 22 questions (6 for oral replies and 16 for written replies)

#### Questions for oral replies to be asked by

1. Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
(The governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong)
2. Hon Kenneth LAU  
(Extension of fibre-based networks to remote areas)
3. Hon Paul TSE  
(Improving policy implementation)
4. Hon Holden CHOW  
(Ordering teachers alleged to have breached the law to be suspended from duties)
5. Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
(COVID-19 Vaccination Programme)
6. Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan  
(Patients waiting at the accident and emergency departments for transfer to the wards)

#### Public officers to reply

- Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
- Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
- Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury  
Under Secretary for Transport and Housing
- Secretary for Education
- Secretary for Food and Health
- Secretary for Food and Health

Contents of 22 questions, Members to ask such questions and public officers to reply set out in **Appendix 2**

### III. Government Bills

#### First Reading and Second Reading (debate to be adjourned)

1. Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill 2021 : Secretary for the Environment
2. Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2021 : Secretary for Security
3. Free-Flow Tolling (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021 : Secretary for Transport and Housing
4. Securities and Futures and Companies Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2021 : Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
5. Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2021 : Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

### IV. Government Motion

#### Motion on taking forward the follow-up tasks of implementing co-location arrangement at the Huanggang Port

Mover : Secretary for Security

Wording of the motion : **Appendix 3**

Other attending public officers : Secretary for Transport and Housing  
Secretary for Development  
Secretary for Innovation and Technology  
Under Secretary for Development  
Under Secretary for Innovation and Technology  
Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development  
Under Secretary for Transport and Housing

### V. Members' Motions

#### 1. Proposed resolution under Article 75 of the Basic Law to amend the Rules of Procedure

Mover : Hon Paul TSE

Wording of the motion : **Appendix 4**

**2. Motion on “Formulating a comprehensive rural development policy”**

- Mover : Hon Kenneth LAU
- Wording of the motion : **Appendix 5**
- Amendment mover : Hon Steven HO  
(Amendment set out in LC Paper No. CB(3) 218/20-21  
issued on 7 December 2020)
- Public officers to attend : Secretary for Development  
Secretary for Home Affairs  
Under Secretary for Development  
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

**3. Motion on “Thoroughly reforming the subject of Liberal Studies”**

- Mover : Hon Elizabeth QUAT
- Wording of the motion : **Appendix 6**
- 2 amendment movers : Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG and Hon KWOK Wai- keung  
(Amendments set out in LC Paper No. CB(3) 208/20-21  
issued on 3 December 2020)
- Public officers to attend : Secretary for Education  
Under Secretary for Education

Clerk to the Legislative Council

## Council meeting of 24 March 2021

## Laying of Papers on the Table of the Council

<b>Subsidiary legislation</b>	<b>Legal Notice No.</b>
1. <u>Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2021</u>	36 of 2021
2. <u>Waterworks (Amendment) Regulation 2021</u>	37 of 2021
3. <u>Designation of Libraries (Amendment) Order 2021</u>	38 of 2021
4. <u>Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Public Pleasure Grounds) (Amendment of Fourth Schedule) Order 2021</u>	39 of 2021
5. <u>Admission and Registration (Amendment) Rules 2021</u>	40 of 2021
6. <u>Employees Compensation Assistance Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 4) Notice 2021</u>	41 of 2021
 <b>Other papers</b>	
7. <u>HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2020 (including Report of the Director of Audit)</u> (to be presented by Secretary for Education)	
8. <u>Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2020 (including Report of the Director of Audit)</u> (to be presented by Secretary for Education)	
9. <u>The Prince Philip Dental Hospital 2019-20 Annual Report by the Board of Governors (including Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report)</u> (to be presented by Secretary for Food and Health)	
10. <u>Report No. 14/20-21 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments</u> (to be presented by Hon Starry LEE, Chairman of the House Committee)	

## 22 questions to be asked at the Council meeting of 24 March 2021

		Subject matters	Public officers to reply
<b>Questions for oral replies</b>			
1	Hon YUNG Hoi-yan	<u>The governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong</u>	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
2	Hon Kenneth LAU	<u>Extension of fibre-based networks to remote areas</u>	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
3	Hon Paul TSE	<u>Improving policy implementation</u>	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Under Secretary for Transport and Housing
4	Hon Holden CHOW	<u>Ordering teachers alleged to have breached the law to be suspended from duties</u>	Secretary for Education
5	Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai	<u>COVID-19 Vaccination Programme</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
6	Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan	<u>Patients waiting at the accident and emergency departments for transfer to the wards</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
<b>Questions for written replies</b>			
7	Hon Tommy CHEUNG	<u>Subsidy schemes implemented for the catering outlets</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
8	Hon LAU Kwok-fan	<u>Wetland Buffer Area</u>	Secretary for Development
9	Hon Mrs Regina IP	<u>Disciplined services quarters</u>	Secretary for Security
10	Hon Frankie YICK	<u>Resumption of face-to-face classes of schools</u>	Secretary for Education
11	Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok	<u>New railway projects</u>	Secretary for Transport and Housing
12	Hon YIU Si-wing	<u>Restarting the economy amid the epidemic</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
13	Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan	<u>The BUD Fund</u>	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
14	Hon Jimmy NG	<u>Assisting enterprises in exploring overseas business opportunities</u>	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
15	Hon Wilson OR	<u>Private land suitable for public housing development</u>	Secretary for Development
16	Dr Hon Pierre CHAN	<u>District Health Centres</u>	Secretary for Food and Health
17	Hon LUK Chung-hung	<u>Staff of a law firm before it was intervened</u>	Secretary for Labour and Welfare
18	Hon KWOK Wai-keung	<u>Mental health of students</u>	Secretary for Education
19	Hon Alice MAK	<u>Assisting street sleepers</u>	Secretary for Labour and Welfare
20	Hon CHAN Han-pan	<u>Making inquiries to registered voters</u>	Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
21	Hon Tony TSE	<u>Control on import and export of wastes</u>	Secretary for the Environment
22	Hon CHAN Hak-kan	<u>Newly established schools</u>	Secretary for Education

Question 1  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

The governance and management of  
Radio Television Hong Kong

Hon YUNG Hoi-yan to ask:

Last month, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (“CEDB”) released the Review Report submitted by a dedicated team to review the governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong (“RTHK”). Regarding the governance and management of RTHK, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the details of RTHK’s plan for implementing the recommendations made in the Review Report in respect of its mechanisms for editorial management and complaints handling, performance measurement and evaluation, as well as management of its workforce (including the implementation priority and schedule of the various recommendations);
- (2) whether CEDB has comprehensively reviewed its role and performance in monitoring RTHK, and if any senior staff of CEDB and RTHK should be held responsible for RTHK’s previous governance and management problems; how CEDB will strengthen its role in monitoring RTHK in future; and
- (3) how CEDB will, in the coming three years, instruct the Director of Broadcasting to lead RTHK to strictly comply with (i) the Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong (“the Charter”) (in particular to fulfill the following purposes of RTHK as the public service broadcaster as stipulated in paragraph 4 of the Charter: providing accurate and impartial news, information, perspectives and analyses; promoting the public’s understanding of “One Country, Two Systems” and its implementation in Hong Kong; and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity through programmes that contribute to the understanding of the community and nation), (ii) the Communications Authority’s code of practice on programme standards, and (iii) RTHK’s internal Producers’ Guidelines; whether CEDB has plans to update the Charter in order to reflect the latest situation of Hong Kong (including the National Security Law for Hong Kong having been implemented in Hong Kong)?

Question 2  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Extension of fibre-based networks to remote areas

Hon Kenneth LAU to ask:

The Government launched the Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas (“Subsidy Scheme”) in 2018 to subsidize fixed network operators (“FNOs”) to extend fibre-based networks to 235 selected villages located in remote areas, so that the villagers therein can enjoy broadband services of speed of at least 25 megabits per second (“Mbps”). In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows, among the villages covered by the Subsidy Scheme, the names of those villages for which the works to roll out fibre-based lead-in connections have been completed by now, as well as the respective expected completion time of such works for the remaining villages;
- (2) given that the selected FNOs are only subsidized to roll out fibre-based lead-in connections to the entrances of the villages, and the villagers need to negotiate with service providers on their own the roll-out of fibre-based networks within their villages, whether the Government has measures in place to assist the villagers in overcoming the relevant difficulties, so that they, just like residents in the urban areas, can enjoy fibre-to-the-home broadband services; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) of the villages with a broadband speed not reaching 25 Mbps but not yet covered by the Subsidy Scheme at present; the measures that the Government has put in place to enable the villagers of such villages to enjoy broadband services with a higher speed?

Question 3  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Improving policy implementation

Hon Paul TSE to ask:

Last year, the Government injected \$27.3 billion into Cathay Pacific Airways Limited (“CX”) which had fallen into financial difficulty, and later disbursed around \$0.6 billion of wage subsidies to CX under the Employment Support Scheme. However, CX still recorded a record-breaking deficit of \$21.6 billion and needed to reduce approximately 8 500 positions last year. Some members of the public have criticized that the public money involved in the injection is sufficient for handing out \$5,000 each to all members of the public in Hong Kong, or making contributions to MPF schemes on behalf of all employers and employees in Hong Kong for half a year. There have been comments that the Government has made policy blunders, such as disbursing wage subsidies to supermarket chains whose business has bloomed amid the epidemic, reducing tax concessions for the current financial year by half, proposing to issue electronic consumption vouchers with all sorts of restrictions, refusing to allow members of the public to withdraw the accrued benefits in their MPF accounts to help themselves, and failing to publish vaccination guidelines in a timely manner, which have resulted in the Government’s persistently low popularity. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has reviewed if the Government’s practice of spending, without consulting the public, huge amounts of public money on injecting money into CX and disbursing wage subsidies to supermarket chains with huge profits but ignoring that more and more members of the public have fallen into financial difficulty amid the epidemic, will give members of the public a perception of not helping those who should be helped, and deal a blow to public confidence in the Government’s governance;
- (2) as it is learnt that the level of Mainlanders’ satisfaction with the Central Government has remained persistently high in recent years, whether it has studied which of the relevant reasons are of reference value to the SAR Government to facilitate its review and adjustment of the existing policies on developing the economy and combating the epidemic; and



- (3) whether it will change the practice of helping individual enterprises and instead adopt a fairer and more cost-effective approach for assisting all enterprises and employees who have fallen into financial difficulty, such as considering afresh the proposal of the Government making contributions to MPF schemes temporarily on behalf of all employers and employees in Hong Kong, so as to ensure the proper use of public money?

Question 4  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Ordering teachers alleged to have breached  
the law to be suspended from duties

Hon Holden CHOW to ask:

During the disturbances arising from the opposition to the proposed legislative amendments, quite a number of teachers were arrested for suspected participation in unlawful activities. The Education Bureau ("EDB") has written to schools requiring them to order an immediate suspension from duties of those teachers who were arrested for involvement in cases of serious offences, so as to protect students' safety and safeguard schools' operation. It is learnt that some schools have decided that such teachers are to be suspended from duties only upon conviction by the Court. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that as the conviction threshold for criminal offences is rather high, the acts, committed by those teachers who were prosecuted for taking part in a riot or an unlawful assembly but have been acquitted in a criminal trial, may still constitute professional misconduct, whether EDB will issue further guidelines to schools in the territory, stipulating that schools must enforce the arrangements for suspension from duties more stringently, so as to avoid students from being led astray by such teachers; and
- (2) given that those teachers who were suspended from duties but have subsequently been acquitted by the Court may claim compensation from the schools for the losses they incurred by being suspended from duties, whether the Government will, on behalf of the schools, bear the liabilities for compensation so as to allay the concerns of the schools; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 5  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai to ask:

The Government authorized the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) vaccines “Comirnaty” and “CoronaVac” on 25 January and 18 February this year respectively for emergency use in Hong Kong. It has been reported that since the commencement of the Vaccination Programme on 26 February, a number of members of the public have felt unwell after receiving vaccination, and there have been several incidents in which members of the public died within a short period of time after vaccination. As a result, the daily number of people receiving vaccination has shown a downward trend. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it will urge the company which researched and developed CoronaVac to expeditiously publish the third phase clinical research data of the vaccine in medical journals, or make public the relevant data by other means; and
- (2) whether the Expert Committee on Clinical Events Assessment Following COVID-19 Immunisation has studied the circumstances under which the Vaccination Programme needs to be suspended pending re-assessment of the pros and cons of receiving vaccination?

Question 6  
(For oral reply)

(Translation)

Patients waiting at the accident and  
emergency departments for transfer to the wards

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan to ask:

Some members of the public have relayed that some patients in need of hospitalization for further treatments after receiving diagnoses and treatments at the accident and emergency (“A&E”) departments of public hospitals needed to wait for quite a long time before they were transferred to the wards. Recently, a patient even died while he was waiting at the A&E department for transfer to the ward. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council if it knows:

- (1) in respect of the patients who were admitted to the public hospitals via the A&E departments last year, the average time for which they had waited before they were transferred to the wards after completing the registration procedure at the A&E registries, with a breakdown by the triage category to which the patients belonged;
- (2) whether the Hospital Authority (“HA”) will take new measures to shorten the time for which patients wait at the A&E departments for transfer to the wards; if HA will, of the target waiting time; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether HA will deploy healthcare personnel to regularly monitor the conditions of those patients who are waiting at the A&E departments for transfer to the wards, so as to ensure that they receive appropriate care; if HA will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 7  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Subsidy schemes implemented for the catering outlets

Hon Tommy CHEUNG to ask:

Regarding the various subsidy schemes implemented for the catering outlets by the Government under the Anti-epidemic Fund, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the total number, as at the 4th of this month, of those subsidy applications for which approval has been given but subsidies have not been disbursed, and the amount of subsidies involved;
- (2) when the disbursement of the relevant subsidies is expected to be completed;
- (3) of the expected balances of the relevant commitments upon completion of processing the applications under the various subsidy schemes; and
- (4) whether it will consider making good use of the sum mentioned in (3) to provide further subsidies for operators of nightclubs, karaoke establishments and bars whose businesses have likewise been hard hit by the epidemic and the anti-epidemic measures?

Question 8  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Wetland Buffer Area

Hon LAU Kwok-fan to ask:

In early years the Government demarcated and designated a strip of land of about 500 metres in width covering about 1 000 hectares along the boundary of the Deep Bay Wetland Conservation Area (“WCA”) as a Wetland Buffer Area (“WBA”). No development project may commence in WBA unless an ecological impact assessment has been conducted with the assessment outcome being that the development project will not cause any insurmountable adverse impacts. There have been comments that as the freshwater fish farming industry has declined in recent years, quite a number of fish ponds in WBA have been left deserted at present. In view of this, the Government should conduct a re-planning of WBA to unleash the development potential of the lands concerned and optimize the utilization of land resources. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether, since the Study on the Ecological Value of Fish Ponds in the Deep Bay Area was completed in 1997, the Government has conducted studies on the ecological value of the fish ponds in that area and conducted reviews of the policies on the protection of WCA and WBA; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that, and whether it will conduct such studies and reviews; if so, of the timetable and details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) whether it will reduce the coverage of WBA to release those lands therein with relatively low ecological value for housing or other development uses; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) given that at present, certain sites in WBA, albeit having been successfully rezoned as residential sites, may be used only for low-density residential developments due to the plot ratio restriction, resulting in underutilization of land resources, whether the Government will consider raising the plot ratio of the residential sites in WBA from the current figure of 0.2 to 0.4 to 2 to 3, with a view to increasing housing supply and at the same time encouraging, through providing incentives, developers to revitalize, with a new mindset, the fish ponds surrounding development projects in WBA, so as to strike a balance between development and conservation?

Question 9  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Disciplined services quarters

Hon Mrs Regina IP to ask:

Some disciplined services staff have relayed to me that as there is a surplus of units of departmental quarters of certain grades (e.g. quarters for officer rank staff) but an acute shortage of units of quarters of some other grades (e.g. quarters for married rank and file staff), there is a mismatch between the supply of and demand for such quarters. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) in respect of the quarters of each disciplined services department, of (i) the number of units available for allocation, (ii) the number of applicants for such units, (iii) the number of applicants allocated such units, and (iv) the vacancy rate of such units, in each of the past three years, with a tabulated breakdown by (a) grade of the quarters and (b) district in which the quarters were located;
- (2) of the current waiting time for each grade of quarters under each disciplined services department; whether the Government has (i) set a target waiting time and (ii) put in place new measures to shorten the waiting time; and
- (3) whether it will put in place new measures to mitigate the mismatch between the supply of and demand for such quarters?

Question 10  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Resumption of face-to-face classes of schools

Hon Frankie YICK to ask:

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, the Education Bureau (“EDB”) has, on several occasions, announced suspension of face-to-face classes of schools along with a shift to online teaching and learning. After the schools’ Chinese New Year holidays this year, schools may arrange for no more than one-third of the total number of students of the school to return to school to attend classes on a half-day basis. In addition, where a school can arrange all its teachers and staff to undergo regular virus testing once every 14 days, it may apply to EDB for whole-school resumption of half-day face-to-face classes. It is learnt that the prolonged suspension of face-to-face classes has not only affected the learning progress of students, but also significantly affected the operation of support services related to school operation (e.g. school bus services provided by school private light buses, private school buses and non-franchised public buses). In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective up-to-date numbers of applications from schools for whole-school resumption of half-day face-to-face classes received and approved by EDB, with a breakdown by school type (i.e. kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and tutorial school); the measures in place to encourage more schools to make applications;
- (2) as some school bus operators have relayed that since they still need to meet expenses such as salaries for drivers and escorts despite a substantial reduction of income due to a drastic drop of 90% in the number of student passengers, and the subsidy provided by the Government is just a drop in the bucket, most of the operators have used up their savings and teetered on the brink of closing down their businesses, what measures the Government has put in place to assist school bus operators in tiding over the difficult times, so as to ensure that adequate school buses will be available for providing services in the next school year;
- (3) given that following the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, the epidemic may hopefully be mitigated, of the circumstances under which EDB will announce the full resumption of face-to-face classes of schools; and



- (4) given that some school buses have been left idle for a long time, whether, in order to ensure that such vehicles can resume operation safely, the Government will provide school bus operators with a “business resumption allowance” before the full resumption of face-to-face classes of schools, so that they can repair and maintain their vehicles to protect the safety of students, drivers and other road users; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 11  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

New railway projects

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok to ask:

The Railway Development Strategy 2014, which was released in September 2014, recommends that the Government implement the projects of (i) the Tuen Mun South Extension of the West Rail and (ii) the Northern Link and Kwu Tung Station from 2019 to 2022 and from 2018 to 2023 respectively. Nevertheless, according to a paper recently submitted to this Council by the Government, the works of the two railway projects are not expected to commence until 2023. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the reasons for the delay in the implementation dates of the aforesaid two railway projects, and the measures to be put in place to prevent the occurrence of similar situations in other railway projects;
- (2) of the latest details of the two railway projects, including the estimated costs and the completion dates of the works;
- (3) given that the intake of residents of the housing development projects in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area is expected to commence in 2026, but the works of the Kwu Tung Station are expected to be completed by 2027 at the earliest, of the Government's measures to ensure that adequate public transport services are available to meet the demand of those residents who have moved into units of the development projects concerned before the commissioning of the Kwu Tung Station; and
- (4) of the latest progress of the implementation of the proposal for establishing the Railways Department under the Transport and Housing Bureau?

Question 12  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Restarting the economy amid the epidemic

Hon YIU Si-wing to ask:

To cope with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, the Government has, on a number of occasions since early last year, implemented various anti-epidemic measures (including social distancing measures), which have dealt a heavy blow to the business of industries such as retail, catering, entertainment and tourism, as well as triggered waves of business closures and layoffs. There are views that as the Government has been carrying out anti-epidemic work continuously for more than a year, it should have grasped sufficient data and experience for launching a gradual restart of the economy on the premise that anti-epidemic needs are met concurrently. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it will set criteria that are more objective (e.g. the number of local confirmed cases or cases from unknown sources having risen/fallen to a specified level) for deciding if there is a need to tighten or relax the various social distancing measures; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) what new measures are in place to enhance its work on tracing the close contacts of confirmed patients, so as to cut the silent transmission chains in the community; what more stringent infection prevention measures are in place to cope with a worsened epidemic situation; and
- (3) whether it will formulate a plan for a gradual restart of economic activities (including tourism activities) which can meet anti-epidemic needs concurrently (e.g. allowing scheduled premises directed to suspend operation due to the epidemic to resume business and tourism activities to resume when the number of local confirmed cases or cases from unknown sources has dropped to a specified level); if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 13  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

The BUD Fund

Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan to ask:

The Government launched the “Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales” (“BUD Fund”) in 2012 to assist small and medium enterprises (“SMEs”) (including start-ups) in Hong Kong in grasping economic opportunities and boosting their competitiveness. Also, it injected funds into the Fund in 2018 and 2019 respectively to implement enhancement measures (including raising the cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise, and extending the geographical coverage from initially covering the Mainland only to also covering the Association of Southeast Asian Nations markets and all economies with which Hong Kong had signed Free Trade Agreements). As indicated in the Budget just published, the Government plans to further inject funds into the Fund to implement enhancement measures. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of applications received since the launch of the BUD Fund and, among such applications, the number of those approved and the total amount of funding involved; the total number of enterprises involved in the approved applications, with a tabulated breakdown by enterprise scale and industry type;
- (2) of the plans in the coming three years to further assist, through the BUD Fund, Hong Kong’s SMEs in grasping economic opportunities; and
- (3) given that in recent years, quite a number of Hong Kong enterprises which have set up factories on the Mainland or overseas are planning to relocate their factories back to Hong Kong, whether the Government will relax the application restrictions on the BUD Fund to allow Hong Kong enterprises which have proceeded with their plans for relocating back to Hong Kong to apply for the Fund, so as to promote Hong Kong’s re-industrialization and enhance the “Made in Hong Kong” brand?

Question 14  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Assisting enterprises in exploring overseas business opportunities

Hon Jimmy NG to ask:

The Chief Executive (“CE”) indicated in the 2019 Policy Address that the Government would seek the policy support of the relevant Central ministries to provide Hong Kong enterprises intending to develop businesses in the nation’s overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones (“ETCZs”) with the same incentive measures and facilitation policies as those provided to Mainland enterprises. CE subsequently indicated in the 2020 Policy Address that the State Ministry of Commerce supported the Hong Kong SAR Government in encouraging Hong Kong enterprises to develop businesses by leveraging ETCZs, and that both sides had selected five ETCZs set up by the Mainland in Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia and Indonesia, and priorities would be given to promoting the electronics, toys and electrical appliances industries, etc. on a pilot basis. On assisting enterprises in exploring overseas business opportunities, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the details of the aforesaid incentive measures and facilitation policies as well as the latest progress of the relevant work;
- (2) of the respective numbers of Hong Kong enterprises (i) whose enquiries have been answered and (ii) which have been offered assistance, by the Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and the number of enterprises which have succeeded in developing businesses in the aforesaid five ETCZs (with a breakdown by scale of enterprise and type of industry), since the introduction of the incentive measures and facilitation policies;
- (3) given that the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province promulgated the Support Policies of the Guangdong Province for overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones on 4 August last year, of the Government’s specific measures to dovetail with the implementation of the policies;
- (4) in order to reduce the costs and risks faced by Hong Kong enterprises in developing businesses in ETCZs, whether the Government will consider establishing an “overseas expansion support fund”, strengthening the loan guarantees for the enterprises concerned, and amending sections 39E and 16EC of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to enable enterprises to claim tax allowances in respect of the machinery, equipment and intellectual

property rights used in their production processes outside Hong Kong;

- (5) of the measures in place to assist the commodities produced by Hong Kong enterprises in ETCZs in being granted preferential treatments in respect of access to the Mainland market, in order to tie in with the economic development strategy of “dual circulation” adopted by the Mainland authorities;
- (6) given that the preparatory work of Hong Kong enterprises on developing businesses in ETCZs has inevitably been affected amid the epidemic, of the Government’s measures to assist them in taking forward the relevant work; and
- (7) whether it will strive for the support from the State Ministry of Commerce to allow Hong Kong enterprises to develop businesses in more ETCZs; if so, of the details?

Question 15  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Private land suitable for public housing development

Hon Wilson OR to ask:

In the 2019 Policy Address, the Chief Executive (“CE”) put forward proposals “to adopt a more focused approach for rezoning private land for public housing development, and then exercising public power to resume private land for public purpose, [which] is indeed a breakthrough in thinking”, and “to resume private land which is zoned for high-density housing development in [the] statutory outline zoning plans [of various districts] but without any development plans due to various reasons (e.g. fragmented ownership, infrastructural constraints) and assessed to be suitable for public housing development”. Furthermore, on 20 October 2019, the Secretary for Development (“SDEV”) mentioned in his blog entitled “My Blog” that “[a]part from brownfield sites in the New Territories, we will also review the land suitable to be zoned as Comprehensive Development Area or Residential (Group A) development with higher plot ratio ... and with relatively low-rise existing structures ... and that the owner(s) has no concrete development plan. Based on the information available, around 10 land parcels that meet such criteria have been identified ... We hope we could make public our preliminary views on which of these sites are suitable for public housing development by the middle of next year”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether the “private land which is ... assessed to be suitable for public housing development” mentioned by CE in the 2019 Policy Address is in fact the “10 land parcels” mentioned by SDEV in the aforesaid “My Blog”; if so, why the Government did not “make public [its] preliminary views” in the middle of 2020 as pledged;
- (2) of the respective locations, areas and existing uses of the sites involved in the “10 land parcels”; among such sites, the number of those which have finally been assessed to be suitable for public housing development; whether the Government will rezone those sites that are considered unsuitable for public housing development for other public uses (e.g. subsidized residential care homes for the elderly);

- (3) as CE stated in the 2020 Policy Address that “as proposed in last year’s Policy Address, the [Development Bureau] has reviewed private land zoned for high-density housing development but without any specific development plan, and assessed whether any such land is suitable for public housing development. It is expected that the related work will be completed by the end of this year”, whether such work was completed at the end of 2020 as planned; if so, of the number of pieces, area and other details of the private lands that have been confirmed to be suitable for public housing development; and
- (4) of the number of pieces of private lands, excluding the private lands in the planned new development areas, for which the Government commenced, within the 36 months before and the 12 months after the publication of the 2019 Policy Address, studies on the rezoning of land use for public housing development, and the total area of such lands?



Question 16  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

District Health Centres

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN to ask:

Kwai Tsing District Health Centre (“KTDHC”), which is the first District Health Centre in Hong Kong, commenced operation in September 2019. In addition, the Government is taking forward its plan to construct Wan Chai District Health Centre (“WCDHC”) at Caroline Hill Road. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the following information about KTDHC (including its satellite centres):
  - (a) the respective (i) total operational expenses with breakdowns, (ii) staffing establishment, and (iii) total expenses on remunerations with breakdowns by staff rank, in the two financial years of 2019-2020 (from September 2019) and 2020-2021 (as at the end of February this year),
  - (b) the (i) service attendance, (ii) number of referrals received from public hospitals, and (iii) number of referrals made to service providers and community partners, in each month since commencement of operation, and
  - (c) the respective service attendances by (i) obese persons, (ii) patients with hypertension and (iii) patients with diabetes mellitus, in each month since commencement of operation;
- (2) of (i) the number of days of temporary closure of KTDHC due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, and (ii) the details of the work carried out by KTDHC for preventing and combating the epidemic;
- (3) of the details of the Government’s making use of big data for (i) planning the primary healthcare services needed in Kwai Tsing District, and (ii) enhancing the services of KTDHC; and
- (4) as the proposed WCDHC will be built by the developer of the commercial development on the Caroline Hill Road site, and then handed over to the Government, how the Government will ensure the workmanship of the construction works of WCDHC, and of the arrangements and estimated costs for the repair and maintenance of WCDHC upon commissioning?

Question 17  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Staff of a law firm before it was intervened

Hon LUK Chung-hung to ask:

Earlier on, the Council of the Law Society of Hong Kong (“the Council”) intervened in the operation of a law firm (“the firm”) because the Council suspected after investigation that a former employee of the firm had dishonestly misappropriated the money of the clients of the firm, and was satisfied that the firm had committed serious breaches of the Solicitors’ Accounts Rules (Cap. 159F). The firm’s practice forthwith ceased, and all the money of the firm has been held by the Council on trust. The Council has appointed another law firm as the Intervention Agent (“Agent”) to handle the follow-up work. It is learnt that dozens of staff who worked in the firm prior to cessation of its practice were employed by an independent company. As the company’s money deposited with the firm has been held by the Council, it is unable to pay such staff wages totalling over \$4 million (which include salaries, pay for untaken annual leave and statutory holidays, wages in lieu of notice and severance payments). On the other hand, some of such staff have assisted the Agent, upon its request, in handling the follow-up work, but have not been paid any wages. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether the Labour Department (“LD”) has received requests for assistance from the aforesaid staff; if so, how LD assists them in recovering the wage defaults, including whether it has assisted them in taking legal actions and applying for legal aid;
- (2) whether LD will discuss with the Council and the Agent the payment of salaries to the aforesaid staff for the period during which they assisted in handling the follow-up work; and
- (3) whether it will amend the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) to stipulate that when similar cases occur in future, the Agent appointed by the Council to handle the follow-up work of a law firm which has been intervened should (i) handle the severance matters for all staff who worked in that law firm (irrespective of whether they were directly employed by the law firm concerned) (including verifying the amounts of wage defaults, so as to help the staff concerned expeditiously recover such wage defaults), and (ii) pay salaries to the staff who assist the Agent in handling the follow-up work?

Question 18  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Mental health of students

Hon KWOK Wai-keung to ask:

The findings of a number of surveys conducted last year have shown that the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic has resulted in the aggravation of the emotional stress and mental health problems of secondary and primary students. The prolonged suspension of face-to-face classes and changes in the mode of learning have exerted certain pressure on students and affected their emotional and psychological health. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of students who committed suicide and died in each of the past five school years, broken down by age;
- (2) whether it knows the respective numbers of students in each of the past five years who (i) received treatments by the psychiatric services of public and private hospitals/clinics, and (ii) waited for such treatments and their average waiting time, together with a breakdown by age and type of mental illness;
- (3) whether it knows the number of requests for assistance received, since the outbreak of the epidemic, by schools relating to students suffering from emotional disturbance and mental stress, with a breakdown by type of issues pertaining to the requests for assistance; and
- (4) of the work currently undertaken by the Education Bureau on education about students' control of emotions; the new measures in place to (i) strengthen the resilience of students, and (ii) help schools, teachers and parents deal with students' emotional problems more effectively and identify at an early stage students suffering from emotional disturbance, as well as enhance their knowledge of and skills in coping with the relevant situations?

Question 19  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Assisting street sleepers

Hon Alice MAK to ask:

It has been reported that the number of street sleepers has obviously increased since the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic in January last year. The reasons for them to street sleep include: inability to afford paying rent as a result of the loss of jobs due to the epidemic, the immigration restrictions and quarantine measures making it difficult for persons who travelled between the Mainland and Hong Kong on a daily basis before the epidemic to cross the boundary to return home, and the fast food restaurants operating 24 hours a day where homeless people used to stay at night being required to suspend operation at the specified hours as directed by the Government. Furthermore, as a result of voluntary organizations cutting back on their services of distributing free food items to street sleepers due to the epidemic, street sleepers are facing a more difficult situation. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has compiled statistics on how the number of street sleepers has varied with the fluctuations of the epidemic situation during the past 12 months; if so, of the outcome;
- (2) whether it has endeavoured to provide meals on an emergency basis for street sleepers amid the epidemic;
- (3) whether it will consider opening temporary shelters at night for street sleepers to stay overnight on a temporary basis;
- (4) whether it will follow the following practice adopted in countries such as the United Kingdom, France and Australia: renting hotel rooms to provide temporary accommodation for street sleepers in the light of the severe epidemic situation; whether it will allocate additional resources and increase the manpower of social workers to enhance the service of assisting street sleepers in finding more stable accommodation; and
- (5) whether it will set aside some of the transitional housing units for street sleepers to wait for admission?

Question 20  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Making inquiries to registered voters

Hon CHAN Han-pan to ask:

The Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration of Electors) (Legislative Council Geographical Constituencies) (District Council Constituencies) Regulation (Cap. 541A) provides that the Electoral Registration Officer may issue inquiry letters to persons registered in an existing final register of electors (“register”), and remove from the new register the voter registration (“VR”) of persons who have failed to make a valid reply by a specified deadline. It is learnt that a new VR cycle has commenced. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the total number of registered voters, in the last VR cycle and since the commencement of the current VR cycle, who failed to reply to the inquiry letters by the specified deadline; whether the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) knows the reasons concerned;
- (2) whether REO has, apart from issuing inquiry letters, confirmed the registered particulars, such as the principal residential addresses, of registered voters by means of making telephone calls, sending emails and paying home visits, etc. during the last VR cycle and since the commencement of the current VR cycle; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether measures are in place to ensure that the VR of registered voters, who are absent from Hong Kong for reasons such as the epidemic, will not be removed due to their failure to reply to the inquiry letters in time; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Question 21  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Control on import and export of wastes

Hon Tony TSE to ask:

Under the new amendments to the Basel Convention (“BC”) on regulating the transboundary movement of waste plastics, with effect from 1 January 2021, any person must, prior to conducting transboundary movement of regulated waste plastics, obtain a permit or written consent from the states of export, import and transit concerned. Some environmental groups have pointed out that Hong Kong is the largest export destination for waste plastics from the United States, which, however, is not a signatory to BC. They are worried that the aforesaid requirement along with the Mainland’s implementation of measures on banning the import of “foreign rubbish” will turn Hong Kong from a transit point into the final destination of such wastes. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective quantities of (i) regulated and (ii) non-regulated waste plastics exported from, imported to and re-exported through Hong Kong, in each of the past five years, with a breakdown by export and import destinations;
- (2) of the number of crimes in each of the past five years relating to the import and export of waste plastics, with a breakdown by type of offences involved; the respective numbers of relevant prosecutions and convictions;
- (3) of the number of operations of random inspections conducted in each of the past five years by the Customs and Excise Department or the Environmental Protection Department for export, import and re-export containers of waste plastics and other foreign rubbish; whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness of such operations;
- (4) of the number of waste plastics containers repatriated to Hong Kong in each of the past five years after they had been exported or re-exported from Hong Kong, and the ways in which such wastes were disposed of; and
- (5) of the measures in place to reduce the impacts of the aforesaid amendments to BC on Hong Kong in order to prevent Hong Kong from being turned into the final destination of foreign rubbish?

Question 22  
(For written reply)

(Translation)

Newly established schools

Hon CHAN Hak-kan to ask:

It has been reported that Queen's Hill Estate and Shan Lai Court, which are located at Queen's Hill in Fanling, will be completed for intake within this year, and two primary schools (namely TWGHs Tseng Hin Pei Primary School and The Salvation Army Queen's Hill School) in the vicinity are under construction. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows if the aforesaid two schools will commence classes in September this year as scheduled, and the latest progress of their teacher recruitment, student admission, etc.;
- (2) of the approved class structures, numbers of classes, numbers of students at each grade, numbers of teachers, and amounts of regular subventions in respect of the two schools;
- (3) whether the Education Bureau ("EDB") has formulated a contingency plan which specifies the arrangements for the teachers employed and students admitted in the event that the two schools cannot commence classes as scheduled;
- (4) given that the two schools have not been included in the Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation (Primary One Admission 2021) for selection by parents, how EDB assists the schools in admitting students, particularly the admission of those primary students who will soon move into Queen's Hill Estate and Shan Lai Court;
- (5) whether EDB has formulated plans to assist those students who are studying in other primary schools in transferring to the two schools after they have moved into Queen's Hill Estate and Shan Lai Court; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (6) as some members of the education sector have pointed out that the regular subvention received by an aided school is calculated on the basis of the number of students, but the student intakes of newly established schools at the initial stage are often lower than the target numbers, and such a situation is not conducive to the development of these schools, whether EDB has plans to improve the method for calculating the subventions received by newly established schools; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

**Motion to be put by  
the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to the  
Legislative Council on taking forward the follow-up tasks of  
implementing co-location arrangement at the Huanggang Port**

**Motion to be moved by the Secretary for Security:**

This Council supports the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) Government in collaborating with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to press ahead the redevelopment of the Huanggang Port and to implement co-location arrangement at the redeveloped Huanggang Port, with a view to enhancing the handling capacity of the control point, providing travel convenience to passengers and promoting the efficient flow of people between Hong Kong, Shenzhen and other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”), thereby achieving the goal of expediting infrastructural connectivity among cities in the GBA as promulgated under the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; in this connection, this Council supports the HKSAR Government, together with the Shenzhen Municipal Government, in seeking the approval of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress as and when appropriate for setting up the Hong Kong Port Area (“HKPA”) at the redeveloped Huanggang Port, where the HKSAR Government will exercise jurisdiction; and thereafter proceeding with the work on the local legislation to demarcate the HKPA to be managed by the HKSAR and to extend the laws of Hong Kong to be applicable in the HKPA, thereby providing the legal basis for implementing the co-location arrangement at the redeveloped Huanggang Port.



**Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
of the People's Republic of China**

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**Resolution**

(Under Article 75 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special  
Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China)

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**Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**Resolved** that the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region be amended as set out in the  
Schedule.

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## Schedule

### Amendments to Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

#### 1. Rule 16 amended (motions for the adjournment of the Council)

(1) Rule 16(2), after “two items of business” –

**Add**

“that are set out in Rule 18(1) (Order of Business at a Meeting)”.

(2) After Rule 16(2) –

**Add**

“(2A) If at the expiration of one and a half hours, or such longer period as the President may at any meeting determine, from the moving of the motion under subrule (2) such motion has not been agreed to, the President shall not put the question on the motion and the Council shall proceed to the next item of business.”.

(3) After Rule 16(7) –

**Add**

“(8) A motion that is to be moved under subrule (2) or (4) at a meeting of the Council but is not reached before the Council is adjourned shall not stand over until the next meeting, and shall be taken as having been disposed of.”.

#### 2. Rule 18 amended (order of business at a meeting)

(1) Rule 18(1)(jb) –

**Repeal the full stop**

**Substitute**

“, excluding motions moved under Rule 49E(2) (Motions on Reports of House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments).”.

(2) After Rule 18(1)(jb) –

**Add**

“(jc) Requests for leave under Rule 89 (Procedure for Obtaining Leave for Member to Attend as Witness in Civil Proceedings) and Rule 90 (Procedure for Obtaining Leave to Give Evidence of Council Proceedings).”.

(3) Rule 18(1)(l) –

**Repeal**

“motions other than those specified in paragraph (jb)”

**Substitute**

“other motions”.

(4) Rule 18(1) –

**Repeal paragraph (m).**

(5) Rule 18(2) –

**Repeal**

“(d), (e),”.

**3. Rule 19 amended (the Agenda of the Council)**

Rule 19(1A) –

**Repeal the full stop**

**Substitute**

“, and to set a time limit on the consideration of such motion or bill.”.

**4. Rule 20 amended (presentation of petitions)**

(1) Rule 20(2) –

**Repeal**

“inform the President not later than the day before the meeting”

**Substitute**

“give notice to the President not later than 3 clear days before the meeting”.

(2) Rule 20(2) –

**Repeal**

“so informing the President”

**Substitute**  
“giving such notice”.

**5. Rule 21 amended (presentation of papers)**

(1) Rule 21(1) –

**Repeal the full stop**

**Substitute**

“, but no paper shall be so presented unless notice of it has been given not less than 2 clear days before the Council meeting at which the paper is to be presented provided that the President may in his discretion dispense with such notice.”.

(2) Rule 21(1), Chinese text –

**Repeal the semicolon**

**Substitute**

“，而”。

(3) Rule 21(4), after “a Bills Committee” –

**Add**

“or of a committee to which a bill has been referred for consideration under Rule 54(4) (Second Reading)”.

(4) Rule 21(4A) –

**Repeal**

“the Member presenting a report of the Bills Committee on the bill”

**Substitute**

“the Member presenting a report of a Bills Committee or of a committee to which the bill has been referred for consideration”.

(5) Rule 21(5) –

**Repeal**

“, with the consent of the President,”.

(6) Rule 21(5) –

**Repeal**

“inform the President of his wish before the beginning of

that meeting”

**Substitute**

“give written notice to the President of his wish before the beginning of that meeting, and may only address the Council if the President has given his consent”.

**6. Rule 26 amended (asking and answering of questions)**

Rule 26(3) –

**Repeal**

“rise in his place and ask the question”

**Substitute**

“rise in his place and read out the question set out on the Agenda”.

**7. Rule 29 amended (notice of motions and amendments)**

After Rule 29(3) –

**Add**

“(3A) The President shall, upon the moving of a motion under subrule (3), put the question on that motion without debate.”.

**8. Rule 37 amended (recommendations of House Committee as to time of speaking)**

Rule 37 –

**Repeal subrule (1)**

**Substitute**

“(1) In relation to any motion or amendment to a motion to be moved at a meeting of the Council, whether or not the motion or amendment has at the time been placed on the Agenda of the Council, the House Committee may make recommendations on the duration of debates and the speaking time limits of Members in debates, provided that the President or the Chairman of a committee of the whole Council may in his discretion adjust the relevant duration of debates and speaking time limits.”.

**9. Rule 40 amended (adjournment of debate or of proceedings of a committee of the whole Council)**

(1) Rule 40(1) –

**Repeal**

“A”

**Substitute**

“Subject to subrules (1A) and (1B), a”.

(2) Rule 40(1), before “may move without notice” –

**Add**

“, and before he so speaks,”.

(3) After Rule 40(1) –

**Add**

“(1A) No motion without notice may be moved to adjourn a debate on a motion moved under subrule (6A), Rule 16 (Motions for the Adjournment of the Council), Rule 49B(2A) (Disqualification of Member from Office), Rule 49E(2) (Motions on Reports of House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments), Rule 54(4) (Second Reading), Rule 55(1)(a) (Committal of Bills), Rule 84(3A) or (4) (Voting or Withdrawal in case of Direct Pecuniary Interest), Rule 89(2) (Procedure for Obtaining Leave for Member to Attend as Witness in Civil Proceedings) or Rule 90(2) (Procedure for Obtaining Leave to Give Evidence of Council Proceedings).

(1B) Where the President is of the opinion that the moving of the motion that the debate be now adjourned is an abuse of procedure, he may decide not to propose the question on the motion or to put the question forthwith without debate.”.

(4) Rule 40(8), after “(1)” –

**Add**

“, (1B)”.

**10. Rule 45A added**

Part I, after Rule 45 –

**Add**

**“45A. Naming and Suspending**

- (1) If, by reason of the grossly disorderly conduct of a Member, the President is of the opinion that his powers under Rule 45(2) (Order in Council and Committee) are inadequate with respect to such grossly disorderly conduct, the President may, at any time he considers appropriate, name such Member.
- (2) Where it comes to the knowledge of the President that a Member’s grossly disorderly conduct has been committed in a committee of the whole Council, the Finance Committee or the House Committee, the President may, at any time he considers appropriate, name such Member if the President is of the opinion that the powers of the Chairman of the committee of the whole Council, the chairman of the Finance Committee or the chairman of the House Committee under Rule 45(2) (Order in Council and Committee) are inadequate with respect to such grossly disorderly conduct.
- (3) Where a Member is named by the President under subrule (1) or (2), the President shall, on a motion being moved forthwith by the President’s deputy, put the question “That (name of such Member) be suspended from the service of the Council”.
- (4) A motion moved under subrule (3) shall be voted on forthwith without amendment or debate.
- (5) If a Member is suspended by a motion moved and passed under subrule (3), the duration of the suspension (including the day of suspension) –
  - (a) on the first occasion is one week;

- (b) on the second occasion during the same term of the Council is two weeks; and
  - (c) on any subsequent occasion during the same term of the Council is twice that of the previous occasion, provided that such duration shall not extend beyond the end date of the term concerned.
- (6) Any Member who is suspended from the service of the Council under this Rule shall immediately leave the Chamber. The suspended Member shall, for the duration of his suspension, be excluded from participation in the exercise of the Council's powers and functions under Article 73 of the Basic Law.
- (7) If the suspended Member refuses to comply with subrule (6), the President shall order the Clerk to take such action as may be necessary to ensure compliance.”.

**11. Rule 49 amended (divisions)**

- (1) Rule 49(6), after “Rule 29(2)(b)” –  
**Add**  
“or (3)”.
- (2) Rule 49(6) –  
**Repeal**  
“(excluding motions referred to in Rule 29(3))”.

**12. Rule 51 amended (notice of presentation of bills)**

- (1) Rule 51(1) –  
**Repeal**  
“A”  
**Substitute**  
“Subject to subrule (1A), a”.
- (2) After Rule 51(1) –



**Add**

“(1A) A Member who intends to present a bill under subrule (1) may only do so after he has consulted the relevant Panel on a draft of the bill.”.

**13. Rule 54 amended (second reading)**

Rule 54(7) –

**Repeal**

“a report of a Bills Committee on a bill under Rule 76(9) (Bills Committees)”

**Substitute**

“a report of a Bills Committee under Rule 76(9) (Bills Committees) or of a committee to which a bill has been referred for consideration under subrule (4)”.

**14. Rule 56 amended (functions of committees on bills)**

Rule 56(1) –

**Repeal**

“principles of the bill but only its details”

**Substitute**

“general merits and principles of the bill but only whether it supports the amendments proposed to the bill, and whether clauses of the bill as amended or without amendment should stand part of the bill”.

**15. Rule 63 amended (third reading)**

Rule 63(1) –

**Repeal**

“confined to the contents of the bill”

**Substitute**

“in the form of short and succinct speeches and confined to whether the bill should be supported, and not on the general merits and principles of the bill or in relation to proposed amendments to or individual provisions of the bill,”.

**16. Rule 79D added**

After Rule 79C –

**Add**

**“79D. Powers of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of a Committee in Office**

(1) Where it is provided in these Rules of Procedure that the chairman of a committee (*chairman in office*) shall hold office until the chairman for the next session is elected in that next session or, in case that election is held before that next session commences, until that commencement, the chairman in office shall have all the powers that may be exercised by a chairman of the committee until the commencement of the next session or the election of the chairman for the next session, whichever is the later.

(2) Where it is provided in these Rules of Procedure that the deputy chairman of a committee (*deputy chairman in office*) shall hold office until the deputy chairman for the next session is elected in that next session or, in case that election is held before that next session commences, until that commencement, the deputy chairman in office shall have all the powers that may be exercised by a deputy chairman of the committee until the commencement of the next session or the election of deputy chairman for the next session, whichever is the later.”.

**17. Rule 91 amended (suspension of Rules)**

(1) Rule 91, after “except” –

**Add**

“with the recommendation of the House Committee and”.

(2) Rule 91 –

**Repeal**

“or with”

**Substitute**  
“together with”.

**18. Rule 93 amended (interpretation)**

(1) Rule 93(b), after “the expression “clear days”” –

**Add**  
“as a period of time”.

(2) Rule 93(b) –

**Repeal the semicolon**

**Substitute**  
“, and ends at 5 p.m. on the last day of that period;”.

(Translation)

**Hon Kenneth LAU's motion on  
“Formulating a comprehensive rural development policy”**

**Wording of the Motion**

That as the Government lacks a long-term and comprehensive rural development policy in the process of developing the New Territories, rural areas have failed to strike a balance between development and conservation, resulting in ever-increasing conflicts and confrontations between urban and rural areas; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate a comprehensive rural development policy covering such areas as rural living environment, infrastructure support, promoting the culture and traditional customs of the New Territories and boosting the economy, so as to meet the livelihood needs in rural areas and implement a sustainable development strategy for the New Territories, thereby achieving urban-rural symbiosis; specific proposals are as follows:

- (1) proactively allocating resources to supply fresh water, electricity and sewerage systems to remote villages; carrying out road construction projects and enhancing public pier facilities to increase the flow of people and goods; and facilitating agricultural rehabilitation in villages, promoting eco-tourism and developing sharing economy, so as to revive remote villages;
- (2) actively and expeditiously considering relaxing the frontier closed area restriction of Sha Tau Kok (‘STK’) Town and opening up the STK public pier to facilitate public access to STK and peripheral islands such as Kat O and Ap Chau, with a view to promoting leisure tourism, thereby revitalizing these districts and improving the local economy and employment situation;
- (3) making optimal use of innovative technology to progressively promote the development of ‘smart rural areas’, including rolling out 5G mobile network system to increase Internet access speeds in villages; setting up smart recycling system pilot sites in villages to collect recyclables at designated time and locations; extending the use of intelligent monitoring systems to rural areas to detect natural disasters such as hill fires, floods, thunderstorms and landslides, and to provide instant forecasts; setting up ‘smart lampposts’ in villages to improve the use of single two-lane carriageways in villages; progressively developing

teleconsultation so that patients in villages with stable conditions who have to attend follow-up consultations can receive appropriate treatment; and

- (4) setting up a 'rural development and construction fund' comprising five parts, namely 'infrastructure development', 'cultural heritage', 'rural tourism', 'nature conservation and land development' and 'emergency support', with a view to fostering sustainable rural development in a comprehensive and orderly manner, including promoting rural infrastructure, cultural heritage, eco-tourism and conservation, as well as providing appropriate support should incidents affecting livelihood in rural areas occur.

(Translation)

**Hon Elizabeth QUAT's motion on  
“Thoroughly reforming the subject of Liberal Studies”**

**Wording of the Motion**

That the subject of Liberal Studies (‘LS’) is one of the four core subjects under the New Senior Secondary curriculum and also a compulsory study and examination subject required of senior secondary students; yet, after years of implementing the LS subject in Hong Kong, morbid changes have taken place in areas such as its curriculum contents, assessment criteria and methods, teaching materials, teachers’ qualifications and teaching viewpoints, which not only have deviated from the original intent of introducing the LS subject, but have even produced some opposite effects; at present, many senior secondary students have been deeply influenced by the morbid changes in the LS subject, and the subject curriculum has occupied so much of students’ study time that their learning progress in other subjects have been affected, resulting in the complete loss of trust in the LS subject among quite a number of parents; despite the strong community demand for a thorough reform of the LS subject, the report recently presented by the Task Force on Review of School Curriculum has failed to respond to community concerns, and the overly conservative recommendations put forth by the Task Force have also fallen short of the community expectations; in this connection, with a view to enabling the new generation to cultivate proper values and the ability of critical thinking and to become youngsters with a sense of social responsibility, this Council urges the Government to thoroughly reform the LS subject; the relevant proposals include:

- (1) removing the LS subject as a core subject and abolishing it as a compulsory study and examination subject required of senior secondary students;
- (2) substantially amending its curriculum arrangements by reducing its coverage and lesson time, and placing more emphasis on teaching mature topics with a factual basis;
- (3) compiling a recommended textbook list for the LS subject, including the textbooks in the existing textbook review mechanism, studying the feasibility of having the Government publish textbooks on the LS subject, and setting up a database on the LS subject with the requirement that schools must upload their school-based materials and lessons plans

(including worksheets and examination questions) onto the database for monitoring by the Education Bureau and the public;

- (4) reviewing the training programmes for prospective LS subject teachers and the Professional Development Programmes for serving LS subject teachers to ensure that the teaching standards of both prospective and serving teachers of the LS subject are in line with the original intent of introducing the subject;
- (5) enhancing the self-evaluation, internal quality assurance and accountability mechanism for school managements and improving the existing mechanism for complaints against teachers, so as to guarantee the school-based quality of the LS subject and the effective handling of complaints involving LS subject teachers; and
- (6) establishing with the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority a system for closer cooperation and supervision to ensure fairness and impartiality in various aspects such as examination paper setting, moderation and assessment, so as to bring the assessment of the LS subject in line with the original intent of introducing the subject.