

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1262/20-21

Ref : CB2/H/5/20

House Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the 28th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 2 July 2021**

Members present :

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, SBS
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, GBS, MH, JP
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

Members absent :

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Clerk in attendance :

Miss Flora TAI Clerk to the House Committee

Staff in attendance :

Mr Kenneth CHEN, SBS	Secretary General
Ms Connie FUNG, SBS	Legal Adviser
Ms Dora WAI	Deputy Secretary General (Council and Corporate Services)
Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Miranda HON	Assistant Secretary General 3
Mr Matthew LOO	Assistant Secretary General 4
Mr Timothy TSO	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Ms Clara TAM	Acting Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Miss Rachel DAI	Acting Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Ms Alice LEUNG	Chief Council Secretary (2)5
Miss Joyce CHAN	Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Ms Clara WONG	Assistant Legal Adviser 4
Miss Connie AU	Senior Council Secretary (2)5
Mr Richard WONG	Senior Council Secretary (2)6
Miss Michelle TANG	Council Secretary (2)5
Ms Anna CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (2)3
Mr Arthur KAN	Legislative Assistant (2)6

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

Minutes of 27th meeting held on 25 June 2021

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1238/20-21)

The minutes were confirmed.

II. Matters arising

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

2. The Chairman said that the newly appointed Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") had written to her on the day he assumed office (i.e. 25 June 2021) indicating that he would endeavour to enhance the relationship between the Executive Authorities and the Legislature and maintain effective communication and close liaison with the Legislative Council ("LegCo"). CS had also mentioned in his letter that he would cooperate with LegCo in fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to monitor the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and would make concerted efforts with LegCo in striving to safeguard the overall interests of Hong Kong and in serving all the people of Hong Kong. The Chairman further said that she had already replied to CS that she had the same expectations. She had also mentioned in her reply that in order to facilitate LegCo's effective conduct of scrutiny work, she hoped that CS would coordinate various policy bureaux to carry out the communication and explanatory work properly, and to listen to the views of Members from various political parties and groupings prior to presenting any bills or proposed items to LegCo. The Chairman added that the letter from CS and her reply had been issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1237/20-21 and LC Paper No. CB(2)1243/20-21 respectively.

III. Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 25 June 2021

(LC Paper No. LS86/20-21)

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Legal Adviser briefed Members on the report prepared by the Legal Service Division on three items of subsidiary legislation (i.e. L.N. 104 to L.N. 106) which were gazetted on 25 June 2021 and would be tabled in Council on 7 July 2021.

4. Mr Christopher CHEUNG considered it necessary to form a subcommittee to study the Financial Institutions (Resolution) (Contractual Recognition of Suspension of Termination Rights - Banking Sector) Rules (L.N. 106) in detail. Members agreed. The following Members agreed to join the subcommittee: Ms Starry LEE, Mr Christopher CHEUNG, Mr Holden CHOW and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan.

5. Members did not raise any questions on L.N. 104 and L.N. 105.

6. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for amending the above three items of subsidiary legislation would be the Council meeting of 21 July 2021, or that of 25 August 2021 if extended by a resolution of the Council.

IV. Further business for the Council meeting of 7 July 2021

Report No. 21/20-21 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments

7. The Chairman said that the above draft Report, which covered subsidiary legislation the period for amendment of which would expire at the Council meeting of 7 July 2021, had been issued to Members. No Member had indicated intention to speak on any of those items of subsidiary legislation.

(a) Government Bills - First Reading and Second Reading (debate to be adjourned)

1. Securities and Futures (Amendment) Bill 2021

2. Limited Partnership Fund and Business Registration Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2021

8. The Chairman said that the House Committee ("HC") would consider the above two Bills at its meeting on 9 July 2021.

(b) Member's Motion on Subsidiary Legislation

Proposed resolution to extend the period for amending subsidiary legislation (L.N. 75 of 2021) to be moved by Hon WONG Ting-kwong
(*LC Paper No. CB(3)721/20-21*)

9. The Chairman said that the purpose of the above proposed resolution was to extend the period for amending the Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation to the Council meeting of 18 August 2021.

V. Business for the Council meeting of 14 July 2021

(a) Questions

(*LC Paper No. CB(3)692/20-21*)

10. The Chairman said that a list setting out the Members who had been allocated question slots for the meeting had already been issued to Members.

(b) Government Bill - First Reading and Second Reading (debate to be adjourned)

11. The Chairman said that the Dangerous Goods (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021 would be presented to the Council at the meeting and HC would consider the Bill at its meeting on 16 July 2021.

(c) Government Bill - Second Reading (debate to resume), consideration by committee of the whole Council and Third Reading

12. The Chairman said that the Second Reading debate on The Open University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Bill 2021 would be resumed at the meeting.

(d) Government Motion

13. The Chairman said that no notice had been received yet.

(e) **Members' Motions**

14. The Chairman said that two Members' motions which had stood over from the previous Council meeting would be dealt with at the meeting.

Report of HC on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments

15. The Chairman invited Members to note that there were four items of subsidiary legislation the period for amendment of which would expire at the Council meeting of 14 July 2021. A draft Report of HC on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments covering these four items of subsidiary legislation would be issued to Members later. She reminded Members to indicate their intention by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, 6 July 2021, should they wish to speak on any of those items of subsidiary legislation.

VI. The Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session on 15 July 2021

16. The Chairman said that the Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session would be held from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

VII. Reports of Bills Committees and subcommittees

Report of the Subcommittee on Two Proposed Resolutions under Section 3(1) of the Loans Ordinance

17. Mr Holden CHOW, Chairman of the Subcommittee, made a verbal report on the deliberations of the Subcommittee. He said that the objectives of the two proposed resolutions under section 3(1) of the Loans Ordinance (Cap. 61) were to seek LegCo's approval to raise the respective maximum amounts of borrowings under the Government Bond Programme ("GBP") and the Government Green Bond Programme ("GGBP") to HK\$300 billion or equivalent and HK\$200 billion or equivalent.

18. Mr CHOW further said that the Subcommittee had held one meeting and had completed the scrutiny work of the two proposed resolutions. Members of the Subcommittee generally supported the proposal to raise the borrowing limits under the two bond programmes.

19. Mr CHOW advised that some members of the Subcommittee had pointed out that under the current extremely low interest rate environment, the Administration should consider further raising the borrowing limit under GBP, so as to issue more bonds to finance the Government's major infrastructure projects. In addition, given that the government bonds issued in recent years were very well received by the public, some members of the Subcommittee had suggested that a sufficient share in GBP should be reserved for subscription by retail investors to meet the demand from the retail market. In respect of promoting the development of the Hong Kong bond market, some members of the Subcommittee had enquired whether the Administration would consider securitizing bonds, allowing securities brokers to participate more in the sale of retail bonds, and issuing more Renminbi bonds.

20. Mr CHOW further advised that the Administration had responded that currently it had not set limits for the proportion of the issuance of institutional and retail bonds under GBP and the currency denomination of these bonds, and the Government would give due consideration to market conditions. In recent years, the Government had issued the inflation-linked retail bonds and Silver Bond through the retail part of GBP to foster the development of the retail bond market and provide members of the public with an investment choice of steady return. The Government had also set up a steering group to study the measures that could further promote the development of the bond market in Hong Kong. The securitization of bonds would be among the issues to be explored.

21. Mr CHOW also advised that regarding GGBP, some members of the Subcommittee had suggested that the Administration should regularly report to the public the environmental benefits brought by the funded projects. The Administration had advised that the quantifiable positive environmental impacts of the projects funded by GGBP would be set out in detail in the green bond report to be published by the Government annually.

22. Mr CHOW informed Members that the Administration had indicated its intention to give fresh notice to move the two proposed resolutions at the Council meeting of 21 July 2021. The Subcommittee would not propose any amendments to the two proposed resolutions and would submit a written report in due course.

23. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of amendments, if any, to the above two proposed resolutions which were intended to be moved at the Council meeting of 21 July 2021 would be Wednesday, 14 July 2021.

VIII. Position on Bills Committees and subcommittees

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1239/20-21)

24. The Chairman said that as at 30 June 2021, there were five Bills Committees, seven subcommittees under HC and nine subcommittees on policy issues under Panels in action.

IX. Any other business

25. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:44 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 July 2021