

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. LS 154/99-00

Paper for the House Committee Meeting of the Legislative Council on 9 June 2000

Legal Service Division Report on Resolution under section 7A of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Ordinance (Cap. 484)

The Chief Secretary has given notice to move a motion, at the Legislative Council's meeting to be held on 21 June 2000, pursuant to section 7A of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Ordinance (Cap. 484) ("the Ordinance") to seek the Legislative Council's endorsement for the appointment of permanent judges under section 7, non-permanent judges under section 8 and judges from other common law jurisdictions under section 9 of the Ordinance and in accordance with Article 73(7) of the Basic Law.

- 2. Details of the appointments are as follows-
 - (a) the appointment of the Honourable Mr Justice Patrick Chan Siu Oi and the Honourable Mr Justice Roberto Alexandre Vieira Ribeiro as permanent judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal pursuant to section 7 of the Ordinance.
 - (b) the appointment of the Honourable Mr Justice Henry Denis Litton and the Honourable Mr Justice Charles Ching as non-permanent Hong Kong judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal pursuant to section 8 of the Ordinance.
 - (c) the appointment of the Honourable Sir Gerard Brennan, the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Eichelbaum and the Right Honourable the Lord Millett as judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal from other common law jurisdictions pursuant to section 9 of the Ordinance.

3. Members will note that on 3 June 2000 a special meeting of the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("the Panel") was held to examine Members' powers, function and constitutional duty under Article 73(7) of the Basic Law to endorse the appointments. A further meeting will be held on 13 June 2000 for which representatives of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission have been invited to provide information relating to the judicial appointment process.

4. At the time of reporting, there is neither the draft speech of the Chief Secretary nor the curricula vitae of the appointees appended to the motion.

5. The Administration has taken on board the Legal Service Division's comments on the technical aspects of the resolution. We are satisfied that the resolution is in order.

Prepared by

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