

Subcommittee on Rating (Exemption) Order 2015

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 17 March 2015**

1. In relation to the rates exemption measures implemented in the past, the Administration was requested to provide information on:
 - (a) the respective percentage of tenants responsible for paying rates and landlords who refunded the rates concession amount to their tenants as well as the source of the relevant information;
 - (b) the percentage of ratepayers of tenements that could enjoy the rates concession at the ceiling level of \$1,500 per quarter during the rates concession period from 1 April to 30 September 2014 in 2014-2015; and
 - (c) the top ten organizations that received the largest amounts of rates concession and the respective amount of rates concession received under the rates concession measures in 2003-2004 and from 2007-2008 to 2014-2015.

2. In respect of the rates concession measure proposed in the 2015-2016 Budget, the Administration was requested to provide information on:
 - (a) the number of rateable properties held and the respective amounts of rates concession to be received by the top ten organizations which are expected to receive the largest amounts of rates concession;
 - (b) the number of tenements that will receive (i) 100%, (ii) above 75% (iii) above 50% to 75% (iv) above 25% to 50% and (v) below 25% of the maximum amount of rates concession (i.e. \$5,000) and their respective percentage in relation to the total number of tenements liable to rates payments in the form of a table; and

- (c) of the 86% of all properties that will be exempted from paying rates in the first two quarters (i.e. 2 716 000 properties), the number of tenements and their respective percentage with breakdown by types of properties that will enjoy, say (i) 0% to 25%, (ii) above 25% to 50%, (iii) above 50% to 75% and (iv) above 75% to 100% of the maximum rates concession of \$5,000.

3. The Administration was requested to provide response to the following proposals suggested by members in relation to the rates concession arrangements in 2015-2016:

- (a) to enhance fairness of the rates concession measure by way of a lump-sum rates concession amount of \$5,000 per tenement such that all ratepayers would be entitled to the same amount of rates concession regardless of the rateable value of their properties; and
- (b) on the basis of maintaining the Government's financial commitment for the rates concession measure unchanged at \$7,714 million, extend the rates concession period from two quarters to four quarters with a lower per quarter ceiling of rates exemption so as to maximize the utilization of the rates concession amount by ratepayers living in small properties of lower rateable values.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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