

立法會
Legislative Council

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Date : 23 March 2020

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

**Council meeting on 25 March 2020
to mainly deal with the proposed resolution
under the Public Finance Ordinance**

Agenda and meeting arrangement

As Members are aware, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. A lot of Hong Kong residents have been returning to Hong Kong from abroad. In recent days, the outbreak in Hong Kong has been very severe with confirmed cases rising rapidly. Experts have pointed out that Hong Kong is now at the highest risk since the outbreak began. **The next few weeks should be the most critical moment for Hong Kong in fighting the outbreak.** To minimize the risk of infection among people (Members, public officers, supporting staff, media workers, etc.) who need to perform duties in the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Complex and having regard to Members’ views, the President has decided that **the scheduled regular Council meeting of 25 March 2020 will not be held.**

2. Nevertheless, Article 73(2) and (3) of the Basic Law (“BL”) provide that the functions exercised by LegCo include examining and approving budgets introduced by the government, and approving public expenditure. As LegCo had yet to complete the consideration of the proposed resolution moved under the Public Finance Ordinance (“the Vote on Account resolution”) at its last week’s meeting, and the funds to be sought are time-critical and need to be dealt with before the start of the new financial year on 1 April 2020, the President has decided **to call a Council meeting to be held on 25 March by virtue of BL 72(3) and Rule 14(2) of the Rules of Procedure (“RoP”).**

3. In accordance with BL 72(2) and RoP 19(1), the President has directed that the above meeting will **only deal with the following items** as detailed in the attached **Agenda**:

- (a) laying three items of subsidiary legislation (published in the Gazette on 18 and 20 March 2020) on the Table of the Council in accordance with the statutory procedure; and
- (b) the Vote on Account resolution and related matters (“the VoA item”).

4. As directed by the President, the items originally to be dealt with at the regular Council meeting of 25 March will be carried over to future Council meetings.

5. The arrangement for the above meeting is as follows:

	Wednesday 25 March	Thursday 26 March (if the VoA item continues)
	meeting to start at 11:00 am	meeting to resume at 9:00 am
Morning break	Nil	around 11:00 am to 11:30 am
Lunch break	around 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	around 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Afternoon break	around 4:45 pm to 5:15 pm	around 4:45 pm to 5:15 pm
	meeting to be adjourned after dealing with the VoA item or suspended at around 7:00 pm	meeting to be adjourned after dealing with the VoA item or at around 7:00 pm
Depending on the meeting progress and the latest development of the outbreak, the President may adjust the meeting time.		

6. The President considers that the above arrangement **has struck a proper balance** between the Council’s need to fight the outbreak and that of exercising its constitutional functions. The President calls on Members to make good use of the Council’s time to deal with the VoA item.

(Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.