

## Government demanded to adjust civil service pay ASAP

HKPTU News Reporter

The civil service pay adjustment affects all teaching and non-teaching staff of government and aided schools. Many teachers are worried about when the 2014 pay rise will be approved, and the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union ("HKPTU") is also concerned about the situation.

Civil service pay adjustment was not a controversial topic in the past. This year, however, the Government refused to re-organise the agenda items and as a result the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") had to review several controversial proposals before approving the civil service pay rise. This caused severe delay of the pay rise and made the civil servants and teachers suffer.

### *The Government's refusal to re-organise agenda items affects people's lives*

Most of the LegCo members support the pay rise for civil servants. Although some members of the Pan-Democratic Camp decided to start a "non-cooperation movement" in the LegCo by obstructing controversial proposals with filibusters, they promised not to obstruct the proposals that affect people's lives, including the civil service pay adjustment and various school construction projects. It is regrettable that the Government tried to delay the review of the civil service pay adjustment proposal by putting it on as the 37th agenda item, which will only be reviewed after many other controversial projects like landfill extension and incinerator construction, and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The Government also withdrew some funding applications for school construction projects, wanting to put all the blame on the LegCo members.

On 21st December 2014, a joint press conference was called by Mr. Fung Wai-wah, the President of HKPTU, and 17 labour unions of civil servants and subvented bodies. They demanded the Government to re-organise the agenda items of the LegCo Finance Committee, as a way to review changes on payments of civil servants sooner. There is rumour that if the LegCo fails to approve the pay rise by the end of the 2014-2015 session, the Government may not request for additional funding for the back pay. This would cause permanent loss for one hundred thousand teaching and non-teaching staff. HKPTU demands the



Government's clarification on this rumour.

Mr. Ip Kin-yuen, the representative of HKPTU in LegCo, requested many times for the re-organisation of the agenda items. During internal meetings with Pan-Democratic Camp LegCo members, he also requested to make sure that pay rise for civil servants can be approved as soon as possible.

### *Petition to the Government*

HKPTU started a petition to demand the Government to re-organise the agenda items, as a way to review changes on payments of civil servants sooner.

#### **Petition:**

**Review the civil service pay adjustment ASAP**

**We demand:**

- the Government to re-organise the agenda items to allow the the LegCo Finance Committee to review the civil service pay adjustment proposal ASAP.
- LegCo members to ensure that the civil service pay adjustment proposal is approved ASAP.

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## Renovation of Causeway Bay Service Centre

After the safety testing of our Causeway Bay Service Centre, the Executive Committee decided to carry out enhancement works of the electric system and the refurbishment of the ceiling (including sprinkler system). Causeway Bay Service Centre will be closed after the Lunar New Year holidays. Details are as follows:



Services suspended	Period of Suspension
<b>Medical Centres</b> (Including Traditional Chinese Medical Clinic, Western Medical Clinic, PTU Physiotherapy Clinic, and Dental centre) and Optometric Centre	From 23 Feb (Mon) to 8 Mar (Sun). Service will resume on 9 Mar (Mon)
<b>General Service Sector</b>	From 23 Feb (Mon) to 22 Mar (Sun). Service will resume on 23 Mar (Mon)
<b>Supermarket and Shopping Counter</b>	From 17 Feb (Tue) to 22 Mar (Sun), Service will resume on 23 Mar (Mon)

Members may still visit our Mongkok Service Centre for the services above .

(Address: 8 – 9/F, Good Hope Building, 618 Nathan Road, Mongkok)

We apologize for any inconvenience caused.