

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CIC Urges LegCo Members To Approve Public Works Funding Soonest**

**Hong Kong • 18 July 2017** – Tomorrow will be the last meeting of the Finance Committee this year. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) urged LegCo Members to approve the public works funding proposal soonest. Over the past few years, the Finance Committee has failed to scrutinise funding for works projects as a result of the impact of filibustering in the Legislative Council. If the funding cannot be approved tomorrow, it will have to be extended to October for scrutinising. This will create a great impact on the development of the construction industry. CIC has expressed deep concern over this matter.

The Finance Committee has a mounting backlog of at least 5 agendas related to public works, including Tung Chung New Town Extension; the construction or expansion of the Tuen Mun Hospital, the Kai Tak Development Area and the Prince of Wales Hospital; Site formation for development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at Sandy Ridge; Central Kowloon Route; refuse collection point and street sleepers' services units in Yau Ma Tei; and several water supply and drainage projects which improve livelihood. The fundings of the above projects has yet to be approved, which worth about HK\$76.4 billion.

A spokesperson of CIC said, "The outstanding projects are very important to the sustainable development of Hong Kong's economy. It relates to the people's livelihood, healthcare and welfare, but the continuous filibustering has led to a decline in capital works. Construction practitioners of some popular trades have been facing underemployment which affect their livelihood. Taking the example of employment situation of CIC graduates, as of May 2017, the reduction of the employment rate of tower crane and metal works is high, reducing from 77% and 88% in 2016 to 46% And 67% respectively. It is mainly due to the decrease in major infrastructure projects leading to insufficient market vacancies. "

CIC urges the Legislative Council to approve funding for works projects, allowing the projects to be implemented soonest instead of worsening the underemployment of construction practitioners. At the same time, we should promote the overall development of Hong Kong's society and improve people's livelihood.

### **About the Construction Industry Council**

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit [www.cic.hk](http://www.cic.hk) for further details.

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