

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Fully safeguarding the safety of food supply to Hong Kong”  
moved by Hon Fred LI Wah-ming  
at the Legislative Council meeting  
of Wednesday, 24 January 2007**

**Motion as amended by Hon WONG Yung-kan, Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan,  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki and Hon WONG Ting-kwong**

“That, as the food safety incidents which occurred successively in recent years have revealed that the regulatory departments have failed to effectively perform their gate-keeping roles and the food regulatory laws in Hong Kong are flawed with loopholes, and there is a lack of a comprehensive food safety policy and food safety standards, thereby subjecting the public to food safety hazards, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously adopt measures to fully safeguard the safety of food supply to Hong Kong, including:

- (a) drawing up a legislative timetable for prescribing standards for pesticide and chemical residues in vegetables and fruits;
- (b) enacting legislation on a permission system for imported foods, including setting up a licensing system for food importers, setting comprehensive food safety standards, strictly regulating the use of drugs and chemicals, their residue contents as well as the microbe counts and heavy metal contents in foods, etc, implementing mandatory inspection and testing at border control points, clearly specifying the penalties for non-compliance, and expeditiously bringing live fish, egg products, vegetables and fruits into the regulatory ambit;
- (c) establishing a food supply chain tracking mechanism, and introducing legislation on withdrawal from sale and recall of problematic foods to enable food surveillance and control at source, so as to achieve the objective of ensuring food safety ‘from farm to fork’;
- (d) reviewing the composition, functions and operation of existing food safety regulatory departments, with a view to raising their professional standards and enabling them to more effectively perform the gate-keeping roles required of them; and
- (e) perfecting the food safety notification mechanisms between Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as other places of origin of foods, and strengthening cooperation with the Mainland in combating the import of foods into Hong Kong through irregular channels,

and comprehensively consult the relevant trades; the Government should also expeditiously adopt the following measures:

- (f) encouraging and allowing more local and international experts as well as members of the agriculture, fisheries and food industries to participate in the work of the Expert Committee on Food Safety in order that the Centre for Food Safety can operate in a more professional manner, and drawing up reference benchmarks for food safety policies and standards which are suitable for Hong Kong and recognized by the international community, so as to ensure effective and comprehensive food safety management ‘from farm to fork’;
- (g) enhancing the dissemination of information on food safety so that consumers can grasp such information expeditiously, and providing educational and training programmes run by officials responsible for food safety management, so as to promote the awareness of safeguarding food safety; and
- (h) organizing, supporting and encouraging the technological research and collaborative efforts of the food industry and academic bodies in the area of food safety.”