

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Safeguarding the safety of live and fresh food”
moved by Hon TAM Yiu-chung
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 23 May 2007**

Motion as amended by Hon Vincent FANG Kang and Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

“That, as the Hong Kong SAR Government has indicated that legislation will be enacted within the current year to strengthen the control of imported poultry eggs and cultured aquatic products, while the Mainland Government has, with effect from 1 April this year, strengthened its inspection and quarantine management system for vegetables supplied to Hong Kong, including designating supply farms, implementing label identification and lead-seal control, and regularizing certification and voucher management, etc, and such requirements will be extended to fruits and melons on 1 July and 1 October respectively; furthermore, quarantine and seal identification measures for vessels carrying fresh water fish from Guangdong Province to Hong Kong have also been enforced since 1 May, so as to eradicate the smuggling of fish into Hong Kong; however, so far the Hong Kong SAR Government has not yet made any import quarantine arrangements and complementary management measures, nor has it publicized the Mainland Government’s new regulations to the public, hence making it possible for unscrupulous traders to exploit Hong Kong’s import quarantine and market management loopholes and bring unquarantined live and fresh food into the territory for sale in the market, thereby endangering the public’s health, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously adopt measures to complement the Mainland’s new management regulations for food supplied to Hong Kong, and fully safeguard the safety standards of live and fresh food in the territory, including:

- (a) enacting a set of comprehensive live and fresh food safety law to bring live and fresh food such as vegetables and fruits, aquatic products and poultry eggs, etc, into the regulatory ambit, prescribing relevant food safety standards according to international practices and local needs, and enforcing import quarantine at border control points, as well as implementing the arrangement for all live and fresh food to be distributed in the Government’s wholesale food markets, so as to ensure the safety of imported live and fresh food; while enacting the above legislation, setting up at the same time an emergency relief fund for the live and fresh food industry to provide, in the event of adversity in the industry, emergency assistance to the affected trades, so as to tide them over the difficult times;
- (b) implementing a food importer registration scheme and requiring food importers to keep their import and sales records, so as to enhance the enforcement authorities’ ability to trace the sources and destinations of food;
- (c) disseminating information about the new regulations promulgated by the Mainland Government and the list of designated food supply bases to the trade, and uploading such information onto the Government’s website, so as to enhance the awareness of the trade and the public; and

- (d) strengthening liaison with the local trade to assess the impact of the new regulatory measures implemented by the Mainland and Hong Kong on the operations of the trade, and assisting the trade in making adaptation;

besides, the Government should also assist in improving the mode of operation of local agricultural and breeding farms, so as to increase the supplies of safe and high quality local agricultural and fishery products, and assist Hong Kong businesses which invest in agriculture and fishery industries in the Mainland in obtaining priority for reverse export of their standards-compliant products to Hong Kong for sale in the market; and study the expansion of the Man Kam To Food Control Office, step up random inspection of vehicles carrying vegetables and fruits to reduce the chance of vegetables and fruits from unknown sources being brought into Hong Kong, and further promote organic farming, including rendering more technical support to farmers and assisting the trade in expanding the market.”