

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Coping with inflation”  
moved by Dr Hon YEUNG Sum  
at the Legislative Council meeting  
of Wednesday, 16 January 2008**

**Motion as amended by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, Hon CHAN Kam-lam, Hon CHAN Yuen-han, Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing and Hon LEE Cheuk-yan**

“That, the problem of disparity between the rich and the poor in Hong Kong continues to worsen, wages of the grassroots have not increased and the inflation cycle has returned recently, quite a number of public transport operators and public utilities have applied for increase in fares or charges, and the prices for food and oil supplies continue to rise, thus aggravating the burden on the public, this Council urges the Government to adopt measures to cope with inflation so as to alleviate the pressure of livelihood on the public; such measures should include:

- (a) waiving the rates and Government rent for the whole of the next financial year, subject to a ceiling of \$5,000 per quarter per household;
- (b) waiving the rent of public rental housing for one to two months;
- (c) assessing the public’s affordability when considering applications for fare increase by public transport operators;
- (d) lowering the rates of permitted return of the two power companies to single digit so as to reduce electricity charges when formulating the new Scheme of Control Agreements;
- (e) discussing with the Mainland authorities to further open up the livestock market in order to protect the interests of Hong Kong consumers, and requesting the major food suppliers to ensure the supply of major food items and foodstuffs from the Mainland so as to prevent the prices of food items from increasing heftily due to insufficient supply;
- (f) adopting the method whereby the rates of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payments are determined on the basis of the inflation forecast, and shortening the adjustment cycle; and
- (g) reviewing the weightings of individual consumption items in the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices, so as to assist families on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance in coping with the impact brought about by inflation; and

- (h) increasing the amount of Old Age Allowance (OAA) to prevent the quality of life of the elderly from declining;
- (i) reducing the electricity charges chargeable by the two power companies immediately after the new Scheme of Control Agreements take effect;
- (j) freezing various Government fees and charges which affect people's livelihood;
- (k) actively studying various measures to reduce the tolls of the Eastern Harbour Crossing, Western Harbour Crossing and Route 3 (Country Park Section), including buying them out or extending their franchise periods; and
- (l) providing two additional months of Social Security Allowance and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payments;
- (m) using the fiscal surplus to waive the fees and charges for public facilities and services provided by the Government;
- (n) drawing up a new water supply agreement with the Guangdong Province with payment based on the supply quantity, so as to lower the water charges payable by the public;
- (o) enhancing competition among oil companies in Hong Kong, and waiving the levy on processed oil when oil prices are persistently high so as to stabilize oil prices;
- (p) discussing with the Mainland authorities not to impose export quotas on food and foodstuffs exported to Hong Kong; and
- (q) providing living supplement to the poor elders not on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- (r) in respect of OAA, increasing the amount of Normal OAA and Higher OAA to \$1,000 per month, and relaxing the asset limit of OAA recipients aged 65 to 69 to \$200,000, so as to improve the livelihood of the poor elders;
- (s) providing transport subsidy for the working poor living in remote areas with a view to improving the livelihood of the working poor and people with low income; and
- (t) offering public transport half-fare concessions to people with disabilities, or providing them with transport subsidy, and improving facilities in order to reduce the barriers to the disabled; and
- (u) discussing with the MTR Corporation to offer fare concessions for rides on all its lines to full-time students aged above 12."