

(Translation)

Motion on
“Improving the public hospital services in Kowloon East”
moved by Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 12 March 2008

Motion as amended by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki, Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, Hon Albert HO Chun-yan, Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, Hon James TO Kun-sun, Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long and Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee

“That, since the formation of hospital clusters by the Hospital Authority, many clusters, particularly the New Territories West Cluster, are facing the problem of insufficient funding provision for a long time, and this cluster is allocated the least resources among all of the seven hospital clusters, the funding provision for the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster is also far more insufficient than other clusters and lags far behind the needs of the population and the communities of Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O, resulting in the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster failing to provide comprehensive health care services, which is not only contrary to the vision of ‘meeting community demands and expectations’ but also exerts tremendous pressure on the frontline health care personnel and impedes their provision of most suitable services for the residents within the districts, this Council strongly urges the Administration to:

- (a) taking the opportunity of the present huge surplus and not affecting the services of other hospital clusters, allocate more resources, according to the population and community structure of the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster, to increase health care manpower, set up specialties which are lacking in the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster, and should especially implement expeditiously the provision of specialist services, such as obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology and ear, nose and throat, psychiatry, etc, in the Tseung Kwan O Hospital, and additionally provide oncology and neurosurgery services as well as provide more general and rehabilitation beds in the districts, thereby expeditiously improving the public hospital services in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O, and solve the problem of residents in the two districts having to seek medical treatments in other clusters, and in particular, the implementation of the United Christian Hospital’s reconstruction plan must be expedited; and
- (b) expeditiously focusing on the long-term demand of health care services in various districts, study and review the mechanism of hospital cluster planning as well as the logic of operation of hospital services;

- (c) focusing on the problem that the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster is the only one without a cancer centre among the seven hospital clusters, look for improvement options to ensure that cancer patients in Kowloon East can obtain convenient and appropriate health care services; and
- (d) set up an independent committee and invite the participation of representatives of frontline staff and patients' groups to comprehensively review the clustering arrangement; and
- (e) when taking the opportunity of the present huge surplus and not affecting the services of other hospital clusters to allocate more resources for the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster to expeditiously improve the public hospital services in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O, also allocate additional resources to hospital clusters which are in serious shortage of resources, such as the New Territories West Hospital Cluster which covers Tin Shui Wai, Tung Chung and Tuen Mun, so as to enable them to provide services at standards comparable to those of other clusters; and
- (f) focusing on the needs of residents in Tseung Kwan O, expand and upgrade the Tseung Kwan O Hospital to a general hospital, and increase the health care manpower, particularly to expeditiously provide additional services in neonatology, etc; and
- (g) when taking the opportunity of the present huge surplus and not affecting the services of other hospital clusters to allocate more resources for the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster to expeditiously improve the public hospital services in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O, at the same time provide the resources required to address the specific needs of the population in various clusters (such as providing interpretation services at the Kwong Wah Hospital to meet the needs of the many South Asians in the Kowloon West Hospital Cluster, and enhancing the public health care services in districts such as Sham Shui Po where the elderly and low-income populations are relatively high and have to rely on public health care services), and
- (h) regarding the study and review of the mechanism of hospital cluster planning as well as the logic of operation of hospital services, especially focus on the demand related to elderly health care services, and examine the long-term health care manpower planning, so as to alleviate the pressure faced by frontline health care personnel and enhance the quality of public hospital services; and
- (i) taking into account the ageing population situation in the Kowloon East Hospital Cluster, appropriately increase the resources for elderly health care services and additionally provide Chinese medicine services in the public hospitals in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O.”