

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Providing food and nutrition support to the grassroots”
moved by Hon KWONG Chi-kin
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 11 June 2008**

**Motion as amended by Hon Albert HO Chun-yan, Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
and Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye**

“That, as the rise in food prices worldwide has led to a surge in local food prices, resulting in escalating inflation in Hong Kong, with last month’s year-on-year Composite Consumer Price Index recording an increase of 5.4%, the income of the grassroots being eroded by inflation, forcing many grassroots and poor people to reduce their expenditure on food, buy less food or switch to buying food products of poorer quality, and some people even have to collect leftovers in the markets or at the back entrances of restaurants, such situations will easily lead to children who are growing up and the frail elderly suffering from malnutrition; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate the following measures to assist the grassroots in countering the surge in food prices:

- (a) the Administration making reference to overseas practices and providing poor students with free breakfasts and lunches, as well as nutritious foodstuffs such as fruits and milk, etc to enable them to be well-fed and take in sufficient nutrition;
- (b) expeditiously providing rent-free units in poor and remote districts, collaborating with voluntary bodies to establish social enterprises, co-operatives which make bulk purchase of food, hot food centres or food banks to sell food at low prices or even give it to poor families for free, so as to provide meals as well as basic food and oil supplies to those poor people who have difficulty in paying for their daily meals;
- (c) making inflationary adjustments to the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance rates and grants on a more frequent basis, and increasing the amount of Old Age Allowance to enable the recipients to buy sufficient food, as well as issuing food coupons and meal coupons to those poor people who cannot benefit from food banks or hot food centres to enable them to have enough food for their daily meals;
- (d) closely monitoring the supply situation and price increase of basic food and oil supplies, and curbing large supermarket chains from manipulating the supply prices charged by suppliers;
- (e) encouraging the general public and private organizations to donate food to food banks and hot food centres; and

- (f) allocating more resources to provide free meal delivery service to the poor elderly;
- (g) immediately reviewing the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance system to ensure that poor people who have difficulty in paying for their daily meals can also be protected by the safety net; and
- (h) ensuring that there will be no labelling effect on the grassroots in the process of formulating measures to assist the grassroots in countering the surge in food prices;
- (i) maintaining close contact with Mainland suppliers to ensure that there is an ample supply of various types of food, foodstuffs, materials and livestock, so as to avoid a surge in food prices due to shortage of supply;
- (j) strengthening the monitoring of and support to non-governmental organizations to ensure that the quality of meals delivered to the elderly and that provided in residential care homes for the elderly will not be affected; and
- (k) expeditiously reviewing the weighting of food in the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices so that recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance can maintain their purchasing power for food.”