

(Translation)

Motion on
“Facing up to the needs of people with disabilities in using transport”
moved by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 31 October 2007

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

“That, although the Chief Executive, in response to Members’ questions during the Legislative Council’s Question and Answer Session on the Policy Address on the 11th of this month, said that he would give a response, in one or two months’ time, on how the provision of transport half-fare concessions for people with disabilities would be addressed, in view of the past records that despite this Council’s passage of motions in the 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 sessions calling for improvement to transport facilities for people with disabilities and offer of concessionary fares to them, the government departments concerned, some statutory transport corporations and other public transport operators have all failed to take corresponding measures and face up to the requests, there are worries about further procrastination by the government departments; this Council considers that for many years there is a general consensus in the community that there is a need to offer transport concessions to help people with disabilities to integrate into society and the Government is duty-bound to take the matter forward, this Council is greatly dissatisfied and expresses deep regret that the Government has been procrastinating for years and has not achieved any results so far; after a relevant subcommittee was formed by the Legislative Council and meetings held over the past year or so, coupled with the fact that the Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission has written to the Chief Executive relaying the demands and justifications in this regard, the solution to this problem has dawned; moreover, some transport operators have recently proposed that the Government should bear all the deficits or keep all the surpluses arising from the introduction of half-fare concession for people with disabilities, but the government officials in charge have been procrastinating on putting forward a timetable and roadmap for implementation on the pretext that they have not yet assessed the various options and worked out precisely the financial commitments involved if the relevant option is chosen, which very much calls into question the Government’s determination and sincerity in taking the matter forward; in this connection, this Council urges that the Government:

- (a) must relentlessly shoulder the responsibility to provide financial assistance, regardless of which option of transport half-fare concession it eventually decides to adopt for people with disabilities;
- (b) must expeditiously put forth, in the near future, specific proposals and timetable for introducing half-fare concession for people with disabilities, so as to help them integrate into society and improve their life;

- (c) should allocate additional resources to comprehensively improve the Rehabus service and, in particular, must extend such service to remote areas and new towns; and
- (d) should strictly regulate the public transport operators in providing barrier-free facilities, so as to enable more people with disabilities to use public transport and integrate into society.”