

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor
and re-establishing the Commission on Poverty”
moved by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 31 October 2007**

Motion as amended by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

“That, as the disparity between the rich and the poor is becoming more serious in Hong Kong, this Council urges the Government to re-establish the Commission on Poverty and formulate a more comprehensive and targeted policy on combating poverty, particularly in remote areas where a large number of low-income and socially disadvantaged families live, but the leisure and cultural facilities, medical and social services fall far short of the actual needs of the residents; as such, the Government must take into full account the characteristics of the population structures in these areas when allocating community facilities and services, appropriately relax the ratio of population to such facilities and services, and providing strategic and more specialized support services targeted at socially disadvantaged families such as those which are single-parent, poor, under the potential threat of domestic violence, or having family members who are mentally or chronically ill or disabled, including the reopening of Single Parent Centres and Post Migration Centres in the districts concerned, thereby improving the life of the poor; at the same time, the Government should strive to create more employment opportunities in these areas, and relax the eligibility criteria for applying for the pilot Transport Support Scheme, so as to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the residents concerned, narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, reduce social conflicts and promote harmonious social development.”