

立法會
Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 14 January 2009

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Formulating a comprehensive elderly policy”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 260/08-09 issued on 31 December 2008, four Members (Hon TAM Yiu-chung, Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon WONG Sing-chi and Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che’s motion on “Formulating a comprehensive elderly policy” scheduled for the Council meeting of 14 January 2009. As directed by the President, the respective proposed amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. To assist Members in debating the above motion and amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che moves his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che’s motion, and orders a joint debate;
- (c) the President calls on the four Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon TAM Yiu-chung;
 - (ii) Hon WONG Kwok-hing;

- (iii) Hon WONG Sing-chi; and
- (iv) Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee;
- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) joint debate on the motion and the amendments follows thereafter;
- (f) the President gives leave to Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che to speak for the second time on the amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) again to speak;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the four Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon TAM Yiu-chung to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon TAM Yiu-chung's amendment;
- (i) after Hon TAM Yiu-chung's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other three amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' ease of reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Formulating a comprehensive elderly policy”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 14 January 2009**

1. Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che’s original motion

That, given the trend of an ageing population, the Government estimates that elderly people aged 65 and above in 2036 will constitute 27% of the total population and amount to over two million; as the services in areas such as welfare, housing, medical and health care as well as life development currently provided by the Government for the elderly are insufficient to cater for the overall needs of the elderly in various aspects, coupled with the fact that at present the majority of the elderly people do not have full retirement protection, this Council urges the Government to consolidate the various existing elderly services and coordinate the relevant bureaux and executive departments to formulate a comprehensive and forward-looking elderly policy which, apart from catering for their physical and psychological needs, provides the elderly with more opportunities to enable them to actively participate in social building and continue to contribute to the community, so as to provide “golden twilight years” for the increasingly sizeable elderly population.

2. Motion as amended by Hon TAM Yiu-chung

~~That, given the trend of an ageing population,~~ the Government estimates that elderly people aged 65 and above in 2036 will constitute 27% of the total population and amount to over two million; ~~as~~ **however,** the services in areas such as welfare, housing, medical and health care as well as life development currently provided by the Government for the elderly are insufficient to cater for the ~~overall~~ needs of the elderly in various aspects, coupled with the fact that at present the majority of the elderly people do not have full retirement protection, **rendering it unable to cope with the trend of an ageing population,** this Council urges the Government to consolidate the various existing elderly services and coordinate the relevant bureaux and executive departments to formulate a comprehensive and forward-looking elderly policy which; ~~apart from catering~~ **includes:**

- (a) *reviewing the various measures for elderly healthcare vouchers, including the registration procedure, publicity and promotion, etc; increasing the value of elderly healthcare vouchers to \$1,000 per elderly person per year and lowering the eligible age to 65;*
- (b) *urging the MTR Corporation to reinstate fare concessions to the elderly on Sundays and make it a permanent measure; urging franchised bus companies*

to implement fare concessions to the elderly on holidays on a permanent basis;

- (c) comprehensively reviewing the policy on Old Age Allowance (“OAA”) and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”) payments for the elderly, abolishing the absence limit for OAA; introducing an “elderly maintenance grant scheme” for elderly persons aged over 60 who are ineligible for CSSA; allowing the elderly to receive Disability Allowance and OAA concurrently, so as to more comprehensively safeguard the basic needs of the elderly;*
- (d) providing sound primary healthcare services for the elderly, and promoting a positive and healthy lifestyle among them;*
- (e) reducing the burden of medical expenses on the elderly; reducing public medical fees for the elderly by half; establishing an elderly dental care scheme;*
- (f) increasing the places in subvented residential care homes for the elderly, and improving various community-based elderly care services;*
- (g) providing a favourable living environment for the elderly, including implementing “barrier-free” designs for the elderly in public places, and introducing a subsidy scheme for providing additional barrier-free facilities to allow easy access for the elderly;*
- (h) proactively advocating a proper perspective about the elderly, and encouraging public and private organizations to make good use of the knowledge and experience of the elderly; and*
- (i) promoting “lifelong learning” to enrich the lives of the elderly,*

so as to cater for their physical and psychological needs, ~~provides~~ *and provide* the elderly with more opportunities to enable them to actively participate in social building and continue to contribute to the community, ~~so as to provide~~ *thus providing* “golden twilight years” for the ~~increasingly sizeable elderly population~~ *elderly*.

Note: Hon TAM Yiu-chung’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

That “*giving the elderly a sense of belonging, a sense of security, a sense of worthiness and a sense of being useful*” is the goal of a healthy community, given the trend of an ageing population in *Hong Kong*, the Government estimates that elderly people aged 65 and above in 2036 will constitute 27% of the total population

and amount to over two million; as the services in areas such as welfare, housing, *transport, community education*, medical and health care, *community nursing, residential care home services, hospice care services* as well as life development currently provided by the Government for the elderly are insufficient to cater for the overall needs of the elderly in various aspects, coupled with the fact that at present the majority of the elderly people do not have full retirement protection, *and the existing Mandatory Provident Fund system fails to provide the elderly with a dignified retirement life*, this Council urges the Government to *heed the views of the elderly*, consolidate the various existing elderly services and coordinate the relevant bureaux and executive departments to formulate a comprehensive and forward-looking elderly policy which, apart from catering for their physical and psychological needs, provides the elderly with more opportunities to ~~enable~~ *facilitate* them to actively participate in social building and continue to contribute to the community, so as to provide “golden twilight years” for the increasingly sizeable elderly population; *such a comprehensive elderly policy should basically cover the following:*

- (a) *conducting extensive consultation on the elderly policy by comprehensively collecting the views of the elderly, deputations and service organizations, and formulating a comprehensive and forward-looking elderly policy, improvement measures and implementation timetable on the basis of such consultation;*
- (b) *drawing up an integrated retirement protection plan to benefit all the people of Hong Kong;*
- (c) *launching various measures to encourage children to live with their elderly parents, such as expanding the schemes to foster harmonious families in public rental housing and providing home purchase assistance and loan schemes, etc, so as to advocate the spirit of respecting and caring for the elderly;*
- (d) *comprehensively improving the medical and healthcare services for the elderly, alleviating their burden of medical expenses, and reducing the waiting time for specialist services and residential care home places for the elderly;*
- (e) *providing the elderly with comprehensive fare concessions for all types of transport;*
- (f) *comprehensively improving the existing Old Age Allowance system and removing the unnecessary restrictions;*
- (g) *reviewing the system for granting Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”) to the elderly, relaxing the requirement for elderly persons to apply for CSSA on a household basis, and ensuring that CSSA and allowances can meet the basic needs of the elderly;*
- (h) *providing all-round and diversified continuous learning and community education for the elderly, and fully utilizing their strengths to contribute to the community;*

- (i) *allocating additional resources to improve elderly services at the community level, including increasing the number of elderly centres across the territory, increasing the places for the Integrated Home Care Services, and providing diversified district services;*
- (j) *studying the provision of comprehensive financial planning, management and services for the elderly; and*
- (k) *formulating comprehensive, proactive and forward-looking hospice care services.*

Note: Hon WONG Kwok-hing's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That, ~~given the trend of an ageing population~~ *with the post war baby boom generation advancing into old age, the population will start to age rapidly within the next few years*, the Government estimates that elderly people aged 65 and above in 2036 will constitute 27% of the total population and amount to over two million; as the services in areas such as welfare, housing, *planning, community facilities*, medical and health care as well as life development currently provided by the Government for the elderly are insufficient to cater for the overall needs of the elderly in various aspects, *and it is doubtful whether welfare, medical and healthcare services, etc are sustainable in the long run given an ageing population*, coupled with the fact that at present the majority of the elderly people do not have full retirement protection, *and the policies and services concerning retirement and employment fail to take into account those elderly persons who wish to continue to work*, this Council urges the Government to ~~consolidate the various existing elderly services and coordinate the relevant bureaux and executive departments to formulate a comprehensive and forward-looking elderly policy~~ *adopt the following strategic measures* which, apart from catering for their physical and psychological needs, provides the elderly with more opportunities to enable them to actively participate in social building and continue to contribute to the community, so as to provide "golden twilight years" for the increasingly sizeable elderly population:

- (a) *setting up an "Old Age Reserve Fund" to ensure that there is sufficient public expenditure to maintain various welfare benefits and services for the elderly when the population is aged after 2011;*
- (b) *reviewing the retirement and employment policies and services, and legislating against age discrimination to safeguard equal employment opportunities for the aged population;*

- (c) *revamping the healthcare financing and retirement protection systems to ensure the long-term sustainability of welfare benefits and public services relating to the elderly; and*
- (d) *consolidating the various existing elderly services and coordinating the relevant bureaux and executive departments to formulate a comprehensive and forward-looking elderly policy.*

Note: Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Frederick FUNG Kin-kee

That, ~~given as Hong Kong has all along lacked a long-term elderly policy and the trend of an ageing population, the Government estimates~~ *persists, it is estimated* that elderly people aged 65 and above in 2036 will constitute 27% of the total population and amount to over two million; as the services in areas such as welfare, housing, medical and health care as well as life development currently provided by the Government for the elderly are insufficient to cater for the overall needs of the elderly in various aspects, coupled with the fact that at present the majority of the elderly people do not have full retirement protection, this Council urges the Government to consolidate the various existing elderly services and coordinate the relevant bureaux and executive departments to formulate a comprehensive and forward-looking elderly policy ~~which~~, *as well as to expeditiously implement the recommendations made by the Legislative Council Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty in its Report on Elderly in Poverty and the recommendations on elderly issues put forward in the Report of the Commission on Poverty, so that* apart from catering for their physical and psychological needs, ~~provides~~ the elderly *are also provided* with more opportunities to enable them to actively participate in social building and continue to contribute to the community, so as to provide "golden twilight years" for the increasingly sizeable elderly population.

Note: Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.