

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 356/08-09

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 18 February 2009

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Helping young people cope with the financial tsunami”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 332/08-09 issued on 5 February 2009, five Members (Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Hon WONG Sing-chi, Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon LEE Cheuk-yan) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Tanya CHAN’s motion on “Helping young people cope with the financial tsunami” scheduled for the Council meeting of 18 February 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 Tanya CHAN moves her motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Tanya CHAN’s motion, and orders a joint debate;
- (c) the President calls on the five Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon Starry LEE Wai-king;
 - (ii) Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen;

- (iii) Hon WONG Sing-chi;
 - (iv) Hon WONG Kwok-hing; and
 - (v) Hon LEE Cheuk-yan;
- (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 Tanya CHAN 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 five Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon Starry LEE Wai-king to move her amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon Starry LEE Wai-king's amendment;
 - (i) after Hon Starry LEE Wai-king's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other four amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Tanya CHAN to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Tanya CHAN's motion, or her 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
“Helping young people cope with the financial tsunami”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 18 February 2009**

1. Hon Tanya CHAN’s original motion

That, being struck by the financial tsunami, Hong Kong’s economy will most probably slacken off substantially and young people will definitely face pressure from various fronts, including the financial burden arising from repaying student loans and the employment difficulties caused by reduction in jobs etc; this Council urges the Government to show concern for the needs of young people amid economic adversities and offer suitable support to help them alleviate their pressure, develop their career and contribute to the society, with specific measures which include:

- (a) removing the existing 1.5% risk rate for the “Non-means Tested Loan Scheme” and making changes to the effect that the interest will be calculated after a student has completed the relevant programme;
- (b) suspending the collection of repayments from all borrowers of student loan schemes for one year and waiving the interests on all loans for that year;
- (c) providing young people with more employment counselling and support, especially by increasing the resources allocated to the environmental protection and creative industries, with a view to helping them find suitable jobs;
- (d) creating temporary jobs and placements which are suitable for young people, including those in the fields of environmental conservation, survey studies, community relations, publicity and promotion etc, to give them opportunities to accumulate working experience;
- (e) exploring various forms of support, including appropriate training, counselling services, subsidies or loan arrangements, for young people who aspire to start a business or become self-employed; and
- (f) expeditiously implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Economic Challenges which target at young people’s needs and putting forward specific work plans as well as announcing the details.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Starry LEE Wai-king

That, ~~being~~ *as the global economy slows down, and Hong Kong is* struck by the financial tsunami, ~~Hong Kong’s economy will most probably slacken off substantially~~

and young people will definitely face pressure from various fronts, including the financial burden arising from repaying student loans and the employment difficulties caused by reduction in jobs etc; this Council urges the Government to show concern for the needs of young people amid economic adversities and offer suitable support to help them alleviate their pressure, develop their career and contribute to the society, with specific measures which include:

- (a) ~~removing~~ **standardizing** the existing ~~1.5% risk rate~~ **interest rate** for the “Non-means Tested Loan Scheme” ~~and~~ **at a flat rate of 2.5%**, making changes to the effect that the interest will be calculated after a student has completed the relevant programme **and secured employment, as well as changing the means-tested loans to interest-free loans**;
- (b) suspending the collection of repayments from all borrowers of student loan schemes for one year and waiving the interests on all loans for that year;
- (c) providing young people with more employment counselling and support, especially by increasing the resources allocated to the environmental protection and creative industries, with a view to helping them find suitable jobs;
- (d) creating temporary jobs and placements which are suitable for young people, including those in the fields of environmental conservation, survey studies, community relations, publicity and promotion etc, to give them opportunities to accumulate working experience;
- (e) exploring various forms of support, including appropriate training, counselling services, subsidies or loan arrangements, for young people who aspire to start a business or become self-employed; and
- (f) expeditiously implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Economic Challenges which target at young people’s needs, **introducing an attachment allowance scheme for tertiary graduates whereby the Government will offer allowances to Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises which provide attachment places with a view to helping fresh graduates tackle employment difficulties**, and putting forward specific work plans as well as announcing the details.

Note: Hon Starry LEE Wai-king’s amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen

That, ***as the world is*** being struck by the financial tsunami, Hong Kong’s economy will most probably slacken off substantially and young people will definitely face pressure from various fronts, including the financial burden arising from repaying student loans and the employment difficulties caused by reduction in jobs etc; this

Council urges the Government to show concern for the needs of young people *in all strata* amid economic adversities and offer suitable support to help them alleviate their pressure, develop their career and contribute to the society, with specific measures which include:

- (a) ~~removing the existing~~ ***requesting the Student Financial Assistance Agency to provide special support to borrowers of student loan schemes with financial difficulties, including calculating the interest on relevant loans after a student has completed the relevant programme, and waiving the 1.5% risk rate for the “Non-means Tested Loan Scheme” and making changes to the effect that the interest will be calculated after a student has completed the relevant programme;***
- (b) suspending the collection of repayments from all borrowers of student loan schemes ***with financial difficulties*** for one year and waiving the interests on all loans for that year;
- (c) providing ~~young people~~ ***degree and sub-degree holders as well as secondary school leavers*** with more employment counselling and support, ~~especially by increasing the resources allocated to help them find suitable jobs and, in particular, specially allocating resources~~ to the environmental protection and creative industries, ~~with a view to helping them find suitable jobs to increase job opportunities for them;~~
- (d) creating temporary jobs and placements which are suitable for young people, including those in the fields of environmental conservation, survey studies, community relations, publicity and promotion etc, to give them opportunities to accumulate working experience;
- (e) exploring various forms of support, including appropriate training, counselling services, subsidies or loan arrangements, for young people who aspire to start a business or become self-employed; and
- (f) expeditiously implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Economic Challenges which target at ~~young people’s needs~~ ***the needs of young people in all strata*** and putting forward specific work plans as well as announcing the details.

Note: Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen’s amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That, ***young people***, being struck by the financial tsunami, ~~Hong Kong’s economy will most probably slacken off substantially and young people~~ will definitely face pressure from various fronts, including the financial burden arising from repaying student loans and the employment difficulties caused by reduction in jobs etc; this

Council urges the Government to show concern for the needs of young people amid economic adversities and offer suitable support to help them alleviate their pressure, develop their career and contribute to the society, with specific measures which include:

- (a) removing the existing 1.5% risk rate for the “Non-means Tested Loan Scheme” and making changes to the effect that the interest will be calculated after a student has completed the relevant programme;
- (b) *reviewing various financial assistance schemes for post-secondary students, relaxing the eligibility criteria, raising the amount of grants and loans, and reducing the interests of the loan schemes, so as to alleviate the financial burden on tertiary students;*
- ~~(b)~~(c) suspending the collection of repayments from all borrowers of student loan schemes for ~~one year~~ *two years* and waiving the interests on all loans for that year;
- (d) *considering giving tertiary graduates more flexibility in repayment, including repaying a smaller amount during the first three years after graduation;*
- ~~(e)~~(e) providing young people with more employment counselling and support, especially by increasing the resources allocated to the environmental protection, *information technology industries, as well as cultural* and creative industries, with a view to helping them find suitable jobs;
- ~~(d)~~(f) creating *more* temporary jobs and placements which are suitable for young people, including those in the fields of *teaching assistance, information technology*, environmental conservation, *local ecology and heritage tourism*, survey studies, community relations, publicity and promotion etc, to give them opportunities to accumulate working experience;
- ~~(e)~~(g) exploring various forms of support, including appropriate training, counselling services, subsidies or loan arrangements, for young people who aspire to start a business or become self-employed; and
- ~~(f)~~(h) expeditiously implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Economic Challenges which target at young people’s needs and putting forward specific work plans as well as announcing the details.

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

5. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

That, being struck by the financial tsunami, Hong Kong's economy will most probably slacken off substantially and young people will definitely face pressure from various fronts, including the financial burden arising from repaying student loans and the employment difficulties caused by reduction in jobs etc; this Council urges the Government to show concern for the needs of young people amid economic adversities and offer suitable support to help them alleviate their pressure, develop their career and contribute to the society, with specific measures which include:

- (a) removing the existing 1.5% risk rate for the "Non-means Tested Loan Scheme" and making changes to the effect that the interest will be calculated after a student has completed the relevant programme;
- (b) suspending the collection of repayments from all borrowers of student loan schemes for one year and waiving the interests on all loans for that year;
- (c) providing young people with more employment counselling and support, especially by increasing the resources allocated to the environmental protection and creative industries, with a view to helping them find suitable jobs;
- (d) creating temporary jobs and placements which are suitable for young people, including those in the fields of environmental conservation, survey studies, community relations, *community services*, publicity and promotion etc, to give them opportunities to accumulate working experience;
- (e) exploring various forms of support, including appropriate training, counselling services, subsidies or loan arrangements, for young people who aspire to start a business or become self-employed; ~~and~~
- (f) *raising the subsidy amount of the Continuing Education Fund to \$30,000 to alleviate the financial pressure from further studies on young people and, at the same time, widening the coverage of subsidy and stepping up monitoring of course operations;*
- (g) *increasing the subsidized places for diploma, higher diploma, bachelor degree and master degree programmes, etc of various institutions, so that more young people are able to have the opportunity to receive tertiary education, thereby enhancing their competitiveness; and*
- (~~f~~)(h) expeditiously implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Economic Challenges which target at young people's needs and putting forward specific work plans as well as announcing the details.

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

6. Motion as amended by Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

That, being struck by the financial tsunami, Hong Kong's economy will most probably slacken off substantially and young people will definitely face pressure from various fronts, including the financial burden arising from repaying student loans and the employment difficulties caused by reduction in jobs etc; this Council urges the Government to show concern for the needs of young people amid economic adversities and offer suitable support to help them alleviate their pressure, develop their career and contribute to the society, with specific measures which include:

- (a) removing the existing 1.5% risk rate for the "Non-means Tested Loan Scheme" and making changes to the effect that the interest will be calculated after a student has completed the relevant programme;
- (b) suspending the collection of repayments from all borrowers of student loan schemes for one year and waiving the interests on all loans for that year;
- (c) providing young people with more employment counselling and support, especially by increasing the resources allocated to the environmental protection and creative industries, with a view to helping them find suitable jobs;
- (d) creating temporary jobs and placements which are suitable for young people, including those in the fields of environmental conservation, survey studies, community relations, publicity and promotion etc, to give them opportunities to accumulate working experience;
- (e) exploring various forms of support, including appropriate training, counselling services, subsidies or loan arrangements, for young people who aspire to start a business or become self-employed; ~~and~~
- (f) expeditiously implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Economic Challenges which target at young people's needs and putting forward specific work plans as well as announcing the details; *and*
- (g) *establishing a training contract system to enable young school leavers to have training opportunities and working experience.*

Note: Hon LEE Cheuk-yan's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.