

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 5 November 2008

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Old age allowance and universal retirement protection system”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 75/08-09 issued on 23 October 2008, three Members (Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, Hon WONG Sing-chi and Hon TAM Yiu-chung) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Fred LI Wah-ming’s motion on “Old age allowance and universal retirement protection system” scheduled for the Council meeting of 5 November 2008. 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 Fred LI Wah-ming moves his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Fred LI Wah-ming’s motion, and orders a joint debate;
- (c) the President calls on the three Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan;
 - (ii) Hon WONG Sing-chi; and
 - (iii) Hon TAM Yiu-chung;

- (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 Fred LI Wah-ming 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 three Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan's amendment;
- (i) after Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other two amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Fred LI Wah-ming to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Fred LI Wah-ming'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
“Old age allowance and universal retirement protection system”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 5 November 2008**

1. Hon Fred LI Wah-ming’s original motion

“That this Council reiterates that the Government should immediately increase the rates of the Old Age Allowance to not less than \$1,000 per month and fully adhere to the original intention of showing respect for the elderly, and should not introduce any new means test mechanism under the Old Age Allowance Scheme; at the same time, this Council urges the Government to commence studying the establishment of a universal retirement protection system to enable all elderly people to have comprehensive retirement protection and enjoy a dignified and comfortable life in their twilight years.”

2. Motion as amended by Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan

~~“That this Council reiterates that the Government should immediately increase the rates of the Old Age Allowance to not less than \$1,000 per month and fully adhere to the original intention of showing respect for the elderly, and should not introduce any new means test mechanism under the Old Age Allowance Scheme~~ *welcomes the Chief Executive’s announcement that the rates of the Old Age Allowance will be increased to \$1,000 per month and the Government will study whether the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong under the Old Age Allowance Scheme can be relaxed*; at the same time, this Council urges the Government to ~~commence~~ *comprehensively examine the existing welfare policy for the elderly to ensure that elderly people who have financial difficulties and are not on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance can also receive certain form of living supplement, and when* studying the establishment of a universal retirement protection system ~~to~~, *the Government must ensure that the system will not increase the burden on the next generation and will* enable all elderly people to have comprehensive retirement protection and enjoy a dignified and comfortable life in their twilight years.”

Note: Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

~~“That this Council reiterates that the Government should immediately increase the rates of the Old Age Allowance to not less than \$1,000 per month and fully adhere to~~

~~the original intention of showing respect for the elderly, and should not introduce any new means test mechanism under the Old Age Allowance Scheme~~ *welcomes the Chief Executive's withdrawal of the proposal of introducing a means test mechanism under the Old Age Allowance Scheme after listening to the opposing voices of this Council and the public, and his acceptance of this Council's view to increase the rates of the Old Age Allowance to \$1,000 per month*; at the same time, *in view of the pressure on public finance as a result of the ageing population in the future*, this Council urges the Government to commence studying the establishment of a universal retirement protection system to enable all elderly people to have comprehensive retirement protection and enjoy a dignified and comfortable life in their twilight years."

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

4. Motion as amended by Hon TAM Yiu-chung

~~"That this Council reiterates that the Government should immediately increase~~ *welcomes the Government increasing* the rates of the Old Age Allowance to ~~not less than~~ \$1,000 per month and fully ~~adhere~~ *adhering* to the original intention of showing respect for the elderly, ~~and should not introduce~~ *by not introducing* any new means test mechanism under the Old Age Allowance Scheme; at the same time, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) commence studying the establishment of a universal retirement protection system;
- (b) *consider implementing an 'elderly maintenance grant scheme' in addition to the existing Old Age Allowance and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance system, so that those elderly people who are aged 60 will receive a monthly living supplement from the Government after making a simple asset declaration;*
- (c) *further relax the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong for Old Age Allowance applicants; and*
- (d) *increase the value of elderly health care vouchers to \$1,000 and lower the eligibility age for such vouchers to 65,*

so as to enable all elderly people to have comprehensive retirement protection and enjoy a dignified and comfortable life in their twilight years."

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