

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Measures for combating drink driving”
moved by Hon LEE Wing-tat
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 18 February 2009**

**Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung and
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye**

That, according to government information, the number of prosecutions against drink driving has been on the rise in recent years; furthermore, several serious traffic accidents caused by drink driving have occurred recently, which resulted in a large number of casualties, reflecting that the awareness of the danger of drink driving among motorists is still weak, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) allocate more resources for conducting random breath tests, and set up permanent breath test checkpoints at cross-boundary control points and the roads nearby, various major speeding blackspots across the territory, as well as major bar areas and restaurants, etc;
- (b) expeditiously conduct a comprehensive review on the effectiveness of the newly implemented Road Traffic Legislation (Amendment) Ordinance 2008, including studying the introduction of a new provision on ‘dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm’ in the Ordinance and introducing dangerous driving after drinking as a factor of consideration for meting out heavier penalties, as well as increasing the disqualification period upon first conviction of this offence as well as raising the maximum imprisonment term and fine for such an offence where necessary;
- (c) consider further tightening the legal limit of blood alcohol concentration, and formulate a set of penalties whereby the greater the extent the alcohol limit is exceeded, the heavier the punishment;
- (d) lodge reviews or appeals to the Court by the Department of Justice against drink driving cases with relatively lenient sentences so as to allow the Judiciary to formulate more stringent sentencing criteria and guidelines;
- (e) consider raising the maximum imprisonment term for dangerous driving causing death to the same level as that for manslaughter; and
- (f) enhance public education and publicity, and require that cautionary words such as ‘don’t drink and drive’ must be printed on the packages of alcoholic beverages to enable motorists to understand the perils of drink driving,

so as to safeguard public safety; this Council also urges the Government to set up medical facilities for treating alcoholics and community counselling centres for such people to receive appropriate treatment and counselling, so as to enable them to understand the perils of drink driving, thereby reducing the occurrence of drink driving accidents.