

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 408/09-10

Ref : CB(3)/M/MM
Tel : 2869 9205
Date : 29 January 2010
From : Clerk to the Legislative Council
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 3 February 2010

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Alleviating poverty and helping the disadvantaged
with care and concern”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 386/09-10 issued on 22 January 2010, four Members (Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon WONG Sing-chi and Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon TAM Yiu-chung’s motion on “Alleviating poverty and helping the disadvantaged with care and concern” scheduled for the Council meeting of 3 February 2010. 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 TAM Yiu-chung moves his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon TAM Yiu-chung’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 Frederick FUNG;
 - (ii) Hon WONG Kwok-hing;

- (iii) Hon WONG Sing-chi; and
- (iv) Hon Paul CHAN;
- (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 TAM Yiu-chung 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 Frederick FUNG to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon Frederick FUNG's amendment;
- (i) after Hon Frederick FUNG'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 TAM Yiu-chung to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon TAM Yiu-chung'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
“Alleviating poverty and helping the disadvantaged
with care and concern”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 3 February 2010**

1. Hon TAM Yiu-chung’s original motion

That, at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 14 January this year, the Chief Executive Donald TSANG Yam-kuen said that improving people’s livelihood was the Government’s priority task, and that alleviating the difficulties of low-income earners and promoting the economic development of Hong Kong to create more employment opportunities was most important in its policy implementation; as such, this Council urges the Government to take measures to alleviate poverty, help the disadvantaged and relieve the burden of the people, so as to build a more harmonious society, including:

- (a) to offer subsidies to needy school children for their participation in extra-curricular activities, and introduce an ‘extra-curricular activities grant for needy school children’;
- (b) to provide subsidies on Internet access charges for poor school children to relieve the burden of academic expenses;
- (c) for the purposes of encouraging more schools to participate in the voluntary school drug testing scheme in the future and equipping the schools early with the necessary manpower, to allocate additional resources to facilitate the provision of ‘two school social workers for each school’ and employment of more teaching assistants in all secondary schools in Hong Kong;
- (d) to provide more career counselling and support for young people, enhance training and attract them to join those industries with competitive edge, including creative, information technology and environmental protection industries, so as to improve their employment situation;
- (e) to introduce a long-term territory-wide transport subsidy scheme and simplify the application procedure concerned, so as to reduce the transport costs for low-income earners working across districts;
- (f) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance, and allow the elderly to receive Disability Allowance and Old Age Allowance concurrently;

- (g) to continue to increase the number of subsidized residential care homes for the elderly, provide more residential and care home support for them, and enhance community care services at the same time;
- (h) to improve medical services for the elderly by increasing the value of elderly healthcare vouchers to \$1,000 per elderly person per year and lowering the eligible age to 65;
- (i) to introduce ‘recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly’, and provide them with free access to facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department such as exhibition halls and public swimming pools, so as to enrich their cultural life;
- (j) to set up a ‘subsidy system for carers of persons with disabilities’, and provide a monthly allowance of \$1,000 to the family of each person with disabilities;
- (k) to introduce additional ‘chronically ill dependant allowance’ and ‘allowance for private medical insurance contributions’, and to raise the ceiling of tax deduction in respect of elderly residential care expenses and various types of salary tax allowances in respect of dependent family members;
- (l) to introduce a ‘training scheme for fishermen during the fish moratorium’ to provide training courses for the affected fishermen, and to grant them an appropriate amount of subsidy to cover part of their living expenses during the moratorium period;
- (m) to relieve the burden of post-secondary students to repay loans by improving the financial assistance scheme for post-secondary students, replacing the means-tested loans with interest-free loans and lowering the annual interest rate for non-means-tested loans to 2.5%;
- (n) to enhance the land supply policy to stabilize property prices, resume the construction of HOS flats on an appropriate scale and extend the home loan interest deduction period, so as to relieve the pressure of housing expenses on the people;
- (o) to introduce rates relief measures to reduce the levying rates or to waive the payment;
- (p) to freeze various government fees and charges affecting people’s livelihood for a year; and
- (q) to strictly control increase in charges by public utilities.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee

That, *as the problem of disparity between the rich and the poor is aggravating in Hong Kong, the grassroots people lack room for development and their opportunities for upward mobility are impeded; furthermore*, at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 14 January this year, the Chief Executive Donald TSANG Yam-kuen said that improving people's livelihood was the Government's priority task, and that alleviating the difficulties of low-income earners and promoting the economic development of Hong Kong to create more employment opportunities was most important in its policy implementation; as such, this Council urges the Government to take measures to alleviate poverty, help the disadvantaged and relieve the burden of the people, so as to build a more harmonious society, including:

- (a) to offer subsidies to needy school children for their participation in extra-curricular activities, and introduce an 'extra-curricular activities grant for needy school children';
- (b) to provide subsidies on Internet access charges for poor school children to relieve the burden of academic expenses;
- (c) for the purposes of encouraging more schools to participate in the voluntary school drug testing scheme in the future and equipping the schools early with the necessary manpower, to allocate additional resources to facilitate the provision of 'two school social workers for each school' and employment of more teaching assistants in all secondary schools in Hong Kong;
- (d) to provide more career counselling and support for young people, enhance training and attract them to join those industries with competitive edge, including creative, information technology and environmental protection industries, so as to improve their employment situation;
- (e) to introduce a long-term territory-wide transport subsidy scheme and simplify the application procedure concerned, so as to reduce the transport costs for low-income earners working across districts;
- (f) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance, and allow the elderly to receive Disability Allowance and Old Age Allowance concurrently;
- (g) to continue to increase the number of subsidized residential care homes for the elderly, provide more residential and care home support for them, and enhance community care services at the same time;
- (h) to improve medical services for the elderly by increasing the value of elderly healthcare vouchers to \$1,000 per elderly person per year and lowering the eligible age to 65;

- (i) to introduce ‘recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly’, and provide them with free access to facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department such as exhibition halls and public swimming pools, so as to enrich their cultural life;
- (j) to set up a ‘subsidy system for carers of persons with disabilities’, and provide a monthly allowance of \$1,000 to the family of each person with disabilities;
- (k) to introduce additional ‘chronically ill dependant allowance’ and ‘allowance for private medical insurance contributions’, and to raise the ceiling of tax deduction in respect of elderly residential care expenses and various types of salary tax allowances in respect of dependent family members;
- (l) to introduce a ‘training scheme for fishermen during the fish moratorium’ to provide training courses for the affected fishermen, and to grant them an appropriate amount of subsidy to cover part of their living expenses during the moratorium period;
- (m) to relieve the burden of post-secondary students to repay loans by improving the financial assistance scheme for post-secondary students, replacing the means-tested loans with interest-free loans and lowering the annual interest rate for non-means-tested loans to 2.5%;
- (n) to enhance the land supply policy to stabilize property prices, resume the construction of HOS flats on an appropriate scale and extend the home loan interest deduction period, so as to relieve the pressure of housing expenses on the people;
- (o) to introduce rates relief measures to reduce the levying rates or to waive the payment;
- (p) to freeze various government fees and charges affecting people’s livelihood for a year; ~~and~~
- (q) to strictly control increase in charges by public utilities;
- (r) *to increase the construction of public housing flats, so as to improve the living conditions of the grassroots people and increase the relevant employment opportunities;*
- (s) *to pay one month’s rent for public housing tenants to relieve their financial burden;*
- (t) *to strengthen support for social enterprises, so as to create more employment opportunities for the disadvantaged; and*

- (u) *for the purpose of solving the problem of disparity between the rich and the poor in the long run, the Government to set up a high-level committee to comprehensively review the existing mode of economic and social developments, and formulate omni-directional strategy and measures to help the grassroots.*

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

3. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

That, *given that* at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 14 January this year, the Chief Executive Donald TSANG Yam-kuen said that improving people's livelihood was the Government's priority task, and that alleviating the difficulties of low-income earners and promoting the economic development of Hong Kong to create more employment opportunities was most important in its policy implementation; as such, this Council urges the Government to take measures to alleviate poverty, help the disadvantaged and relieve the burden of the people, so as to build a more harmonious society, including:

- (a) to offer subsidies to needy school children for their participation in extra-curricular activities, and introduce an 'extra-curricular activities grant for needy school children';
- (b) to provide subsidies on Internet access charges for poor school children to relieve the burden of academic expenses;
- (c) for the purposes of encouraging more schools to participate in the voluntary school drug testing scheme in the future and equipping the schools early with the necessary manpower, to allocate additional resources to facilitate the provision of 'two school social workers for each school' and employment of more teaching assistants in all secondary schools in Hong Kong;
- (d) to provide more career counselling and support for young people, enhance training and attract them to join those industries with competitive edge, including creative, information technology and environmental protection industries, so as to improve their employment situation;
- (e) to introduce a long-term territory-wide transport subsidy scheme and simplify the application procedure concerned, so as to reduce the transport costs for low-income earners working across districts;
- (f) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance, and allow the elderly to receive Disability Allowance and Old Age Allowance concurrently;

- (g) to continue to increase the number of subsidized residential care homes for the elderly, provide more residential and care home support for them, *such as setting a reasonable carer-to-resident manpower ratio for residential care homes*, and enhance community care services at the same time;
- (h) to improve medical services for the elderly by increasing the value of elderly healthcare vouchers to \$1,000 per elderly person per year and lowering the eligible age to 65;
- (i) to introduce ‘recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly’, and provide them with free access to facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department such as exhibition halls and public swimming pools, so as to enrich their cultural life;
- (j) to set up a ‘subsidy system for carers of persons with disabilities’, and provide a monthly allowance of \$1,000 to the family of each person with disabilities;
- (k) to introduce additional ‘chronically ill dependant allowance’ and ‘allowance for private medical insurance contributions’, and to raise the ceiling of tax deduction in respect of elderly residential care expenses and various types of salary tax allowances in respect of dependent family members;
- (l) to introduce a ‘training scheme for fishermen during the fish moratorium’ to provide training courses for the affected fishermen, and to grant them an appropriate amount of subsidy to cover part of their living expenses during the moratorium period;
- (m) to relieve the burden of post-secondary students to repay loans by improving the financial assistance scheme for post-secondary students, replacing the means-tested loans with interest-free loans and lowering the annual interest rate for non-means-tested loans to 2.5%;
- (n) to enhance the land supply policy to stabilize property prices, resume the construction of HOS flats on an appropriate scale and extend the home loan interest deduction period, so as to relieve the pressure of housing expenses on the people;
- (o) to introduce rates relief measures to reduce the levying rates or to waive the payment;
- (p) to freeze various government fees and charges affecting people’s livelihood for a year; ~~and~~
- (q) to strictly control increase in charges by public utilities;

- (r) *to allocate a funding of \$3.3 million to maintain the operation of the small library in Yat Tung Estate, with a view to providing support for some 40 000 residents in this exceptionally remote and impoverished public housing estate, in particular support to children and young people in their learning and studies, so as to solve the problem of inter-generational poverty;*
- (s) *government departments to step up efforts to employ more permanent staff, make every effort to minimize the provision of manpower through employment agencies, and enhance the monitoring of employment terms and remuneration packages offered by the employment agencies, so as to reduce in their best endeavours any exploitation by the intermediaries; and*
- (t) *to re-launch the Home Starter Loan Scheme and increase the amount for home loan interest deduction, so as to help sandwich class people who are ‘snails without a shell’ (in particular working young couples) to acquire their homes.*

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, *at present, the disparity between the rich and the poor is serious in the society, and* at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 14 January this year, the Chief Executive Donald TSANG Yam-kuen said that improving people’s livelihood was the Government’s priority task, and that alleviating the difficulties of low-income earners and promoting the economic development of Hong Kong to create more employment opportunities was most important in its policy implementation; as such, this Council urges the Government to take measures to alleviate poverty, help the disadvantaged and relieve the burden of the people, so as to build a more harmonious society, including:

- (a) to offer subsidies to needy school children for their participation in extra-curricular activities, and introduce an ‘extra-curricular activities grant for needy school children’;
- (b) to provide subsidies on Internet access charges for poor school children to relieve the burden of academic expenses;
- (c) for the purposes of encouraging more schools to participate in the voluntary school drug testing scheme in the future and equipping the schools early with the necessary manpower, to allocate additional resources to facilitate the provision of ‘two school social workers for each school’ and employment of more teaching assistants in all secondary schools in Hong Kong;

- (d) to provide more career counselling and support for young people, enhance training and attract them to join *various trades as well as* those industries with competitive edge, including creative, information technology and environmental protection industries, so as to improve their employment situation;
- (e) to introduce a long-term territory-wide transport subsidy scheme and simplify the application procedure concerned, so as to reduce the transport costs for low-income earners working across districts *and benefit more unemployed people*;
- (f) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance, and allow the elderly to receive Disability Allowance and Old Age Allowance concurrently;
- (g) to continue to increase the number of subsidized residential care homes for the elderly, *increase the number of subsidized places for the elderly, extend the opening hours of day care centres for the elderly*, provide more residential and care home support for them, and enhance community care services at the same time;
- (h) to improve medical services for the elderly by increasing the value of elderly healthcare vouchers to \$1,000 per elderly person per year and lowering the eligible age to 65;
- (i) to introduce ‘recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly’, and provide them with free access to facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department such as exhibition halls and public swimming pools, so as to enrich their cultural life;
- (j) to set up a ‘subsidy system for carers of persons with disabilities’, and provide a monthly allowance of \$1,000 to the family of each person with disabilities;
- (k) to introduce additional ‘chronically ill dependant allowance’ ~~and~~, *consider introducing* ‘allowance for private medical insurance contributions’, *and in considering the provision of such allowances, the Government should concurrently study the impact of developing a private medical insurance system on the overall healthcare system, the regulation of private medical insurance systems in overseas countries, as well as the feasibility of implementing a central medical insurance system in Hong Kong in the long run*; and to raise the ceiling of tax deduction in respect of elderly residential care expenses and various types of salary tax allowances in respect of dependent family members;
- (l) to introduce a ‘training scheme for fishermen during the fish moratorium’ to provide training courses for the affected fishermen, and to grant them an

appropriate amount of subsidy to cover part of their living expenses during the moratorium period;

- (m) to relieve the burden of post-secondary students to repay loans by improving the financial assistance scheme for post-secondary students, replacing the means-tested loans with interest-free loans and lowering the annual interest rate for non-means-tested loans to 2.5%;
- (n) to enhance the land supply policy to stabilize property prices, resume the construction of HOS flats on an appropriate scale and extend the home loan interest deduction period, so as to relieve the pressure of housing expenses on the people;
- (o) to introduce rates relief measures to reduce the levying rates or to waive the payment;
- (p) to freeze various government fees and charges affecting people's livelihood for a year; ~~and~~
- (q) to strictly control increase in charges by public utilities;
- (r) *to expeditiously implement a 'universal retirement protection scheme' whereby all citizens aged 60 or above are eligible for receiving an 'old age pension', so as to ensure that the elderly will be able to maintain a reasonable standard of living; and*
- (s) *targeting at the existing bus services, to implement sectional fares and interchange concessions.*

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

5. Motion as amended by Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po

That, at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 14 January this year, the Chief Executive Donald TSANG Yam-kuen said that improving people's livelihood was the Government's priority task, and that alleviating the difficulties of low-income earners and promoting the economic development of Hong Kong to create more employment opportunities was most important in its policy implementation; as such, this Council urges the Government to take measures to alleviate poverty, help the disadvantaged and relieve the burden of the people, so as to build a more harmonious society, including:

- (a) to offer subsidies to needy school children for their participation in extra-curricular activities, and introduce an 'extra-curricular activities grant for needy school children';

- (b) to provide subsidies on Internet access charges for poor school children to relieve the burden of academic expenses;
- (c) for the purposes of encouraging more schools to participate in the voluntary school drug testing scheme in the future and equipping the schools early with the necessary manpower, to allocate additional resources to facilitate the provision of 'two school social workers for each school' and employment of more teaching assistants in all secondary schools in Hong Kong;
- (d) to provide more career counselling and support for young people, enhance training and attract them to join those industries with competitive edge, including creative, information technology and environmental protection industries, so as to improve their employment situation;
- (e) to introduce a long-term territory-wide transport subsidy scheme and simplify the application procedure concerned, so as to reduce the transport costs for low-income earners working across districts;
- (f) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance, and allow the elderly to receive Disability Allowance and Old Age Allowance concurrently;
- (g) to continue to increase the number of subsidized residential care homes for the elderly, provide more residential and care home support for them, and enhance community care services at the same time;
- (h) to improve medical services for the elderly by increasing the value of elderly healthcare vouchers to \$1,000 per elderly person per year and lowering the eligible age to 65;
- (i) to introduce 'recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly', and provide them with free access to facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department such as exhibition halls and public swimming pools, so as to enrich their cultural life;
- (j) to set up a 'subsidy system for carers of persons with disabilities', and provide a monthly allowance of \$1,000 to the family of each person with disabilities;
- (k) to introduce additional 'chronically ill dependant allowance' and 'allowance for private medical insurance contributions', and to raise the ceiling of tax deduction in respect of elderly residential care expenses and various types of salary tax allowances in respect of dependent family members;
- (l) to introduce a 'training scheme for fishermen during the fish moratorium' to provide training courses for the affected fishermen, and to grant them an appropriate amount of subsidy to cover part of their living expenses during the moratorium period;

- (m) to relieve the burden of post-secondary students to repay loans by improving the financial assistance scheme for post-secondary students, replacing the means-tested loans with interest-free loans and lowering the annual interest rate for non-means-tested loans to 2.5%;
- (n) to enhance the land supply policy to stabilize property prices, resume the construction of HOS flats on an appropriate scale and extend the home loan interest deduction period, so as to relieve the pressure of housing expenses on the people;
- (o) *to allow owner-occupiers to claim full deduction of the home loan interest paid for their properties, and to re-launch the Home Starter Loan Scheme;*
- ~~(p)~~(p) to introduce rates relief measures to reduce the levying rates or to waive the payment;
- ~~(q)~~(q) to freeze various government fees and charges affecting people's livelihood for a year; and
- ~~(r)~~(r) to strictly control increase in charges by public utilities.

Note: Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.