

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 2869 9205

Date : 5 March 2010

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 17 March 2010

Motion on
“Supporting the market for traders running small businesses”

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yun has given notice to move the attached motion on “Supporting the market for traders running small businesses” at the Council meeting of 17 March 2010. The President has directed that “it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in” on the Agenda of the Council.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

Motion on
“Supporting the market for traders running small businesses”
to be moved by Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 17 March 2010

Wording of the Motion

That, as the Hong Kong economy has yet to see a strong recovery, and the rents and operating costs in the private sector have remained high in recent years, together with ever increasing prices, the market for small businesses has suffered a severe blow, and this has not only increased the life stress of the grassroots, but has also reduced their chances of achieving self-reliance, making it difficult to improve the unemployment situation; as such, this Council urges the Government to support the market for traders running small businesses, so as to preserve their characteristic of providing quality goods at low prices and serve the grassroots, thereby increasing job opportunities; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to revitalize hawker stalls by expeditiously allocating no less than 70% of the vacant on-street fixed hawker pitches to the existing registered assistants at fixed hawker pitches for running businesses through priority balloting, so as to enable the registered assistants who are familiar with the hawking trade and the stall environment to start businesses on the same streets or in the same districts, so as to bring vitality to the hawker market;
- (b) to increase the room for survival for licensed itinerant hawkers, reasonably reduce the number of illegal hawking blackspots, and study the designation of proposed hawking locations with time limits or conditions, and publish the list of locations concerned through various means, including facsimiles or telephone-recorded messages, for access by itinerant hawkers;
- (c) to strive to preserve the culture of ‘dai pai dong’ open-air bazaars, to tie in with the promotion focus of the tourism industry and, apart from improving the sanitary facilities of the existing ‘dai pai dongs’ and planning and developing them afresh, to expeditiously study subsidizing the development of ‘dai pai dongs’ or open-air markets in remote areas, so as to stimulate the economic activities of the neighbouring communities and create job opportunities for residents in remote areas;
- (d) to affirm the position and function of public markets as facilities serving the grassroots and determine future rent adjustments by using the affordability of the grassroots as one of the principles, so as to ensure that small traders can

continue to capitalize on their selling point of providing quality goods at low prices to counter rent increase by The Link and monopolization by supermarkets; and

- (e) to immediately implement a public market enhancement policy and proactively allocate resources to improve the design and business environment of the public markets, including bearing the installation and maintenance costs for air-conditioning facilities in public markets, so as to enhance the competitiveness of small traders.