

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 May 2010

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Improving air quality”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 617/09-10 issued on 22 April 2010, Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee and Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon KAM Nai-wai’s motion on “Improving air quality” scheduled for the Council meeting of 5 May 2010. As directed by the President, Hon Audrey EU’s and Hon Cyd HO’s amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the two amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon KAM Nai-wai to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon KAM Nai-wai’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the two Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon Audrey EU; and
 - (ii) Hon Cyd HO;

- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
- (f) the President gives leave to Hon KAM Nai-wai to speak for the second time on the two 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 two Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon Audrey EU to move her amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on the amendment;
- (i) after Hon Audrey EU's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with Hon Cyd HO's amendment to the motion; and
- (j) after Hon Cyd HO's amendment has been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon KAM Nai-wai to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon KAM Nai-wai'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
“Improving air quality”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 5 May 2010**

1. Hon KAM Nai-wai’s original motion

That air quality in Hong Kong is deteriorating by the day, posing a serious threat to public health, and during the onslaught of ‘sandstorm’ earlier, many districts recorded an Air Pollution Index (‘API’) reading at the ‘severe’ level of 500; the ‘sandstorm’ has not only exposed the ‘belated awareness’ of the Administration, but also highlighted the shortcomings in its early warning mechanism; quite a number of local and overseas studies have pointed out the close relationship between the severity of air pollution and the mortality rate; in this connection, this Council requests the Administration to make protection of public health its primary policy objective in tackling the problem of air pollution, and urges it to:

- (a) immediately conduct a review on its sluggish response in this ‘sandstorm’ incident, and improve the early warning mechanism and warning signals, so as to enable members of the public to be aware of the warning messages about air quality as early as possible;
- (b) in respect of the situations where API reaches ‘extremely severe’ and ‘severe’ levels, formulate specific guidelines, including implementation of measures to suspend schools and arrange for workers who need to work outdoors for long hours to suspend work, etc. so as to protect the health of school children and the underprivileged, such as people with chronic illness, the elderly and workers working outdoors, in situations where the pollution is serious;
- (c) designate ‘low emission zones’ in areas with serious air pollution and restrict the entry of heavy diesel vehicles with high emissions into such zones, so as to improve air quality at the street level;
- (d) provide funding support for the franchised bus companies to scrap and replace earlier their franchised buses with high emissions, such as buses which are Euro II or below, so as to improve roadside air quality;
- (e) adopt the most stringent standards of the World Health Organization’s air quality guidelines as Hong Kong’s air quality objectives, and undertake to conduct regular review of the objectives in the future;
- (f) improve the ‘To Replace Pre-Euro and Euro I Diesel Commercial Vehicles by New Commercial Vehicles - Incentive Scheme’ and the scheme for the

replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles mentioned in the Budget of this year, including allowing those vehicle owners who just write off their vehicles to receive subsidies under the schemes; and

- (g) strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination with Guangdong Province on the improvement of air quality, including improving mutual notification and early warning mechanisms.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee

That, *as* air quality in Hong Kong is deteriorating by the day, *particularly regarding the emission of sulphur dioxide and fine suspended particulates*, posing a serious threat to public health, and during the onslaught of ‘sandstorm’ earlier, many districts recorded an Air Pollution Index (‘API’) reading at the ‘severe’ level of 500; the ‘sandstorm’ has not only exposed the ‘belated awareness’ of the Administration, but also highlighted the shortcomings in its early warning mechanism; quite a number of local and overseas studies have pointed out the close relationship between the severity of air pollution and the mortality rate; in this connection, this Council requests the Administration to make protection of public health its primary policy objective in tackling the problem of air pollution, and urges it to:

- (a) immediately conduct a review on its sluggish response in this ‘sandstorm’ incident, and improve the early warning mechanism and warning signals, so as to enable members of the public to be aware of the warning messages about air quality as early as possible;
- (b) in respect of the situations where API reaches ‘extremely severe’ and ‘severe’ levels, formulate specific guidelines, including implementation of measures to suspend schools and arrange for workers who need to work outdoors for long hours to suspend work, etc. so as to protect the health of school children and the underprivileged, such as people with chronic illness, the elderly and workers working outdoors, in situations where the pollution is serious;
- (c) designate ‘low emission zones’ in areas with serious air pollution and restrict the entry of heavy diesel vehicles with high emissions into such zones, so as to improve air quality at the street level;
- (d) provide funding support for the franchised bus companies to scrap and replace earlier their franchised buses with high emissions, such as buses which are Euro II or below, so as to improve roadside air quality;
- (e) adopt the most stringent standards of the World Health Organization’s air quality guidelines as Hong Kong’s air quality objectives, and undertake to conduct regular review of the objectives in the future;

- (f) improve the ‘To Replace Pre-Euro and Euro I Diesel Commercial Vehicles by New Commercial Vehicles - Incentive Scheme’ and the scheme for the replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles mentioned in the Budget of this year, including allowing those vehicle owners who just write off their vehicles to receive subsidies under the schemes; ~~and~~
- (g) strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination with Guangdong Province on the improvement of air quality, including improving mutual notification and early warning mechanisms;
- (h) *in areas other than the Kai Tak Development Area, widely promote the use of district cooling system to enhance energy efficiency and achieve emission reduction; and*
- (i) *improve town planning and urban design to improve air ventilation and reduce the accumulation of air pollutants in urban areas, such as expediting the review of the Outline Zoning Plans of various districts to revise the planning parameters, formulating ‘air ventilation objectives’, studying making ‘air ventilation assessment’ and ‘air ventilation guidelines’ statutory requirements, so as to strengthen the regulation of the impact of private developments on the surrounding environment.*

Note: Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

That, *as* air quality in Hong Kong is deteriorating by the day, posing a serious threat to public health, and during the onslaught of ‘sandstorm’ earlier, many districts recorded an Air Pollution Index (‘API’) reading at the ‘severe’ level of 500; the ‘sandstorm’ has not only exposed the ‘belated awareness’ of the Administration, but also highlighted ~~the shortcomings in its~~ *its shortcoming of lacking an* early warning mechanism; quite a number of local and overseas studies have pointed out the close relationship between the severity of air pollution and the mortality rate; in this connection, this Council requests the Administration to make protection of public health its primary policy objective in tackling the problem of air pollution, and urges it to:

- (a) immediately conduct a review on its sluggish response in this ‘sandstorm’ incident, and ~~improve the~~ *establish an* early warning mechanism and warning signals, so as to enable members of the public to be aware of the warning messages about air quality as early as possible;
- (b) in respect of the situations where API reaches ‘extremely severe’ and ‘severe’ levels, formulate specific guidelines, including implementation of measures to suspend schools and arrange for workers who need to work outdoors for long

hours to suspend work, etc. so as to protect the health of school children and the underprivileged, such as people with chronic illness, the elderly and workers working outdoors, in situations where the pollution is serious;

- (c) designate 'low emission zones' in areas with serious air pollution and restrict the entry of heavy diesel vehicles with high emissions into such zones, so as to improve air quality at the street level;
- (d) provide funding support for the franchised bus companies to scrap and replace earlier their franchised buses with high emissions, such as buses which are Euro II or below, so as to improve roadside air quality;
- (e) adopt the most stringent standards of the World Health Organization's air quality guidelines as Hong Kong's air quality objectives, and undertake to conduct ~~regular~~ review of the objectives ***once every three years*** in the future;
- (f) improve the 'To Replace Pre-Euro and Euro I Diesel Commercial Vehicles by New Commercial Vehicles - Incentive Scheme' and the scheme for the replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles mentioned in the Budget of this year, including allowing those vehicle owners who just write off their vehicles to receive subsidies under the schemes; ***and, increasing the amount of the subsidies and offering other tax concessions, etc.;***
- (g) strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination with ~~Guangdong Province~~ ***neighbouring regions*** on the improvement of air quality, including improving mutual notification and early warning mechanisms, ***and through discussion gradually raise the air quality measurement objectives in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, so as to achieve the target of meeting the ultimate air quality guidelines set by the World Health Organization; and***
- (h) ***in respect of the situations where API reaches the 'severe' level, establish an inter-departmental mechanism to co-ordinate the work of government departments responsible for health care and social welfare etc., so as to cope with the possible additional demand for medical consultation, emergency medical treatment and primary community services, etc.***

Note: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.