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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 25 November 2009

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Enhancing employment support and
creating employment opportunities”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 151/09-10 issued on 12 November 2009, nine Members (Hon WONG Sing-chi, Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, Hon LI Fung-ying, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung, Hon LEE Cheuk-yan and Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon WONG Kwok-kin’s motion on “Enhancing employment support and creating employment opportunities” scheduled for the Council meeting of 25 November 2009. 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 WONG Kwok-kin moves his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon WONG Kwok-kin’s motion, and orders a joint debate;
- (c) the President calls on the nine Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon WONG Sing-chi;
 - (ii) Hon Tommy CHEUNG;

- (iii) Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung;
 - (iv) Hon Cyd HO;
 - (v) Hon LI Fung-ying;
 - (vi) Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG;
 - (vii) Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung;
 - (viii) Hon LEE Cheuk-yan; and
 - (ix) Hon Audrey EU;
- (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 WONG Kwok-kin 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 nine Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon WONG Sing-chi to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment;
 - (i) after Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other eight amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon WONG Kwok-kin to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Kwok-kin'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
“Enhancing employment support and
creating employment opportunities”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 25 November 2009**

1. Hon WONG Kwok-kin’s original motion

That, since the reunification, Hong Kong’s growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions, the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;
- (c) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and

- (g) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

2. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That, *the problem of disparity between the rich and the poor has always been a concern in Hong Kong, and* since the reunification, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, ~~the problem is attributed to the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions;~~ *given the continuing socio-economic development as well as changes in the demand for knowledge and technology,* the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up ~~professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels~~ *suitable positions in various sectors and industries;*
- (c) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme *and open it for application by all eligible Hong Kong people, so as* to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, ~~so as to~~ *and* enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f) to promote local community culture economy, ~~issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities,~~ and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and

- (g) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

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

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

That, ~~since the reunification~~ *Hong Kong's economy has experienced ups and downs in the past 12 years, although as a whole*, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% ~~but~~, the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions; *in order to match the direction of developing a knowledge-based economy, the grassroots have even greater needs to add value to themselves by receiving training in order to lift themselves out of poverty, therefore*, the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) *to provide free medium-term and short-term training places in various courses, including those on basic computer skills and language proficiency, etc, for middle-aged people with low educational attainment and low income, and provide an allowance for value-adding to attract those people to pursue further studies, thereby enhancing their competitiveness and enabling them to enjoy better remuneration packages;*
- (b) *in the light of the long-term manpower shortage in some industries, such as the testing and certification industry, and the large number of job vacancies in these industries which are suitable for people with average educational attainment, to expeditiously put forward a concrete blueprint on manpower training and planning, so as to strengthen the relevant education and training efforts and attract suitable talents to enter these industries for development;*
- (a)(c) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;

- (b)(d) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;
- (c)(e) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d)(f) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e)(g) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (h) *to review the licensing policy for ‘dai pai dongs’, which includes assisting the operators of ‘dai pai dongs’ in identifying suitable sites to continue their operation, so as to ensure that the traditional culinary culture of ‘dai pai dongs’ will pass on continuously, thereby creating more employment opportunities;*
- (f)(i) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and
- (g)(j) *to retain as far as possible the existing open-air bazaars and suspend temporarily the Voluntary Surrender Scheme for hawkers, and* consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

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

4. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

That, ~~since the reunification,~~ *as the Government has for a long time ignored the impoverishment of the grassroots and the growth trend of the disparity between the rich and the poor in Hong Kong, resulting that although* Hong Kong’s growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% ~~but~~ *since the reunification,* the population of the poor has increased persistently to over ~~one~~ *1.23* million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first *among developed regions* in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to *the Government’s lack of a comprehensive policy on poverty alleviation as well as* the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions; *in this connection,* the Government

should *formulate a comprehensive policy on poverty alleviation which is conducive to the employment of the grassroots, and at the same time*, allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to ~~adopt the following measures~~ *establish a standard poverty line to serve as the basis for formulating a comprehensive policy on poverty alleviation and employment of the grassroots, and establish a representative committee on poverty alleviation and employment to promote the implementation of the strategies for alleviating poverty and supporting employment, and at the same time, adopt the following measures to enhance employment support and create employment opportunities:*

- (a) *to conduct a detailed evaluation on and inform the public how the six industries can assist the grassroots to secure employment, and* while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;
- (c) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme *on a long-term basis* to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and
- (g) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

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

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

That, since the ~~reunification~~ *handover of sovereignty*, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to *the tilting of government policies towards large consortia, resulting in the workers losing their bargaining power, coupled with* the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions, *which has led to serious unemployment and the worsening of the problem of working poverty*; the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;
- (c) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; ~~and~~
- (g) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses;
- (h) *to establish a poverty line and comprehensively assess the population of the working poverty; and*

- (i) *to include 'elimination of working poverty' as one of the objectives for the enactment of legislation on minimum wage.*

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

6. Motion as amended by Hon LI Fung-ying

That, *in the ten-odd years* since the reunification *in 1997*, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor ~~has increased persistently~~ *in Hong Kong has not reduced but increased* to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first ~~in the world~~ *among developed countries and regions* in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to ~~the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions,~~ *the Government should the Government's excessive blind faith in free markets and over-emphasis on economic development; in this connection, the Government should comprehensively review its policy objectives,* allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment *and improve their livelihood*, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; ~~in this connection,~~ this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education *and employment assistance schemes* to enable young people, new arrivals *and ethnic minorities*, etc to equip themselves ~~for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;~~
- (c) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to ~~subsidize the costs~~ *alleviate the burden* of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d) ~~to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed~~ *to establish an unemployment loan fund and provide employment counselling;*
- (e) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;

- (f) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and
- (g) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

Note: Hon LI Fung-ying's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

7. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun

That, since the reunification, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor;*; on the other hand, many middle-class people who have lost their jobs as a result of the financial tsunami happened last year are still unable to find another job to date;* the problem is attributed to the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions, the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist *the middle class and* the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor *as well as reducing the downward mobility of the middle class;* in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) *to promote the six industries on the major premise that they must create job positions for the middle class and the grassroots, and help them enter these six fast-moving industries, so as to enable more people to benefit directly from the development of the new industries;*
- ~~(a)~~(b) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- ~~(b)~~(c) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;
- (d) *to study the establishment of a switch-occupation loan fund for the unemployed to help those middle class and grassroots people who are unemployed to take professional courses and then switch to the newly-emerging industries;*

- (e)(e) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d)(f) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e)(g) to establish a start-up fund to provide *young people and* the unemployed with ~~capital to~~ *interest-free loans to help them* set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f)(h) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and
- (g)(i) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

Note: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

8. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

That, since the reunification, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions, the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) ~~while developing the six industries,~~ *to construct public facilities such as public housing estates, hospitals, clinics, community centres, schools and roads, so as to increase employment opportunities and improve the quality of life of people, as well as* to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves ~~for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;~~

- (c) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d) to provide *unemployment financial assistance*, re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and
- (g) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

Note: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

9. Motion as amended by Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

That, since the reunification, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions, the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;

- (c) *to extend the on-the-job training period under the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme ('YPTP • YWETS'), and request the employers participating in YPTP • YWETS to draw up detailed training plans for the trainees and regularly review their training progress, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of YPTP • YWETS and increasing their employment opportunities;*
- (e)(d) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- ~~(d) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;~~
- (e) *to restructure the employment services of the Labour Department, establish district-based skills and employment counselling centres, and provide job seeking allowance and one-stop services for the unemployed and job seekers, which includes providing information on job vacancies and training courses, providing counselling on employment and training for people in need, and assisting job seekers with financial difficulties to apply for other assistance, such as Comprehensive Social Security Allowance, public housing rent reduction, tuition fee remission for their children, waiver of medical fees, etc, with a view to helping them to tide over the difficult times and enabling them to have peace of mind when looking for jobs during the unemployment period;*
- (e)(f) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f)(g) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; and
- (g)(h) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses.

Note: Hon LEE Cheuk-yan's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

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

That, since the reunification, Hong Kong's growth in Gross Domestic Product has exceeded 40% but the population of the poor has increased persistently to over one

million, and according to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme, Hong Kong even ranks first in the world in terms of disparity between the rich and the poor, the problem is attributed to the mismatch between manpower supply and job positions, the Government should allocate more resources to expand various employment services as well as continuing education and training, and create jobs to assist the grassroots in securing employment, thereby alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) while developing the six industries, to provide various concessionary measures particularly targeting at labour-intensive industries, such as the recycling industry, in order to encourage and support the development of these industries;
- (b) to provide avenues to continuing education to enable young people, new arrivals, etc to equip themselves for taking up professional positions in the six industries at the middle ranking or supporting levels;
- (c) to introduce a territory-wide transport subsidy scheme to subsidize the costs of low-income employees in working across districts, so as to enable them to have more choices in jobs;
- (d) to provide re-employment support allowance and employment counseling, etc for the unemployed;
- (e) to establish a start-up fund to provide the unemployed with capital to set up their own businesses, and invite professionals to provide support on setting up and operating businesses;
- (f) to promote local community culture economy, issue licences to people engaged in arts and cultural performances and activities, and relax the restrictions on on-street arts and cultural activities; ~~and~~
- (g) to consider allowing regulated hawking activities in specific areas or during specific periods, so as to provide opportunities for running small businesses; *and*
- (h) *to improve the business environment of the recycling industry, which includes providing more market outlets for the materials recovered, creating job positions in the recycling industry and considering the introduction of a licensing system to upgrade the recycling industry.*

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