

(Translation)

Motion on
“Reviewing the existing policy on live poultry in Hong Kong”
moved by Hon Vincent FANG Kang
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 12 May 2010

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon WONG Yung-kan

That, given that Hong Kong has been effective in preventing avian influenza and the remark made publicly by the Secretary for Food and Health that the risks of avian influenza outbreaks have been significantly reduced, coupled with the fact that there has not been a case of indigenous human avian influenza in Hong Kong since 1997 and there was no case of avian influenza outbreak in local farms and Mainland farms which supply chickens to Hong Kong in the past one and a half years; on the other hand, there is still a strong demand for live chickens among Hong Kong people and that quite a number of people express the wish to buy live chickens at affordable prices through more convenient channels, especially during major traditional Chinese festivals; in this connection, this Council urges the Government:

- (a) to review the existing policy on live poultry supply so as to reduce market intervention by administrative means and to appropriately increase the supply of live poultry according to market demand under safe and reasonable conditions, with a view to alleviating the pressure of price increases in live poultry and satisfying people’s needs for live poultry as far as possible;
- (b) to faithfully implement the usual practice of the Food and Health Bureau to maintain the quantity of daily market supply of live poultry from the Mainland and local farms at similar levels;
- (c) to continuously maintain the usual practice for the live poultry trade in the past by appropriately increasing the supply of live poultry from the Mainland to Hong Kong according to market demand during major traditional Chinese festivals under safe circumstances, so as to meet people’s special needs in those festivals;
- (d) to re-assess the need to develop a live poultry slaughtering centre in Hong Kong with regard to economic benefits and risk levels; and
- (e) to seriously consolidate the successful and valuable operational experience of the local live poultry trade in being able to continue to raise, distribute, retail, transport and slaughter live poultry, etc., when facing unprecedented difficulties, and on the basis of such foundation and experience, to promote the development of a new form of local live poultry trade to bring about an increase in the local supply of live poultry while creating more new opportunities for setting up businesses and employment;

- (f) to appropriately raise the ceiling on the quantity of live poultry raised in local farms; and
- (g) to strengthen the monitoring of avian influenza on a farm-to-retail basis, and to allocate additional resources to improve the hygiene of wholesale markets and public markets and to expeditiously improve the ventilating systems and install additional air-conditioning facilities in public markets, etc., so as to comprehensively raise the standard of hygiene in selling live poultry, thereby enabling people to continue to consume safely live poultry.