

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Policy on elderly housing”
moved by Hon LAU Kong-wah
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 30 June 2010**

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi and Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

That, there are currently more than 1.2 million elderly people in Hong Kong which account for about 18% of our population, and safe and stable accommodation and environment are fundamental and important elements of the lives of the elderly, and promoting ‘ageing in the community’ is all the more an important principle and belief of the SAR Government’s elderly policy; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate a targeted, comprehensive and long-term planning policy on elderly housing to meet the challenges arising from an ageing population, which includes:

- (a) to examine afresh the current land planning and formulate a comprehensive land policy with sites earmarked for elderly housing purposes;
- (b) to actively explore the introduction of the ‘mixed use development’ concept in private and public housing, and design a residence model which integrates elderly housing and complementary facilities, so as to lay the foundation for building a society of mutual care between the elderly and the young;
- (c) to draw up a timetable for the expeditious provision of spacious small-sized flats with self-contained kitchens and toilets to all elderly people residing in ‘elderly housing’, so that they can live comfortably and securely;
- (d) to install facilities in old public rental housing (‘PRH’) estates and shopping malls that suit the daily life of elderly people, such as retrofitting handrails and ramps at passageways, paving the floor with non-slippery tiles, installing automatic doors, etc., so as to provide a safe and convenient living environment;
- (e) in PRH estates with relatively more elderly residents, to provide community facilities that can cater for the needs of elderly people, such as pebble paths, gateball courts, fitness equipment, chess tables, etc., and social welfare services such as meal service, personal care, estate clinics as well as recreation centres for the elderly; and to enhance efforts in caring for elderly residents in PRH estates by paying regular visits to singleton and hidden elders and organizing activities for them, so as to enable them to have more contacts with the community;

- (f) making reference to the experience of the Senior Citizen Residences Scheme currently undertaken by the Hong Kong Housing Society, to provide more incentives to encourage developers and non-governmental organizations in possession of land resources, etc. to develop elderly housing projects with complete complementary facilities for living;
- (g) to actively encourage the banking and insurance sectors to explore more financial packages, such as 'elderly housing insurance schemes', 'reverse mortgage schemes', etc., with a view to helping the elderly improve their living environment and lives in their twilight years; and
- (h) to review the existing policies on welfare and health care services for the elderly, and immediately implement the verdict of the High Court to abolish the absence limit for receiving Old Age Allowance, so as to enable those elderly people who choose to live in the Mainland to have peace of mind and enjoy their twilight years there;
- (i) to review the public housing policies relating to the elderly, and increase the supply of elderly housing, with a view to further shortening the waiting time of elderly people for public rental housing ('PRH');
- (j) to enhance or provide relevant schemes under PRH policy to encourage core families to live with or near their elderly relatives to facilitate the caring of the elderly;
- (k) to improve the design and facilities of elderly housing to facilitate the activities of elderly people with disabilities as well as enhance home safety; and
- (l) to review the existing community and medical services for the elderly so as to enhance support for elderly people living at home.