

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 16 February 2011

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Striving for 15-year free education”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 441/10-11 issued on 31 January 2011, three Members (Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, Hon Starry LEE Wai-king and Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong’s motion on “Striving for 15-year free education” scheduled for the Council meeting of 16 February 2011. 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. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and 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 CHEUNG Man-kwong to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the three 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;
 - (ii) Hon Starry LEE; and

(iii) Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG;

- (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 CHEUNG Man-kwong 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 three 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 Hon Audrey EU's amendment;
- (i) after Hon Audrey EU's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other two amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong'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
“Striving for 15-year free education”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 16 February 2011**

1. Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong’s original motion

That early childhood education (‘ECE’) is an important stage in children’s articulation to primary education, and the provision of quality ECE for children is a responsibility that the Government cannot shy away from; last year, the Macao SAR Government already announced the implementation of 15-year free education, indicating that Hong Kong’s basic education policy lags behind that of Macao; given Hong Kong’s strong financial position and its increase in fiscal reserve year after year, the Hong Kong Government is definitely able to and needs to make greater commitment to ECE; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously implement 15-year free education, include ECE in the scope of subsidization, draw up a pay scale and directly subsidize the payment of kindergarten teachers’ salaries, and reasonably increase the subsidies for half-day and whole-day kindergartens, so as to enable parents and children to benefit from completely free basic education, create quality teaching conditions for kindergarten teachers, retain quality kindergarten teachers and comprehensively upgrade the quality of basic education, thereby creating a new chapter of Hong Kong education.

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

That, *given that* early childhood education (‘ECE’) is an important stage in children’s articulation to primary education, and the provision of quality ECE for children is a responsibility that the Government cannot shy away from; last year, the Macao SAR Government already announced the implementation of 15-year free education, indicating that Hong Kong’s basic education policy lags behind that of Macao; given Hong Kong’s strong financial position and its increase in fiscal reserve year after year, the Hong Kong Government is definitely able to and needs to make greater commitment to ECE; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously implement 15-year free education, include ECE in the scope of subsidization, draw up a pay scale and directly subsidize the payment of kindergarten teachers’ salaries, ~~and~~ *establish a sound teacher training system, reduce kindergarten teachers’*

administrative duties, reasonably increase the subsidies for half-day and whole-day kindergartens, *including providing rent allowances and formulating a pre-primary education curriculum*, so as to enable parents and children to benefit from completely free basic education, create quality teaching conditions for kindergarten teachers, retain quality kindergarten teachers and *when implementing 15-year free education*, comprehensively *lower teacher-student ratios* to upgrade the quality of basic education, thereby creating a new chapter of Hong Kong education.

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 Starry LEE Wai-king

That *education is the key to enhancing the quality of our population, while* early childhood education ('ECE') is an important stage in children's articulation to primary education, and the provision of quality ECE for children is a responsibility that the Government cannot shy away from; last year, the Macao SAR Government already announced the implementation of 15-year free education, indicating that Hong Kong's basic education policy lags behind that of Macao; given Hong Kong's strong financial position and its increase in fiscal reserve year after year *but its expenditure on education last year was below one fifth of the Government's public expenditure*, the Hong Kong Government is definitely able to and needs to make greater commitment to ECE; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously implement 15-year free education, include ECE in the scope of subsidization, draw up a pay scale and directly subsidize the payment of kindergarten teachers' salaries, ~~and~~ reasonably increase the subsidies for half-day and whole-day kindergartens, *set up an education fund for teachers and allocate the unspent amounts of the Teacher Development Subsidy to this fund to encourage teachers to receive on-the-job training, improve the teacher-student ratios in ECE institutes, and increase the number of clerical staff in ECE institutes*, so as to enable parents and children to benefit from completely free basic education, create quality teaching conditions for kindergarten teachers, retain quality kindergarten teachers and comprehensively upgrade the quality of basic education, thereby creating a new chapter of Hong Kong education.

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

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

That *receiving* early childhood education ('ECE') is an important stage in children's articulation to primary education, and *growth and can also facilitate their articulation to primary education, hence* the provision of quality ECE for children is a responsibility that the Government cannot shy away from; last year, the Macao SAR Government already announced the implementation of 15-year free education, indicating that Hong Kong's basic education policy lags behind that of Macao; given Hong Kong's strong financial position and its increase in fiscal reserve year after year, the Hong Kong Government is definitely able to and needs to make greater commitment to ECE; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously implement 15-year free education, include ECE in the scope of subsidization, *to enable parents and children to benefit from completely free and quality basic education, and strengthen the training for kindergarten teachers to upgrade their quality;* draw up a pay scale and directly subsidize the payment of kindergarten teachers' salaries, and reasonably increase the subsidies for half-day and whole-day kindergartens, ~~so as to enable parents and children to benefit from completely free basic education, create quality teaching conditions for kindergarten teachers, retain~~ *to offer better job benefits to kindergarten teachers so as to retain* quality kindergarten teachers ~~and;~~ *and improve the pedagogical approach of ECE in Hong Kong by making reference to overseas experience and circumstances; before the actual implementation of free ECE, the Education Bureau should expeditiously complete a comprehensive review of the existing Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme, with a view to raising the subsidy ceiling and streamlining the administrative procedure of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme to benefit more parents of children and kindergarten teachers; moreover, the Government should also review the curriculum contents, teaching quality and teacher qualifications, etc. under the existing 12-year free education system, so as to* comprehensively upgrade the quality of basic education, thereby creating a new chapter of Hong Kong education.

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