

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 18 May 2011

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Alleviating the impact of food price inflation on the public”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 712/10-11 issued on 4 May 2011, five Members (Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon IP Wai-ming, Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou, Hon Vincent FANG Kang and Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon WONG Yung-kan’s motion on “Alleviating the impact of food price inflation on the public” scheduled for the Council meeting of 18 May 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 WONG Yung-kan to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon WONG Yung-kan’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the five 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 Kwok-hing;
 - (ii) Hon IP Wai-ming;

- (iii) Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou;
 - (iv) Hon Vincent FANG Kang; and
 - (v) Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah;
- (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 WONG Yung-kan 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 five Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon WONG Kwok-hing to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Kwok-hing's amendment;
 - (i) after Hon WONG Kwok-hing's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other four amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon WONG Yung-kan to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Yung-kan'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
“Alleviating the impact of food price inflation on the public”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 18 May 2011**

1. Hon WONG Yung-kan’s original motion

That, given that the majority of foods in Hong Kong rely on import, and due to the impact of factors such as global fluctuations in food prices and Renminbi appreciation, etc., the local food prices have remained persistently high; besides, given Mainland residents’ trust in foods which are sold in Hong Kong, particularly after the occurrence of melamine-tainted formula incidents involving Mainland milk products, their demand for infant and follow-up formulas which are sold in Hong Kong has soared, leading to an upsurge in the prices and shortage of stocks; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to alleviate the impact of food price inflation on the public; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to conduct studies on bringing infant and follow-up formulas within the regulatory ambit of the Reserved Commodities Ordinance to ensure their stable supply and enable the Government to effectively monitor their stocks, and to formulate jointly with suppliers a code of sales for the industry as soon as possible, so as to ensure the supply of milk formulas to local users;
- (b) to rebuild the local agriculture and fisheries industry, so as to supplement food supply in Hong Kong;
- (c) to assist local food importers and food establishments, etc., in identifying a wider variety of food materials and expanding the sources of supply, so as to diversify the risks of unstable food supply from individual places;
- (d) to enhance the tests on Mainland and Japanese foods, and to actively seek to establish closer co-operation with the Mainland Government and the Japanese Government on food safety matters, so as to restore public confidence and increase the quantity of safe foods available on the market;

- (e) to formulate a policy on rental and facility improvement which is conducive to the development of public markets to enhance their competitiveness, so as to meet the function of supplying fresh provisions to the general public;
- (f) to further increase the transparency of essential food supply and price information, with a view to facilitating the dissemination of market information and preventing stockpiling and hoarding by unscrupulous traders; and
- (g) to relax the eligibility requirements for short-term food assistance service projects and the period of receiving assistance, and to conduct studies on providing support to the grassroots through the Community Care Fund, etc., in coping with the food price inflation problem.

2. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

That, *inflation is fiercer than a tiger*; given that the majority of foods in Hong Kong rely on import, and due to the impact of factors such as global fluctuations in food prices and Renminbi appreciation, etc., the local food prices have remained persistently high; besides, given Mainland residents' trust in foods which are sold in Hong Kong, particularly after the occurrence of melamine-tainted formula incidents involving Mainland milk products, their demand for infant and follow-up formulas which are sold in Hong Kong has soared, leading to an upsurge in the prices and shortage of stocks; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to alleviate the impact of food price inflation on the public; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to conduct studies on bringing infant and follow-up formulas within the regulatory ambit of the Reserved Commodities Ordinance to ensure their stable supply and enable the Government to effectively monitor their stocks, and to formulate jointly with suppliers a code of sales for the industry as soon as possible, so as to ensure the supply of milk formulas to local users;
- (b) to rebuild the local agriculture and fisheries industry, so as to supplement food supply in Hong Kong;
- (c) to assist local food importers and food establishments, etc., in identifying a wider variety of food materials and expanding the sources of supply, so as to diversify the risks of unstable food supply from individual places;

- (d) to enhance the tests on Mainland and Japanese foods, and to actively seek to establish closer co-operation with the Mainland Government and the Japanese Government on food safety matters, so as to restore public confidence and increase the quantity of safe foods available on the market;
- (e) ~~to formulate a policy on rental and facility improvement which is conducive to the development of public markets to enhance their competitiveness, so as to meet the function of supplying fresh provisions to the general public~~ *to make timely use of the rare 18-month period when the rental of all public markets in Hong Kong continues to be frozen, and set up a government-led working group comprising representatives of market tenants and groups, council representatives and academic representatives for conducting a comprehensive review of the policy on public markets as well as formulating long-term policies and measures which are conducive to the development of public markets; to abolish the unrealistic practice of charging market-level rental and rates, and on the basis of fully consulting the industries, formulate afresh a reasonable and feasible charging policy for rental, air-conditioning fees and electricity tariffs; to allocate additional resources for installing air-conditioning facilities in all public markets to further improve the business environment of public markets, thereby fundamentally enhancing the competitiveness of existing public markets as well as further increasing occupancy rates and reducing vacancy rates, so as to fulfill their function of providing the general public with fresh, inexpensive and quality foods and non-staple foods; on the other hand, the Government must construct public markets in new towns (for example, Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai New Town, etc.), so as to assist new town residents in combating market monopolization and alleviate the heavy burden of goods prices on the grassroots in new towns; and under the programme for planning new development areas (for example, Hung Shui Kiu and Kwu Tung, etc.), reserve land for constructing public markets in advance, so as to enable new town residents to improve their basic living;*
- (f) to further increase the transparency of essential food supply and price information, with a view to facilitating the dissemination of market information and preventing stockpiling and hoarding by unscrupulous traders; and
- (g) to relax the eligibility requirements for short-term food assistance service projects and the period of receiving assistance, and to conduct studies on providing support to the grassroots through the Community Care Fund, etc., in coping with the food price inflation problem.

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

3. Motion as amended by Hon IP Wai-ming

That, *foods are necessities of the public, and* given that the majority of foods in Hong Kong rely on import, and due to the impact of factors such as global fluctuations in food prices and Renminbi appreciation, etc., the local food prices have remained persistently high; besides, given Mainland residents' trust in foods which are sold in Hong Kong, particularly after the occurrence of melamine-tainted formula incidents involving Mainland milk products, their demand for infant and follow-up formulas which are sold in Hong Kong has soared, leading to an upsurge in the prices and shortage of stocks; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to alleviate the impact of food price inflation on the public; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to conduct studies on bringing infant and follow-up formulas within the regulatory ambit of the Reserved Commodities Ordinance to ensure their stable supply and enable the Government to effectively monitor their stocks, and to formulate jointly with suppliers a code of sales for the industry as soon as possible, *and set up dedicated counters in all maternal and child health centres in Hong Kong for selling milk formulas*, so as to ensure the supply of milk formulas to local users *and enable parents of infants to buy milk formulas at fixed sales outlets; at the same time, the Government should proactively promote breast feeding by stepping up publicity on the advantages of breast milk on the one hand, and on the other hand, providing greater protection in legislation for pregnant women and mothers of new-born infants, setting up baby-sitting rooms in all public sector organizations and facilities, and encouraging the business sector to follow suit;*
- (b) to rebuild the local agriculture and fisheries industry, so as to supplement food supply in Hong Kong;
- (c) to assist local food importers and food establishments, etc., in identifying a wider variety of food materials and expanding the sources of supply, so as to diversify the risks of unstable food supply from individual places;

- (d) to enhance the tests on Mainland and Japanese foods, and to actively seek to establish closer co-operation with the Mainland Government and the Japanese Government on food safety matters, so as to restore public confidence and increase the quantity of safe foods available on the market;
- (e) to formulate a policy on rental and facility improvement which is conducive to the development of public markets to enhance their competitiveness, so as to meet the function of supplying fresh provisions to the general public;
- (f) to further increase the transparency of essential food supply and price information, with a view to facilitating the dissemination of market information and preventing stockpiling and hoarding by unscrupulous traders; and
- (g) to relax the eligibility requirements for short-term food assistance service projects and the period of receiving assistance, and to conduct studies on providing support to the grassroots through the Community Care Fund, etc., in coping with the food price inflation problem.

Note: Hon IP Wai-ming's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

4. Motion as amended by Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

That, ~~given that~~ *since 2011, food price inflation in Hong Kong has continued to rise*; the majority of foods in Hong Kong rely on import, and due to the impact of factors such as global fluctuations in food prices and Renminbi appreciation, etc., the local food prices have remained persistently high; besides, given Mainland residents' trust in foods which are sold in Hong Kong, particularly after the occurrence of melamine-tainted formula incidents involving Mainland milk products, their demand for infant and follow-up formulas which are sold in Hong Kong has soared, leading to an upsurge in the prices and shortage of stocks; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to alleviate the impact of food price inflation on the public; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to conduct studies on bringing infant and follow-up formulas within the regulatory ambit of the Reserved Commodities Ordinance to ensure their stable supply and enable the Government to effectively monitor their stocks, and to formulate jointly with suppliers a code of sales for the industry as soon as possible, so as to ensure the supply of milk formulas to local users;

- (b) to rebuild the local agriculture and fisheries industry, so as to supplement food supply in Hong Kong;
- (c) to assist local food importers and food establishments, etc., in identifying a wider variety of food materials and expanding the sources of supply, so as to diversify the risks of unstable food supply from individual places;
- (d) to enhance the tests on Mainland and Japanese foods, and to actively seek to establish closer co-operation with the Mainland Government and the Japanese Government on food safety matters, so as to restore public confidence and increase the quantity of safe foods available on the market;
- (e) to formulate a policy on rental and facility improvement which is conducive to the development of public markets to enhance their competitiveness, so as to meet the function of supplying fresh provisions to the general public;
- (f) to further increase the transparency of essential food supply and price information, with a view to facilitating the dissemination of market information and preventing stockpiling and hoarding by unscrupulous traders; ~~and~~
- (g) to relax the eligibility requirements for short-term food assistance service projects and the period of receiving assistance, ***consider providing Comprehensive Social Security Assistance households, low-income persons and poor elderly persons, etc., with additional food subsidies or food vouchers***, and to conduct studies on providing support to the grassroots through the Community Care Fund, etc., in coping with the food price inflation problem;
- (h) ***through various media such as the radio, television and the Internet, etc., as well as through professionals such as dieticians, etc., to promote inexpensive but nutritious foods to the public, and to encourage the public to buy foods within their means, so as to avoid any public misconception that expensive foods will be exceptionally beneficial to their health;***
- (i) ***to provide poor students with inexpensive lunch in school, so as to ensure students' intake of sufficient nutrients during their development and growth; and***

- (j) *to encourage and facilitate mutual co-operation among community groups, non-government organizations, merchants' associations and food suppliers for organizing short-term anti-inflation bargain bazaars for the public in the 18 districts in turn, with the Government providing venues and necessary support, so as to put together some non-staple foods, such as rice, cooking oil and canned food, etc., for sale at cost, with a view to assisting the public in combating inflation.*

Note: Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Hon Vincent FANG Kang

That, given that the majority of foods in Hong Kong rely on import, and due to the impact of factors such as ~~global fluctuations in food prices and Renminbi appreciation~~ *and the nuclear radiation leakage incident in Japan that causes pollution of the food chain, thereby aggravating global fluctuations in food and non-staple food prices*, etc., the local food prices have remained persistently high; besides, given Mainland residents' trust in foods which are sold in Hong Kong, particularly after the occurrence of melamine-tainted formula incidents involving Mainland milk products, their demand for infant and follow-up formulas which are sold in Hong Kong has soared, leading to an upsurge in the prices and shortage of stocks; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to *increase the channels of food supply and assist the industries in reducing additional costs, so as to* alleviate the impact of food price inflation on the public; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to conduct studies on bringing infant and follow-up formulas within the regulatory ambit of the Reserved Commodities Ordinance to ensure their stable supply and enable the Government to effectively monitor their stocks, and to formulate jointly with suppliers a code of sales for the industry as soon as possible *and encourage suppliers and parents of infants to establish corresponding channels of communication*, so as to ensure the supply of milk formulas to local users;
- (b) *to step up negotiations with the Mainland authorities on how to ensure stable supply of foods to Hong Kong, especially for the stable supply of live and fresh foods such as live pigs and cattle, and to make efforts to enhance competition so as to avoid drastic fluctuations in food prices; and, on the premise of declining avian influenza risks, to appropriately increase the Mainland's supply of live chickens to Hong Kong according to market demand during major traditional Chinese*

festivals, so as to reduce the negative impact of food price inflation on the public;

- (~~b~~)(c) to rebuild the local agriculture and fisheries industry, so as to supplement food supply in Hong Kong;
- (~~e~~)(d) to assist local food importers and food establishments, etc., in identifying a wider variety of food materials and expanding the sources of supply, so as to diversify the risks of unstable food supply from individual places;
- (e) *to lower the various registration fees and application fees imposed on food industries by the Government, including the registration fees for applying for small volume exemption under the food nutrition labelling scheme and the registration fees for food importers and food distributors under the Food Safety Ordinance, etc., so as to reduce the extra administrative fees borne by these industries;*
- (~~d~~)(f) to enhance the tests on Mainland and Japanese foods, and to actively seek to establish closer co-operation with the Mainland Government and the Japanese Government on food safety matters, so as to restore public confidence and increase the quantity of safe foods available on the market;
- (g) *to establish a mechanism for providing food industries with immediate assistance, such as providing certification for unpolluted foods, whenever there are any major food pollution emergencies such as those involving malachite green, melamine as well as nuclear radiation pollution in Japan, etc., so as to ensure that it will not affect the market supply;*
- (~~e~~)(h) to formulate a policy on rental and facility improvement which is conducive to the development of public markets to enhance their competitiveness *and lower operating costs of market tenants*, so as to meet the function of supplying fresh provisions to the general public;
- (~~f~~)(i) to further increase the transparency of essential food *and non-staple food* supply and price information, with a view to facilitating the dissemination of market information and preventing stockpiling and hoarding by unscrupulous traders; and
- (~~g~~)(j) to relax the eligibility requirements for short-term food assistance service projects and the period of receiving assistance, and to conduct studies on providing support to the grassroots through the Community Care Fund, etc., in coping with the food price inflation problem.

Note: Hon Vincent FANG Kang's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

6. Motion as amended by Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah

That, given that the majority of foods in Hong Kong rely on import, and due to the impact of factors such as global fluctuations in food prices and Renminbi appreciation, etc., the local food prices have remained persistently high, *affecting people from different strata of the community*; besides, given Mainland residents' trust in foods which are sold in Hong Kong, particularly after the occurrence of melamine-tainted formula incidents involving Mainland milk products, their demand for infant and follow-up formulas which are sold in Hong Kong has soared, leading to an upsurge in the prices and shortage of stocks; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to alleviate the impact of food price inflation on the public; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to conduct studies on bringing infant and follow-up formulas within the regulatory ambit of the Reserved Commodities Ordinance to ensure their stable supply and enable the Government to effectively monitor their stocks, and to formulate jointly with suppliers a code of sales for the industry as soon as possible, so as to ensure the supply of milk formulas to local users;
- (b) to rebuild the local agriculture and fisheries industry, so as to supplement food supply in Hong Kong;
- (c) to assist local food importers and food establishments, etc., in identifying a wider variety of food materials and expanding the sources of supply, so as to diversify the risks of unstable food supply from individual places;
- (d) to enhance the tests on Mainland and Japanese foods, and to actively seek to establish closer co-operation with the Mainland Government and the Japanese Government on food safety matters, so as to restore public confidence and increase the quantity of safe foods available on the market;
- (e) to formulate a policy on rental and facility improvement which is conducive to the development of public markets to enhance their competitiveness, so as to meet the function of supplying fresh provisions to the general public;

- (f) to further increase the transparency of essential food supply and price information, *or consider the provision of subsidies for staple foods*, with a view to facilitating the dissemination of market information and preventing stockpiling and hoarding by unscrupulous traders; ~~and~~
- (g) *in respect of the supply of staple foods, to introduce more suppliers to increase competition, so as to prevent individual major merchants' associations from monopolizing the food market; and*
- ~~(g)~~(h) to relax the eligibility requirements for short-term food assistance service projects and the period of receiving assistance, and to conduct studies on providing support to the grassroots through the Community Care Fund, etc., in coping with the food price inflation problem.

Note: Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.