

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(3) 172/10-11

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

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**Council meeting of 17 November 2010**

**Proposed amendments to motion on  
“Reviewing the coverage of the safety net”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 141/10-11 issued on 5 November 2010, 10 Members (Hon LEE Cheuk-yan, Hon WONG Sing-chi, Hon IP Wai-ming, Hon James TO Kun-sun, Hon TAM Yiu-chung, Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung, Hon CHAN Kin-por and Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee’s motion on “Reviewing the coverage of the safety net” scheduled for the Council meeting of 17 November 2010. 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 Miriam LAU to speak and move her motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Miriam LAU’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the 10 Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
  - (i) Hon LEE Cheuk-yan;
  - (ii) Hon WONG Sing-chi;
  - (iii) Hon IP Wai-ming;

- (iv) Hon James TO;
  - (v) Hon TAM Yiu-chung;
  - (vi) Hon Ronny TONG;
  - (vii) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che;
  - (viii) Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung;
  - (ix) Hon CHAN Kin-por; and
  - (x) Hon Frederick FUNG;
- (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 Miriam LAU 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 10 Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon LEE Cheuk-yan to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon LEE Cheuk-yan's amendment;
  - (i) after Hon LEE Cheuk-yan's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other nine amendments; and
  - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Miriam LAU to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Miriam LAU's motion, or her 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  
“Reviewing the coverage of the safety net”  
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting  
of Wednesday, 17 November 2010**

**1. Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee’s original motion**

That, as the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a ‘low-income living supplement’, so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;

- (f) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; and
- (h) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them.

## 2. Motion as amended by Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

That, as *this Council opines that ‘rich Government but poor people’ is one of the deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong, and as* the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a ‘low-income living supplement’, so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty; *in the long run, the Government should establish a system of ‘Negative Income Tax’, so as to benefit a greater number of working-poor households;*
- (b) *to set up savings accounts for CSSA recipients with job income, and deposit into such accounts the whole or part of the amounts deducted from their CSSA for reasons of ‘assessable income’, so that when such recipients get out of the CSSA net due to income improvements or as a result of their accounts having accumulated a prescribed amount, they can have a*

*substantial amount of savings, so as to increase their sense of financial security and reduce their chances of falling back into the CSSA net;*

- ~~(b)~~(c) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- ~~(e)~~(d) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroots workers;
- ~~(d)~~(e) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroots children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- ~~(e)~~(f) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;
- ~~(f)~~(g) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- ~~(g)~~(h) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; ~~and~~
- (i) *to immediately study the establishment of a universal retirement protection system, so as to provide instant benefits to all elderly persons in Hong Kong; and*
- ~~(h)~~(j) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them.

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

### **3. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi**

That, as *the disparity between the rich and the poor is serious at present, but* the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the

accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a ‘low-income living supplement’, so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;
- (f) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least ~~\$1,000~~ **\$1,200** a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; ~~and~~
- (h) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them;

- (i) *to allocate \$10 billion for establishing a ‘residential care homes development fund’ to provide interest-free loans to non-governmental organizations for constructing self-financed residential care homes for the elderly and persons with disabilities;*
- (j) *to establish a ‘subsidy system for carers of persons with disabilities’ to offer a monthly grant of \$1,000 to persons who need to look after their family members with disabilities on a long-term basis, so as to relieve their financial needs;*
- (k) *to allocate \$10 billion for establishing a ‘medicines subsidy fund’;*
- (l) *to relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance by allowing elderly persons to return to Hong Kong only once a year for ‘reporting’, and to study allowing elderly persons to receive Disability Allowance and Old Age Allowance at the same time;*
- (m) *to care for the life of elderly persons after retirement, and establish a ‘universal retirement protection scheme’ with immediate effect so that all people who are aged 60 or above are eligible for receiving an ‘old age pension’, so as to ensure that the elderly will be able to maintain a reasonable standard of living; and*
- (n) *to immediately adjust the CSSA rent allowance to alleviate the financial burden of recipients.*

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

#### **4. Motion as amended by Hon IP Wai-ming**

That, as *in recent years, the Hong Kong economy has turned unstable due to the inflation caused by the depreciation of the Hong Kong dollar and the appreciation of Renminbi, and the incomes of some grassroots have been decreasing, yet the fiscal reserves of the Government have increased rather than decreased for the reason that* the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, *and* surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net,

appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA'), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a 'low-income living supplement', so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) *focusing on the unemployed and poor people, the Government should formulate a poverty line, so as to get a grasp of the poverty situation in Hong Kong, and provide the unemployed with unemployment assistance, with a view to assisting them in coping with their financial difficulties;*
- ~~(b)~~(c) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- ~~(e)~~(d) through promoting the local community economy; *and the local cultural economy, while developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting, to also maintain the competitive edge of the four existing major economic pillars, and positively support* the development of social enterprises, *so as* to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- ~~(d)~~(e) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- ~~(e)~~(f) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment, *and formulate a timetable for completely abolishing cage homes;*
- ~~(f)~~(g) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment *and put in place a modern apprenticeship system;*
- ~~(g)~~(h) to *lift and* further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly *respectively*, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; ~~and~~
- ~~(h)~~(i) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly ~~and~~, provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit



them, *and provide allowances to carers of elderly persons in the communities;*

- (j) *to expeditiously establish a universal retirement protection system;*
- (k) *to increase the amount of Disability Allowance received by indigent persons with disabilities, so that persons with disabilities living in the community can afford appropriate care and assistance; and*
- (l) *to expand the coverage of Samaritan Fund, and follow the example of 'Medifund' in Singapore to offer ultimate support to persons who are unable to pay medical charges, so that they can receive timely and necessary treatment.*

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

## **5. Motion as amended by Hon James TO Kun-sun**

That, as *the disparity between the rich and the poor is serious at present, but* the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be 'flooded by cash' has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of 'falling through the net'; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA'), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a 'low-income living supplement', so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;

- (c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e) ***to introduce more generous measures for persons living in cage homes, cubicle apartments or en suite units to assist them in securing public rental housing allocation more expeditiously, and*** to actively assist poor families living in cage homes ~~or cubicle apartments~~, ***cubicle apartments or en suite units*** in improving their living environment;
- (f) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; and
- (h) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them.

Note: Hon James TO Kun-sun's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

## 6. Motion as amended by Hon TAM Yiu-chung

That, ~~as the Government has adopted~~ ***the disparity between the rich and the poor in Hong Kong is serious and this is attributable to the Government's adoption of a conservative fiscal policy for years, and*** surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded ***by the SAR Government*** in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be 'flooded by cash' has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of 'falling through the net'; in this connection, this Council ~~proposes~~ ***urges*** that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to

cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA'), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a 'low-income living supplement', so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged *and the employment training for young people, expand the services provided by the Employees Retraining Board for new arrivals*, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c) *to strengthen the assistance for ethnic minorities in securing employment and resolving their livelihood difficulties, including establishing additional community support service centres for ethnic minorities and Chinese learning centres; set up telephone hotlines on labour legislation and rights in ethnic minorities' languages; and review the entry requirement in respect of Chinese language proficiency for civil service posts and employ more ethnic minorities as civil servants;*
- ~~(e)~~(d) through promoting the local community economy, ~~developing~~ *establishing a development fund for the six major industries to develop* the six industries with competitive edge ~~and~~, positively supporting the development of social enterprises, *and proactively attracting Mainland enterprises to expand their business in Hong Kong, so as* to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- ~~(d)~~(e) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities; *lower the threshold of applying for full grants under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme, and reduce the interest rates of tertiary student loans;*
- ~~(e)~~(f) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;
- ~~(f)~~(g) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment, *and create more posts suitable for youngsters, so as to lower the youth unemployment rate;*
- ~~(g)~~(h) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least

\$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; and

- ~~(h)~~(i) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them;
- (j) *to study the introduction of a policy of portable elderly welfare benefits, and provide allowances to elderly persons who return to their hometowns to live, so that those elderly persons intending to spend their twilight years in their hometowns can receive a monthly living supplement; proactively study in conjunction with the relevant Mainland departments the introduction of medical insurance schemes for Hong Kong elderly people living in the Mainland, and consider collaborating with the relevant Mainland organizations to run hospitals or provide out-patient services, so as to serve the Hong Kong people living in the Mainland;*
- (k) *to implement a ‘mortgage scheme for the elderly’ (i.e. ‘reverse mortgage’), so as to assist elderly property owners in obtaining money for meeting their living expenses and improving their lives in twilight years;*
- (l) *to allocate additional resources for increasing the quota of ‘integrated home care services’ and upgrade the quality of care workers; establish additional elderly health centres and increase the number of their members; and set up additional elderly community care and outreaching teams to provide specialized assistance to ‘elderly persons at risk’ and build a community care network for them;*
- (m) *to motivate transport operators to offer comprehensive fare concessions to elderly persons and persons with disabilities, and introduce free-travel days for elderly persons permanently; and*
- (n) *to improve primary healthcare services, including increasing the quotas of existing public out-patient services, enhancing the appointment service and introducing overnight public out-patient services; ease the problem of excessively long waiting time for specialist services and non-urgent surgical operations; improve psychiatric services and support arrangements; and build additional hospitals and introduce Chinese medicine in-patient services.*

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

## 7. Motion as amended by Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah

That, as the Government *lacks a long-term social welfare policy and* has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded ~~in the past~~; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the *very* substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a ‘low-income living supplement’, so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;
- (f) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; ~~and~~

- (h) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them;
- (i) *to abolish the system of requiring children to sign a ‘declaration of not providing support to parents’ (commonly known as a ‘bad son statement’), so that elderly persons with financial difficulties who live with their children may also apply for CSSA independently and have support and security in their twilight years; and*
- (j) *to reinstate the mode of formulating long-term social welfare planning every five years, so that social welfare services can be effectively delivered to really benefit needy persons.*

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

## **8. Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che**

That, as the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a ‘low-income living supplement’, so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) *to establish an emergency unemployment relief fund to provide the unemployed with transitional financial assistance;*

- (b)(c) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c)(d) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d)(e) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e)(f) ~~to actively assist~~ *to expedite the construction of public rental housing units to enable* poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments ~~in improving their living environment~~ *to move into public rental housing expeditiously;*
- (f)(g) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g)(h) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; ~~and~~
- (h)(i) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them;
- (j) *to establish a chronic disease allowance as a supplement to needy chronic patients for purchasing medicine, medical supplies and auxiliary aids and employing home care workers, etc.;*
- (k) *to establish a long-term care allowance to provide assistance for elderly persons and persons with disabilities requiring long-term care in purchasing residential care and day care services, or providing subsidies to their carers; and*
- (l) *to establish a universal retirement protection system, so as to ensure that grassroot workers and family workers can have financial support in their twilight years.*

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

## 9. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

That, as the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a ‘low-income living supplement’, so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- ~~(c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;~~
- ~~(d)~~(c) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- ~~(e)~~(d) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in ~~improving their living environment~~ ***moving into public rental housing, and construct 35 000 public rental housing units every year;***
- ~~(f)~~(e) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment, ***and establish an unemployment assistance fund;***
- ~~(g)~~(f) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, ~~increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so~~



~~as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; and~~ ***raise the rates of CSSA and Old Age Allowance, and establish a universal old age pension;***

- ~~(h)~~(g) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them, ***including increasing the number of places of care-and-attention homes for the elderly (outside the Bought Place Scheme) by 2 500 annually and the number of places of nursing homes (outside the Bought Place Scheme) by 2 000 annually;***
- (h) ***the Government to cease all outsourcing exercises to avoid contractors' exploitation of their employees, so as to improve the situation of the working poor;***
- (i) ***the Government to buy back the Link Real Estate Investment Trust to enable small shop operators to carry on their business and residents to buy low-priced goods, with a view to protecting the livelihood of the grassroots;***
- (j) ***to introduce progressive profit tax and capital gains tax, and increase stamp duty, so as to cover the aforesaid additional expenditure to be incurred by the Government; and***
- (k) ***to formulate a poverty line and a timetable for combating poverty.***

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

## **10. Motion as amended by Hon CHAN Kin-por**

That, as the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be 'flooded by cash' has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of 'falling through the net'; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA'), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a 'low-income living supplement', so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;
- (f) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; ~~and~~
- (h) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them; *and*
- (i) *to expeditiously study the establishment of a universal retirement protection system, so as to make up for the inadequacies of the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme.*

Note: Hon CHAN Kin-por's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

## 11. Motion as amended by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee

That, as the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be 'flooded by cash' has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of 'falling through the net'; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA'), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a 'low-income living supplement', so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;
- (f) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; ~~and~~

- (h) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them; *and*
- (i) *to re-establish the Commission on Poverty to formulate indicators on the population of the poor.*

Note: Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.