

(Translation)

Motion on
“Assisting the public in coping with economic fluctuations”
moved by Dr Hon Philip WONG
at the Council meeting of 9 November 2011

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi and Hon Tanya CHAN

That, as the Hong Kong economy is closely linked to the global economy, external economic fluctuations have profound and far-reaching impact on Hong Kong, and the prospects of the global economy are uncertain at present, this Council urges the Government to closely monitor the economic situation and adopt suitable and effective measures to assist people from different strata and enterprises in coping with difficulties such as inflation and employment, etc., so that they can tide over the difficult times; focusing on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) recipients, the Government should adopt the following measure: to review the existing CSSA system, including shortening the interval of each adjustment cycle of CSSA, with special focus on rent allowance, so as to reflect more accurately the impact of price changes on CSSA recipients, and expeditiously reviewing the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates as well as the items to be included in the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices; the specific measures should also include:

- (a) when necessary, to further expand the existing Special Loan Guarantee Scheme for small and medium enterprises (‘SMEs’), including raising the maximum amount of loan guarantee and the guarantee ratio, so that SMEs can be granted sufficient working capital in a timely manner;
- (b) to closely monitor the vetting and approval of loans by banks, so as to ensure that banks have sufficient capital and liquidity for maintaining the stability of the banking system and the financial market;
- (c) to review the operation and funding criteria of the existing SME Export Marketing Fund, so that SMEs can develop emerging markets through various channels and lessen their reliance on traditional markets;
- (d) to review the existing land supply policy for alleviating the fluctuations of the property market, so as to curb the upward trend in rentals and reduce the operating costs of businesses;
- (e) to review the existing hawker policy, and on the premise of not affecting the business environment for small businesses in the districts, to allow

business starters to carry out trading in more diverse forms in the communities, so as to reduce business operators' rentals and operating costs; and

- (f) to promote the development of social enterprises more proactively, so as to create more employment opportunities for local workers, and avoid the deterioration of the unemployment situation due to changes in economic conditions.