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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 9 May 2012

**Amendments to motion on
“Caring about the education, employment
and housing problems faced by young people”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 687/11-12 issued on 25 April 2012, three Members (Hon Audrey EU, Hon IP Wai-ming and Hon WONG Sing-chi) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon CHAN Hak-kan’s motion on “Caring about the education, employment and housing problems faced by young people” scheduled for the Council meeting of 9 May 2012. As directed by the President, the respective 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 CHAN Hak-kan to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon CHAN Hak-kan’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 IP Wai-ming; and
 - (iii) Hon WONG Sing-chi;
- (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 CHAN Hak-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 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 CHAN Hak-kan to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon CHAN Hak-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
“Caring about the education, employment
and housing problems faced by young people”
to be held at the Council meeting of 9 May 2012**

1. Hon CHAN Hak-kan’s original motion

That young people are the future pillars of society, but in the face of globalization and the rapid development of neighbouring places, Hong Kong young people not only face many challenges during their growth, but also lack upward mobility opportunities, and this is especially highlighted in their education, employment and housing aspirations; however, the Government has all along failed to formulate any support measures with young people as the main targets; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to care about young people’s needs, and assist them in concentrating on their education, establishing their career and resolving their housing needs; specific measures should include:

Education -

- (a) to enhance the qualification recognition of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, sub-degrees and the new Yi Jin Diploma in Hong Kong, the Mainland and the international community, so as to widen young people’s pathways of further studies;
- (b) to dovetail with the concept of promoting students’ whole-person development under the new academic structure by introducing an extra-curricular activities allowance for students to subsidize their participation in extra-curricular activities;
- (c) to promote the commencement of ‘career planning’ at the stage of secondary education, so as to enable secondary students to make better planning for their future career development;

Employment -

- (d) to review the planning of employment training support services for young people, enhance the existing Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, and

raise the level of the relevant subsidies, so as to attract the participation of more employers to provide more employment and training opportunities in the market which are suitable for young people;

- (e) to set up more 'Youth Employment Start' ('Y.E.S.') resource centres throughout Hong Kong, strengthen the training programmes targeted at young people, enhance their employment skills, and provide one-stop employment counselling;
- (f) focusing on the development of the six industries and creative industries, to enhance training and provide better support to help young people join the relevant industries;

Housing -

- (g) to relax the existing eligibility criteria for applying for public rental housing, and address low-income young people's housing needs;
- (h) to allow eligible white form applicants to purchase Home Ownership Scheme flats without having to pay the premium, so as to assist young people in accessing the home acquisition ladder; and
- (i) focusing on young people with relatively stable financial income, to study re-launching the Home Starter Loan Scheme.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Audrey EU

That *the SAR Government has all along lacked a comprehensive youth policy, and* young people are the future pillars of society, but in the face of globalization and the rapid development of neighbouring places, Hong Kong young people not only face many challenges during their growth, but also lack upward mobility opportunities, and this is especially highlighted in their education, employment and housing aspirations; however, the Government has all along failed to formulate any support measures with young people as the main targets; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to care about young people's needs, ~~and~~ assist them in concentrating on their education, establishing their career and resolving their housing needs, *and promote young people's social participation*; specific measures should include:

Education -

- (a) to enhance the qualification recognition of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, sub-degrees and the new Yi Jin

Diploma in Hong Kong, the Mainland and the international community, so as to widen young people's pathways of further studies;

- (b) to dovetail with the concept of promoting students' whole-person development under the new academic structure by introducing an extra-curricular activities allowance for students to subsidize their participation in extra-curricular activities;
- (c) to promote the commencement of 'career planning' at the stage of secondary education, so as to enable secondary students to make better planning for their future career development;
- (e) *to further increase the places for publicly-funded bachelor's degree programmes;*
- (f) *to review the financial assistance and loan system for students, alleviate the financial burden of young people after their graduation, and implement the abolition of the risk rate of the non-means-tested loan scheme;*

Employment -

- ~~(d)~~(g) to review the planning of employment training support services for young people, enhance the existing Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, and raise the level of the relevant subsidies, so as to attract the participation of more employers to provide more employment and training opportunities in the market which are suitable for young people;
- ~~(e)~~(h) to set up more 'Youth Employment Start' ('Y.E.S.') resource centres throughout Hong Kong, strengthen the training programmes targeted at young people, enhance their employment skills, and provide one-stop employment counselling;
- ~~(f)~~(i) focusing on the development of the six industries and creative industries, to enhance training and provide better support to help young people join the relevant industries;

Housing -

- ~~(g)~~(j) to relax the existing eligibility criteria for applying for public rental housing, ~~and~~ ('PRH'), address low-income young people's housing needs, *and review the existing allocation system for single-person PRH units;*

- ~~(h)~~(k) to allow eligible white form applicants to purchase Home Ownership Scheme flats without having to pay the premium, so as to assist young people in accessing the home acquisition ladder; ~~and~~
- (i)(l) focusing on young people with relatively stable financial income, to study re-launching the Home Starter Loan Scheme;

Social participation -

- (m) *to review the existing composition and functions of the Commission on Youth;*
- (n) *to convene youth summits and related local forums on youth issues annually, and promote young people's participation in such summits and forums; and*
- (o) *to increase the ratio of youth participation in various statutory and advisory bodies, and set specific targets accordingly.*

Note: Hon Audrey EU's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon IP Wai-ming

That, *as we all know*, young people are the future pillars of society, but in the face of globalization and the rapid development of neighbouring places, Hong Kong young people not only face many challenges during their growth, but also lack upward mobility opportunities, and this is especially highlighted in their education, employment and housing aspirations; however, the Government has all along failed to formulate any support measures with young people as the main targets; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to care about young people's needs, and assist them in concentrating on their education, establishing their career and resolving their housing needs; specific measures should include:

Education -

- (a) to enhance the qualification recognition of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, sub-degrees and the new Yi Jin Diploma in Hong Kong, the Mainland and the international community, so as to widen young people's pathways of further studies;

- (b) to dovetail with the concept of promoting students' whole-person development under the new academic structure by introducing an extra-curricular activities allowance for students to subsidize their participation in extra-curricular activities;
- (c) to promote the commencement of 'career planning' at the stage of secondary education, so as to enable secondary students to make better planning for their future career development;
- (d) *to strengthen vocational education for students of post-secondary and tertiary institutions, so that young people can get an early grasp of the objectives concerning career prospects, and lay a good foundation for upward mobility;*
- (e) *to increase the number of internship places in Hong Kong and overseas for students of the various tertiary institutions;*
- (f) *to comprehensively review the assistance as well as loans and repayment arrangements under the various existing student finance schemes, including abolishing the risk rate; significantly lower the interest rates of all loan schemes for tertiary students and waive the interest accrued during students' study periods under the Non-means-tested Loan Scheme; change the situation where interest rates of student loans are higher than those of bank mortgages; allow tax deduction on repayment amounts of university education loans; study the feasibility of allowing local students to apply for student loans for pursuing further education overseas; and increase the grant amounts for tertiary students;*
- (g) *to comprehensively review the Continuing Education Fund Scheme, including raising the cap on the amount of subsidy receivable by each applicant and extending the period of four years within which applicants must submit all claims as required by the Continuing Education Fund, etc., so as to encourage young people to pursue continuous education;*
- (h) *to strengthen the manning ratio of student guidance personnel in secondary schools and tertiary institutions, so as to assist young people in facing problems related to education, family, friends and career prospects, etc.;*

Employment -

- (d)(i) to review the planning of employment training support services for young people, enhance the existing Youth Pre-employment Training

Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, and raise the level of the relevant subsidies, so as to attract the participation of more employers to provide more employment and training opportunities in the market which are suitable for young people;

- (e)(j) to set up more 'Youth Employment Start' ('Y.E.S.') resource centres throughout Hong Kong, strengthen the training programmes targeted at young people, enhance their employment skills, and provide one-stop employment counselling;
- (f)(k) ~~focusing on the development of the six industries to expedite the upgrading of the four pillar industries, and promote the development of the six industries with competitive edge~~ and creative industries, to enhance training and provide better support to help young people join the relevant industries;
- (l) *to enhance the applicability and effectiveness of the training and employment support structure for young people, and assist young people in joining industries which need new blood, such as construction industry, transport industry and shipping industry;*
- (m) *to motivate employers to provide employees with 'training leave', including offering tax concessions to such employers, so as to facilitate working young people to pursue studies, revise their lessons and acquire professional qualifications by examination;*
- (n) *to co-operate with organizations and enterprises in the public and private sectors to encourage the employment of young people with less working experience and share with them the associated salary payments, so as to enhance young people's chances of securing employment;*
- (o) *to proactively approach young people who have remained jobless for a long time and hidden youths, so as to provide career counselling and support to them;*
- (p) *to proactively develop apprenticeship programmes, including expanding the scope of industries covered by the apprenticeship system, so as to give young people a chance to practise while learning and provide them with a career ladder;*
- (q) *to establish a start-up fund for young people and provide business start-up advice and loans, so as to assist young people in devising their business start-up plans and further practice;*

- (r) *to subsidize young people from low-income families to attend self-enrichment courses, so as to enhance their competitiveness in choosing their own careers;*

Housing -

- ~~(g)~~(s) *to relax review the existing eligibility criteria for applying for public rental housing, and address low-income young people's housing needs; ('PRH'), including studying the reasons for young people to apply for PRH as well as the required waiting time and allocation situation, so as to formulate a more reasonable and fairer method for waiting for and allocation of PRH for young people, and also putting forward measures, such as raising the household income ceiling, to encourage young people to live with their parents;*
- (t) *to increase the annual PRH production to 30 000 units or more, including resuming the construction of Group B PRH for renting by eligible young people subject to time limits, so as to address low-income young people's housing needs;*
- ~~(h)~~(u) *to allow eligible white form applicants and eligible persons currently waiting for PRH allocation to purchase Home Ownership Scheme flats without having to pay the premium, so as to assist young people in accessing the home acquisition ladder; and*
- ~~(i)~~(v) *focusing on young people with relatively stable financial income, to study re-launching the Home Starter Loan Scheme.*

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

4. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That young people *can make great contributions to society, and they* are the future pillars of society, but in the face of globalization and the rapid development of neighbouring places, Hong Kong young people not only face many challenges during their growth, but also lack upward mobility opportunities, and this is especially highlighted in their education, employment and housing aspirations; however, the Government has all along failed to formulate any support measures with young people as the main targets; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to care about young people's needs, and assist them in concentrating on their education, establishing their career and resolving their housing needs; specific measures should include:

Education -

- (a) to enhance the qualification recognition of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, sub-degrees and the new Yi Jin Diploma in Hong Kong, the Mainland and the international community, ***increase the places for publicly-funded bachelor's degree and various types of diploma programmes, allocate more resources for providing relevant financial subsidies, and formulate a comprehensive education and training policy for young people***, so as to widen young people's pathways of further studies;
- (b) to dovetail with the concept of promoting students' whole-person development under the new academic structure by introducing an extra-curricular activities allowance for students to subsidize their participation in extra-curricular activities;
- (c) to promote the commencement of 'career planning' at the stage of secondary education, so as to enable secondary students to make better planning for their future career development;
- (d) ***to advocate family-friendly policies, assist students' parents in understanding more deeply and caring about the needs of young people during their growth, provide adequate social workers for schools, families and the community, assist young people in facing the pressure from learning and life, and strengthen the healthy life development of young people;***

Employment -

- ~~(d)~~(e) to review the planning of employment training support services for young people, enhance the existing Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, and raise the level of the relevant subsidies, so as to attract the participation of more employers to provide more employment and training opportunities in the market which are suitable for young people;
- ~~(e)~~(f) to set up more 'Youth Employment Start' ('Y.E.S.') resource centres throughout Hong Kong, strengthen the training programmes targeted at young people, enhance their employment skills, and provide one-stop employment counselling;
- ~~(f)~~(g) focusing on the development of the six industries and creative industries, to enhance training and provide better support to help young people join the relevant industries;

- (h) *to formulate a comprehensive employment and training policy for young people, co-ordinate the various existing youth employment training programmes, review the recognition of the various programmes, actual employment rates and the problem of job matching, assist young people in entering the labour market, including providing internship places to secondary school leavers to enhance their competitiveness;*
- (i) *to create the posts of junior attendant at tourism spots to provide employment opportunities for unemployed young people;*

Housing -

- ~~(g)~~(j) *to build more public rental housing flats, relax the existing eligibility criteria for applying for public rental housing, and address low-income young people's housing needs;*
- ~~(h)~~(k) *to allow eligible white form applicants to purchase Home Ownership Scheme flats in the secondary market without having to pay the premium, so as to assist young people in accessing the home acquisition ladder; and*
- ~~(i)~~(l) *focusing on young people with relatively stable financial income, to study re-launching the Home Starter Loan Scheme on the premise of having an adequate supply of private housing;*
- (m) *to re-launch the Sale of Flats to Sitting Tenants Scheme, so that young people can live together with their parents without being subject to means test; and*
- (n) *to assist non-government organizations in providing hostels for youths, so as to offer hostel places to young people at relatively inexpensive rents.*

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