

立法會
Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 16 May 2012

**Amendments to motion on
“Promoting family harmony”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 714/11-12 issued on 4 May 2012, four Members (Hon WONG Sing-chi, Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou, Hon Ronny TONG and Hon LEE Cheuk-yan) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Starry LEE’s motion on “Promoting family harmony” scheduled for the Council meeting of 16 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 the 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 Starry LEE to speak and move her motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Starry LEE’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the four 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 Sing-chi;
 - (ii) Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou;

- (iii) Hon Ronny TONG; and
 - (iv) Hon LEE Cheuk-yan;
- (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 Starry LEE to speak for the second time on the two 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 four Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon WONG Sing-chi to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment;
 - (i) after Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other three amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Starry LEE to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Starry LEE'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
“Promoting family harmony”
to be held at the Council meeting of 16 May 2012**

1. Hon Starry LEE’s original motion

That, as social problems such as the rising divorce rate, family tragedies, child abuse and neglect of children, as well as compensated dating and drug abuse among young people still occur from time to time in Hong Kong, reflecting that at present some families lack cohesion and mutual love, this Council urges the Government to make stronger efforts in promoting family-friendly policies and enhancing the resilience of families and individuals against adversities, so as to achieve family harmony and promote social inclusion; the proposed measures include:

- (a) introducing an assessment system regarding the impact of public policies on families to assess the impact of existing social policies, legislation and measures on families, with a view to making relevant improvements;
- (b) providing more support services to dual-income parents, including expanding community childminding services, increasing the childminding places in various districts and providing flexible childminding service hours, etc.; developing after-school remedial centres so that children of dual-income parents can receive appropriate care after school;
- (c) promoting public and private organizations to implement family-friendly employment policies more proactively for creating a family-friendly working environment, including encouraging organizations to provide staff with child care services and implementing flexible working hours, as well as implementing a flexible leave policy which provides special paid leave for employees such as wedding leave, paternity leave, study leave, compassionate leave, etc., when they encounter major family events;
- (d) including all general holidays other than Sundays as paid statutory holidays through a progressive approach of employer-employee negotiation; and promoting ‘International Day of Families’ to call on the community to cherish the value of family;

- (e) promoting a housing policy which fosters mutual care between the elderly and the young and encouraging the inclusion of residential complementary facilities suitable for both the elderly and the young in the designs of private and public housing; as well as improving community facilities to provide families with more room for parent-child activities;
- (f) actively stepping up publicity on positive family education on parenting, child duties and ethics, as well as promoting family education through community service organizations, schools and the media, etc.;
- (g) allocating more resources for strengthening various promotional activities and research work of the Family Council;
- (h) alleviating the financial burden on families in Hong Kong by offering tax concessions and subsidizing pre-primary education across the board; and
- (i) enhancing social welfare services to provide appropriate support to families in crisis.

2. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That, as *given that* social problems such as the rising divorce rate, family tragedies, child abuse and neglect of children, as well as compensated dating and drug abuse among young people still occur from time to time in Hong Kong, reflecting that at present some families lack cohesion and mutual love, this Council urges the Government to make stronger efforts in promoting family-friendly policies and enhancing the resilience of families and individuals against adversities, so as to achieve family harmony and promote social inclusion; the proposed measures include:

- (a) introducing an assessment system regarding the impact of public policies on families to assess the impact of existing social policies, legislation and measures on families, with a view to making relevant improvements;
- (b) providing more support services to dual-income parents, including expanding community childminding services, increasing the childminding places in various districts and providing flexible childminding service hours, etc.; developing after-school remedial

centres so that children of dual-income parents can receive appropriate care after school;

- (c) promoting public and private organizations to implement family-friendly employment policies more proactively for creating a family-friendly working environment, including encouraging organizations to provide staff with child care services and implementing flexible working hours, as well as implementing a flexible leave policy which provides special paid leave for employees such as wedding leave, ~~paternity leave~~, study leave, compassionate leave, etc., when they encounter major family events; *and introducing statutory paternity leave for male employees, so that husbands can enjoy paid leave to help take care of their wives and newborn babies;*
- (d) including all general holidays other than Sundays as paid statutory holidays through a progressive approach of employer-employee negotiation; and promoting ‘International Day of Families’ to call on the community to cherish the value of family;
- (e) *legislating for setting the number of standard working hours at 44 per week and the payment of compensation for overtime work, and assisting Hong Kong people in having an ideal mode of living, with their time evenly distributed among work, rest and leisure activities so as to achieve balanced development in different areas;*
- (e)(f) promoting a housing policy which fosters mutual care between the elderly and the young and encouraging the inclusion of residential complementary facilities suitable for both the elderly and the young in the designs of private and public housing; as well as improving community facilities to provide families with more room for parent-child activities;
- (g) *constructing additional small and large sized public rental housing ('PRH') flats, resuming the Sale of Flats to Sitting Tenants Scheme, allowing eligible white form Home Ownership Scheme ('HOS') household applicants to purchase HOS flats in the secondary market without having to pay the premium, reviewing the allocation and eligibility criteria of PRH to provide affordable and appropriate residential premises to families in need, and encouraging young families to live close to their elderly family members to facilitate their mutual care, strengthen the family support network and promote family harmony and integration;*

- (f)(h) actively stepping up publicity on positive family education on parenting, child duties and ethics, as well as promoting family education through community service organizations, schools and the media, etc.;
- (g)(i) allocating more resources for strengthening various promotional activities and research work of the Family Council;
- (h)(j) alleviating the financial burden on families in Hong Kong by offering tax concessions and ~~subsidizing~~ *providing 15-year free education covering* pre-primary education across the board; and;
- (i)(k) enhancing social welfare services to provide appropriate support to families in crisis;
- (l) *amending legislation and strengthening support to handle domestic violence, stepping up publicity and training to deepen the understanding and alertness of frontline staff (such as social workers, police officers, as well as education and healthcare personnel, etc.) in relation to the problem of domestic violence, and intervening in a timely manner to help curb domestic violence;*
- (m) *setting up a multi-disciplinary mechanism for reviewing family tragedy cases to draw lessons from them, so as to improve the service system and its effectiveness, and assist affected families in restoring a harmonious family life; and*
- (n) *strengthening work in family education with a view to reducing marital problems, including incorporating family life education into the secondary education curriculum; providing pre-marital family education services, and strengthening family life education through the media, etc.*

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

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

That, as *given that in recent years*, social problems such as the rising divorce rate, family tragedies, child abuse and neglect of children, as well as compensated dating and drug abuse among young people still occur from time to time in Hong Kong, reflecting that at present some families lack cohesion and mutual love, this Council urges the Government to make stronger efforts in promoting family-friendly policies and enhancing the resilience of families and

individuals against adversities, so as to achieve family harmony and promote social inclusion; the proposed measures include:

- (a) introducing an assessment system regarding the impact of public policies on families to assess the impact of existing social policies, legislation and measures on families, with a view to making relevant improvements;
- (b) providing more support services to dual-income parents, including expanding community childminding services, increasing the childminding places in various districts and providing flexible childminding service hours, etc.; developing after-school remedial centres so that children of dual-income parents can receive appropriate care after school;
- (c) *relaxing the eligibility criteria of the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme, expeditiously implementing a dual-track approach to allow applicants to calculate their incomes and assets on either a household or individual basis, so as to prevent family harmony from being affected by disputes and ill feeling arising from family members' unwillingness to disclose their asset and income information;*
- (d) promoting public and private organizations to implement family-friendly employment policies more proactively for creating a family-friendly working environment, including encouraging organizations to provide staff with child care services and implementing flexible working hours, as well as implementing a flexible leave policy which provides special paid leave for employees such as wedding leave, paternity leave, study leave, compassionate leave, etc., when they encounter major family events; *at the same time, increasing paid maternity leave and providing a period of postnatal employment protection to strengthen the protection for women against unreasonable dismissal after delivery;*
- (e) ~~including all general holidays other than Sundays as paid statutory holidays through a progressive approach of employer-employee negotiation~~ *amending the Employment Ordinance to increase the number of statutory holidays to put them on a par with the 17 days of general holidays and at the same time requiring employers to raise the compensation to employees for working on holidays;* and promoting 'International Day of Families' to call on the community to cherish the value of family;

- (f) *caring about the situation of employees' overtime work and expeditiously legislating for standard working hours to ensure that employees can strike a reasonable balance on their work and family life, so as to foster mutual love among family members;*
- (e)(g) promoting a housing policy which fosters mutual care between the elderly and the young and encouraging the inclusion of residential complementary facilities suitable for both the elderly and the young in the designs of private and public housing; as well as improving community facilities to provide families with more room for parent-child activities;
- (f)(h) actively stepping up publicity on positive family education on parenting, child duties and ethics, as well as promoting family education through community service organizations, schools and the media, etc.;
- (g)(i) allocating more resources for strengthening various promotional activities and research work of the Family Council;
- (h)(j) alleviating the financial burden on families in Hong Kong by offering tax concessions and subsidizing pre-primary education across the board; and
- (i)(k) enhancing social welfare services to provide appropriate support to families in crisis.

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

4. Motion as amended by Hon Ronny TONG

That, as *economic instability makes people's life more stressful, with the result that* social problems such as the rising divorce rate, family tragedies, child abuse and neglect of children, as well as compensated dating and drug abuse among young people still occur from time to time in Hong Kong, reflecting that at present some families lack cohesion and mutual love, this Council urges the Government to make stronger efforts in promoting family-friendly policies and enhancing the resilience of families and individuals against adversities, so as to achieve family harmony and promote social inclusion; the proposed measures include:

- (a) introducing an assessment system regarding the impact of public policies on families to assess the impact of existing social policies,

legislation and measures on families, with a view to making relevant improvements;

- (b) providing more support services to dual-income parents, including expanding community childminding services, increasing the childminding places in various districts and providing flexible childminding service hours, etc.; developing after-school remedial centres so that children of dual-income parents can receive appropriate care after school;
- (c) promoting public and private organizations to implement family-friendly employment policies more proactively for creating a family-friendly working environment, including encouraging organizations to provide staff with child care services and implementing flexible working hours, as well as implementing a flexible leave policy which provides special paid leave for employees such as wedding leave, paternity leave, study leave, compassionate leave, etc., when they encounter major family events;
- (d) including all general holidays other than Sundays as paid statutory holidays through a progressive approach of employer-employee negotiation; and promoting ‘International Day of Families’ to call on the community to cherish the value of family;
- (e) promoting a housing policy which fosters mutual care between the elderly and the young and encouraging the inclusion of residential complementary facilities suitable for both the elderly and the young in the designs of private and public housing; as well as improving community facilities to provide families with more room for parent-child activities;
- (f) actively stepping up publicity on positive family education on parenting, child duties and ethics, as well as promoting family education through community service organizations, schools and the media, etc.;
- (g) allocating more resources for strengthening various promotional activities and research work of the Family Council;
- (h) alleviating the financial burden on families in Hong Kong by offering tax concessions and subsidizing pre-primary education across the board; **and**
- (i) enhancing social welfare services to provide appropriate support to families in crisis;

- (j) *flexibly handling applications under the Harmonious Families Priority Scheme to allow more families which are willing to take care of their elderly family members to receive housing allocation expeditiously, so as to achieve the policy objective of enhancing home and community care; and*
- (k) *abolishing the requirement for the submission of a ‘declaration of not providing support to parents’ (commonly known as a ‘bad son statement’) as a prerequisite for applying for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance for the elderly, so that elderly persons and the family members living with them can be spared the embarrassment of a means test, thus realizing the fundamental principle of harmony in families.*

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

5. Motion as amended by Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

That, as social problems such as the rising divorce rate, family tragedies, child abuse and neglect of children, as well as compensated dating and drug abuse among young people still occur from time to time in Hong Kong, reflecting that at present some families lack cohesion and mutual love, this Council urges the Government to make stronger efforts in promoting family-friendly policies and enhancing the resilience of families and individuals against adversities, so as to achieve family harmony and promote social inclusion; the proposed measures include:

- (a) introducing an assessment system regarding the impact of public policies on families to assess the impact of existing social policies, legislation and measures on families, with a view to making relevant improvements;
- (b) providing more support services to dual-income parents, including expanding community childminding services, increasing the childminding places in various districts and providing flexible childminding service hours, etc.; developing after-school remedial centres so that children of dual-income parents can receive appropriate care after school;
- (c) promoting public and private organizations to implement family-friendly employment policies more proactively for creating a family-friendly working environment, including encouraging

organizations to provide staff with child care services and implementing flexible working hours, as well as ~~implementing a~~ ***legislating for the introduction of*** flexible leave policy ~~which provides so as to provide~~ special paid leave for employees such as wedding leave, paternity leave, study leave, compassionate leave, etc., when they encounter major family events;

- (d) ***legislating for the implementation of standard working hours and*** including all general holidays other than Sundays as paid statutory holidays ~~through a progressive approach of employer-employee negotiation~~; and promoting ‘International Day of Families’ to call on the community to cherish the value of family;
- (e) promoting a housing policy which fosters mutual care between the elderly and the young and encouraging the inclusion of residential complementary facilities suitable for both the elderly and the young in the designs of private and public housing; as well as improving community facilities to provide families with more room for parent-child activities;
- (f) actively stepping up publicity on positive family education on parenting, child duties and ethics, as well as promoting family education through community service organizations, schools and the media, etc.;
- (g) allocating more resources for strengthening various promotional activities and research work of the Family Council;
- (h) alleviating the financial burden on families in Hong Kong by offering tax concessions and subsidizing pre-primary education across the board; and
- (i) enhancing social welfare services to provide appropriate support to families in crisis.

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