

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 9 November 2011

**Amendments to motion on
“Assisting the public in coping with economic fluctuations”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 79/11-12 issued on 27 October 2011, three Members (Hon WONG Sing-chi, Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou and Hon Tanya CHAN) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Dr Hon Philip WONG’s motion on “Assisting the public in coping with economic fluctuations” scheduled for the Council meeting of 9 November 2011. 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 Dr Hon Philip WONG to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Dr Hon Philip WONG’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 WONG Sing-chi;

- (ii) Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou; and
- (iii) Hon Tanya CHAN;
- (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 Dr Hon Philip WONG 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 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 two amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Dr Hon Philip WONG to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Dr Hon Philip WONG'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
“Assisting the public in coping with economic fluctuations”
to be held at the Council meeting of 9 November 2011**

1. Dr Hon Philip WONG’s original motion

That, given the uncertain prospects of the global economy, 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.

2. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That, ~~given the uncertain prospects of the global economy~~ *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.*

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, ~~given the uncertain prospects of~~ *as Hong Kong is an externally oriented economy, which is easy to be affected by the global economy, and recently, the economic recession of the United States and the European debt crisis, etc. have plagued the world and the economic prospects are uncertain*, 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., ***and to ensure economic fluctuations do not impact on the employment and livelihood of local workers***, so that they can tide over the difficult times; ***the relevant measures should include:***

- (a) ***to formulate a mechanism for perfecting the management of foreign workers' employment in Hong Kong, so as to protect local workers' right of employment;***
- (b) ***to advance the review of the statutory minimum wage level, so as to assist grass-root workers in coping with inflation;***
- (c) ***to appoint more civil servants on permanent establishment, and improve the remunerations and grade structures of civil servants and other public officers, so as to provide a greater number of relatively stable employment opportunities;***
- (d) ***to expand the various employment services, training and support schemes, and offer subsidies to students enrolled on retraining courses, so as to enhance the competitiveness of manpower resources;***
- (e) ***to abolish the mechanism whereby employers' contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund System are used to offset severance payments and long service payments, so as to protect the amounts of Mandatory Provident Funds received by employees for their retirement protection from being offset and eroded due to business closures;***
- (f) ***to relieve people's housing burden by, for example, constructing more public rental housing, increasing the rent allowance for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Allowance, and offering a tax allowance to households with no property for renting private residential units;***
- (g) ***to increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to \$1,000 per year and expand their scope of application, so as to assist the elderly in coping with increasing medical expenditure;***
- (h) ***to introduce a 'monthly ticket scheme for all types of transport', so as to alleviate people's burden of travelling expenses on the public;***

- (i) *to construct more public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in new towns, thereby providing residents with more choices of inexpensive and quality daily necessities;*
- (j) *to reduce the various taxes such as the salaries tax, etc. and the various government fees and charges related to people's livelihood, provide subsidies to residential electricity accounts, and waive public rental housing rents and rates, etc., so as to alleviate inflation pressure on the public; and*
- (k) *to promote the development of the six industries with competitive edge, restructure the manufacturing industries of Hong Kong, formulate the relevant development blueprint and timetable, and proactively initiate industrial diversification, so as to mitigate the impact of the fluctuations in the financial sector on Hong Kong's economy and employment.*

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 Tanya CHAN

That, given the uncertain prospects of the global economy, 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; *the specific measures should 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.*

Note: Hon Tanya CHAN's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.