

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Assisting young people in their development on all fronts”
moved by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan
at the Council meeting of 8 January 2014**

**Motion as amended by Hon Kenneth LEUNG, Hon KWOK Wai-keung,
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, Hon CHAN Kin-por and Hon Michael TIEN**

That, as young people are the future masters of Hong Kong society, the Government should provide young people with room for development and upward mobility opportunities; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to allocate resources to increase the variety of and places for local higher education programmes and expand various training and employment support services targeted at young people; at the same time, the Government should adopt concrete policies and assistance measures to promote diversified economic development for supporting young people in starting up businesses, thereby enabling young people to freely choose the academic discipline, occupation and lifestyle suitable to them, so as to help them to build a bright future with greater confidence and a pragmatic attitude; specific proposals are as follows:

Education —

- (1) to increase the number of subsidized places in post-secondary and tertiary institutions, and strengthen vocational education for students, so that young people can identify as early as possible their objectives of career prospects, and lay a good foundation for upward mobility;
- (2) to comprehensively review the assistance as well as loans and repayment arrangements under the various existing student finance schemes, including providing indigent students with more tuition fee remission and additional support, and alleviate the tuition fee burden of university students by ways such as allowing tax deduction on repayment amounts of university education loans, studying the feasibility of allowing local students to apply for student loans for further studies overseas, and increasing the amount of grant for tertiary students, etc.;
- (3) to comprehensively review the Continuing Education Fund Scheme, including raising the cap on the amount of subsidy receivable by each applicant to \$40,000, extending the period of four years within which

applicants must submit all claims as required by the scheme to 10 years, and abolishing the restriction on applicants to make a maximum of four claims, etc., so as to encourage young people to pursue continuous education;

Employment –

- (4) to formulate a comprehensive employment policy for young people with the objectives of developing young people's potentials and strengthening the productivity of society;
- (5) to review and consolidate the various existing training programmes for young people, and enhance the practicability and effectiveness of the training and employment support structure for young people, so as to encourage young people to join industries which need new blood, such as the construction industry, transport industry and shipping industry, etc.;
- (6) to proactively approach long-term unemployed young people and hidden youths, and provide career counselling and support to them;
- (7) to extend and consolidate the various similar apprenticeship schemes, such as the Technician Apprenticeship (Traineeship) Training Scheme, Modern Apprenticeship Scheme as well as Beauty Care and Hairdressing Traineeship Scheme;
- (8) to subsidize young people from low-income families, particularly ethnic minority young people, so as to support them to attend self-enrichment courses and enhance their competitiveness in choosing career;
- (9) to support the development of small and medium enterprises by ways such as offering appropriate subsidies and tax concessions, so as to actively encourage them to employ young workers and trainees;
- (10) to review and improve the existing Employment Ordinance to strengthen the protection for young people who take up part-time and short-term jobs or are employed on a contractual basis;
- (11) to conduct a study on enacting legislation to require an annual three-day paid training leave for employees, so as to encourage young employees to pursue continuing education;
- (12) to adopt diversified measures to attract overseas enterprises to come to Hong Kong for investment, and establishing new and emerging

enterprises or industrial/commercial businesses, so as to create more positions for Hong Kong and increase the employment and promotion opportunities for young people;

- (13) to encourage and support young people to develop their career in the Mainland, and enrich their understanding of the Mainland;
- (14) to set up a handicraft apprenticeship training scheme to train young people for engaging in work on creativity or with traditional characteristics, such as arts fairs, music performances, dragon boat training and fireworks production etc.;
- (15) to increase the Government's budget and funding for culture and arts, so that arts groups can increase placement opportunities for young art workers;

Business start-up –

- (16) to establish business start-up funds and provide relevant education and information for offering concrete support to young people to start up businesses;
- (17) to set up creative industry parks in various districts for providing studios with stable rents and long-term tenancy agreements to young people who aspire to a career in creativity, culture and arts;

Personal growth –

- (18) to increase the number of hostel places in various tertiary institutions, so that young people can experience communal living during university studies and cultivate their skills of interpersonal communication and companionship as well as co-operative abilities;
- (19) to increase the number of internship places in Hong Kong and overseas for students of various tertiary institutions, and continue to increase the number of countries and places under the Working Holiday Scheme to enable young people to gain experiences and have exchanges in various places in the world, so as to broaden their international vision;
- (20) to strengthen local sports development as well as training and support for athletes to enable young people to follow the direction of sports in developing their personal goals and career;

- (21) to strengthen the manning ratio of guidance personnel for young people in schools and non-profit-making organizations, so as to assist them in facing problems of education, family, making friends and career prospects, etc.; and
- (22) to promote young people's participation in community services and devotion to voluntary services, so as to instil proper values in young people;

this Council also urges the Government to extensively collect views from young people when formulating development policies for young people by ways such as increasing their participation in the Government's advisory framework, and increase the number of school social workers in secondary schools to provide young people with services related to 'career and life planning'; at the same time, the Government should actively enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and promote economic development, including driving the development of headquarters economy, so as to provide young people with more high-quality positions and let them have more upward mobility opportunities; the Government should also attach importance to the balanced development of young people's physical and mental well-being, encourage them to occupy themselves with wholesome activities or hobbies and avoid over-indulging in the virtual network, and teach them to stay away from drugs; this Council also urges the Government to:

- (23) substantially upgrade the level of the CreateHK agency, and set up an advisory committee on creative industry under the direct leadership of the Financial Secretary for co-ordinating the work of relevant government departments, and invite members of the industry to join the committee, so as to support the development of the creative industry, and provide upward mobility opportunities for young people who are highly creative but not good at conventional academic subjects; and
- (24) introduce a local talent scheme for funding local talents to enrol in the programmes of the best academic institutions all over the world which are not offered locally or are markedly different from local programmes in quality, so as to encourage Hong Kong young people to pursue excellence in different academic disciplines, nurture top-class talents in various fields in Hong Kong and assist in the diversification of Hong Kong's industries in the long run.