

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Imposing economic sanctions on the Philippines and
restoring Hong Kong people’s dignity”
moved by Hon Albert CHAN
at the Council meeting of 6 November 2013**

**Motion as amended by Hon Alice MAK, Hon SIN Chung-kai and
Hon Mrs Regina IP**

That, on 23 August 2010, a Hong Kong tour group was tragically taken hostage in Manila in the Philippines; due to the Philippine authorities’ serious mishandling of the rescue work, the Philippine hostage incident eventually resulted in a tragedy with eight Hong Kong people killed and seven injured; more than three years have lapsed since the Philippine hostage incident, and the Incident Investigation and Review Committee which was set up under the instruction of the President of the Philippines AQUINO III also categorically pointed out the blunders of the relevant authorities in the incident, yet the Philippine Government has never faced up to the relevant demands of the victims’ families at all, with its attitude, especially that of its President, being extremely poor in handling the incident; however, after a Taiwan fisherman was shot dead by the Philippine Coast Guard in May this year, the Philippine Government tendered a formal apology for the incident within three months following Taiwan’s announcement of sanctions against the Philippines; given that the Philippine hostage incident has yet to be resolved properly, and the progress is hardly acceptable and is grossly unjust to the victims’ families, this Council calls on the public to unite and hold the Philippine Government responsible, and urges the Government to impose strong and forceful economic sanction measures, so as to press the Philippine Government to make a prompt and formal response to the four demands of the victims’ families, i.e. to apologize to the victims’ families, to offer compensation to the victims’ families, to penalize the relevant officials for dereliction of duty in the Philippine hostage incident, and to implement measures to protect tourists’ personal safety; this Council considers that the incident has seriously hurt the feelings of the victims in the hostage incident, their families and Hong Kong people, and that the Philippine Government should be condemned in this regard; the relevant sanction measures should include:

- (1) the Hong Kong Government to suspend the procurement of Philippine products;

- (2) the Hong Kong Government to suspend the new round of negotiations on areas such as air freedom rights and trade, etc.;
- (3) except for the hostage incident, the Hong Kong Government to suspend all its dealings with the Philippine Government;
- (4) the Hong Kong Government to suspend inviting Philippine cultural organizations to Hong Kong to participate in the cultural and arts activities organized by the Hong Kong Government;
- (5) the Hong Kong Legislative Council to suspend its friendship exchanges and liaison with the Congress of the Philippines; and
- (6) the Hong Kong Government to call on the Hong Kong community and commercial sector to suspend their commercial and cultural exchanges with the Philippines, and call on the public to boycott Philippine goods;

this Council also urges the SAR Government to consider suspending the visa-free arrangement for Philippine visitors, and even tightening the arrangements for issuing business and employment visas to Philippine passport holders (excluding visas for foreign domestic helpers) until the Philippine authorities have formally responded to the demands of the victims and their families for an apology and compensation regarding the hostage incident, taken truly effective measures and put forward ways to properly resolve the issue.