

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

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**Council meeting of 22 January 2014**

**Amendments to motion on  
“Safeguarding editorial independence and autonomy”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 317/13-14 issued on 9 January 2014, four Members (Hon Claudia MO, Hon IP Kwok-him, Hon James TO and Hon Cyd HO) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Alan LEONG’s motion on “Safeguarding editorial independence and autonomy” scheduled for the Council meeting of 22 January 2014. 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 four amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and the amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon Alan LEONG to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Alan LEONG’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the four Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
  - (i) Hon Claudia MO;
  - (ii) Hon IP Kwok-him;

- (iii) Hon James TO; and
- (iv) Hon Cyd HO;
- (d) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
- (f) the President gives leave to Hon Alan LEONG to speak for the second time on the amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
- (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 Claudia MO to move her amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon Claudia MO's amendment;
- (i) after Hon Claudia MO'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 Alan LEONG to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Alan LEONG's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Odelia LEUNG)  
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on  
“Safeguarding editorial independence and autonomy”  
to be held at the Council meeting of 22 January 2014**

**1. Hon Alan LEONG’s original motion**

That the recent post transfer of a veteran and influential journalist by the media organization to which he belongs has once again aroused the concern of society about the impact on freedom of the press and editorial autonomy; a recent opinion poll also indicates that more than half of the respondents consider that the phenomenon of self-censorship exists among Hong Kong news media; and a survey on the credibility of news media conducted by an academic institution even reflects that the credibility of Hong Kong media has hit a record low since the reunification; in this connection, this Council expresses concern and calls on journalists to remain steadfast in their duties, safeguard the principle of editorial independence and autonomy, and continue to give play to the functions of the Fourth Estate.

**2. Motion as amended by Hon Claudia MO**

That ~~the recent~~ *earlier on, a current affairs commentator received a lawyer’s letter sent by the Chief Executive LEUNG Chun-ying in his personal capacity for writing a newspaper commentary about him; recently, there was also the* post transfer of a veteran and influential journalist by the media organization to which he belongs ~~has once again~~; *the relevant incidents* aroused the concern of society about the impact on freedom of the press and editorial autonomy; a recent opinion poll also indicates that more than half of the respondents consider that the phenomenon of self-censorship exists among Hong Kong news media; and a survey on the credibility of news media conducted by an academic institution even reflects that the credibility of Hong Kong media has hit a record low since the reunification; ~~in this connection~~, this Council expresses concern *in this regard, and considers that the Government has the responsibility of creating a society with freedom of the press and of speech for members of the media and the community at large; in this connection, this Council urges the Government not to take the lead in committing, tolerating and condoning any acts of suppressing freedom of the press,* and calls on journalists to remain

steadfast in their duties, safeguard the principle of editorial independence and autonomy, and continue to give play to the functions of the Fourth Estate.

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

### **3. Motion as amended by Hon IP Kwok-him**

That, *given that* the recent post transfer of a veteran and influential journalist by the media organization to which he belongs has once again aroused the concern of society about the impact on freedom of the press and editorial autonomy, *and in recent years, the reporting practices of individual media organizations, including defiance of facts and disregard for the law, have also been called into question to the detriment of the credibility of news media;* a recent opinion poll also indicates that *30% of the respondents consider Hong Kong news media to be responsible in reporting, but* more than half of the respondents *point out that Hong Kong news media has misused or abused freedom of the press, and* consider that the phenomenon of self-censorship exists among Hong Kong news media; and a survey on the credibility of news media conducted by an academic institution even reflects that the credibility of Hong Kong media has hit a record low since the reunification; in this connection, this Council expresses concern and calls on journalists to remain steadfast in their duties, *respect the law, report news objectively and accurately, and* safeguard the principle of editorial independence and autonomy, ~~and continue~~ *so as to restore media credibility, and ensure that Hong Kong news media continues* to give play to the functions of the Fourth Estate, *and achieves the objectives of providing people with accurate information, revealing social problems and monitoring the Government, etc.*

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

### **4. Motion as amended by Hon James TO**

That *freedom of the press is a core value of Hong Kong, but* the recent post transfer of a veteran and influential journalist by the media organization to which he belongs has once again aroused the concern of society about the impact on freedom of the press and editorial autonomy; a recent opinion poll also indicates that more than half of the respondents consider that the phenomenon of self-censorship exists among Hong Kong news media; and a survey on the credibility of news media conducted by an academic institution even reflects that the credibility of Hong Kong media has hit a record low since

the reunification; in this connection, this Council expresses concern and calls on:

- (1) *the SAR Government to strive to uphold freedom of speech and of the press in Hong Kong, fairly treat various media organizations, and protect journalists' safety in news reporting;*
- (2) *investors of media organizations to attach importance to freedom of the press, ensure the provision for journalists of a working environment with editorial independence and autonomy, and respect journalists' professional judgment and dignity;*
- (3) *large consortia and commercial organizations to place advertisements based on general commercial principles and not to mix in political considerations to influence the stances of editorial autonomy of media organizations; and*
- (4) journalists to remain steadfast in their duties, safeguard the principle of editorial independence and autonomy, and continue to give play to the functions of the Fourth Estate.

Note: Hon James TO's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

## **5. Motion as amended by Hon Cyd HO**

That the recent post transfer of a veteran and influential journalist by the media organization to which he belongs has once again aroused the concern of society about the impact on freedom of the press and editorial autonomy; a recent opinion poll also indicates that more than half of the respondents consider that the phenomenon of self-censorship exists among Hong Kong news media; and a survey on the credibility of news media conducted by an academic institution even reflects that the credibility of Hong Kong media has hit a record low since the reunification; in this connection, this Council expresses concern and calls on journalists to remain steadfast in their duties, safeguard the principle of editorial independence and autonomy, and continue to give play to the functions of the Fourth Estate, *and urges the authorities to enact legislation to ensure Radio Television Hong Kong to be free from political and financial pressure for performing its duties effectively as a public service broadcaster.*

Note: Hon Cyd HO's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.