

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Legislating for safety of drinking water”
moved by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
at the Council meeting of 28 October 2015**

Motion as amended by Hon CHAN Han-pan

That the safety of drinking water is an important livelihood issue, yet since the discovery of excess lead in drinking water at consumers’ taps in some public rental housing estates in Hong Kong in early July this year, more and more cases of excess lead in drinking water samples have been uncovered, including samples taken from Home Ownership Scheme flats, private housing estates, hospitals and even schools, but the Government has shown its ineptitude in handling lead in drinking water incidents, causing distress to nearly 30 000 households in the public rental housing estates confirmed to have excess lead in drinking water, and also seriously affecting their daily lives, hence shattering Hong Kong people’s confidence in the safety of drinking water; in addition, the relevant legislation on water supply in Hong Kong is outdated and unable to effectively regulate the drinking water quality in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to immediately legislate for the safety of drinking water, so as to ensure that Hong Kong people are able to consume safe and reliable drinking water; in order to restore people’s confidence in the safety of drinking water in the short run and compensate the affected public rental housing tenants, this Council also urges the Government to introduce the following measures:

- (1) to reasonably waive water charges and rents for all the affected public rental housing tenants;
- (2) to conduct drinking water sampling tests for the affected public rental housing tenants who have installed water filters, so as to ensure the effective functioning of such water filters;
- (3) to expand the scope of priority blood testing for the affected public rental housing tenants to household members aged below six when moving into their flats;
- (4) to clearly advise the affected public rental housing tenants of a timetable for the replacement of problem pipes and/or fittings, as well as the relevant arrangements and progress, and to assist the affected tenants in seeking compensation; and
- (5) to put forward proposals for assisting the affected schools and hospitals, etc. in replacing problem pipes and/or fittings.