

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 14 October 2015

**Amendments to motion on
“Legislating for safety of drinking water”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 8/15-16 issued on 2 October 2015, five Members (Hon KWOK Wai-keung, Hon CHAN Han-pan, Hon CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Hon Helena WONG and Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki’s motion on “Legislating for safety of drinking water” scheduled for the Council meeting of 14 October 2015. 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 five 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 Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the five Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon KWOK Wai-keung;
 - (ii) Hon CHAN Han-pan;

- (iii) Hon CHAN Chi-chuen;
 - (iv) Dr Hon Helena WONG; and
 - (v) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che;
- (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 Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki 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 five Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon KWOK Wai-keung to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon KWOK Wai-keung's amendment;
 - (i) after Hon KWOK Wai-keung's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other four amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki'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**.

(Ms Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Legislating for safety of drinking water”
to be held at the Council meeting of 14 October 2015**

1. Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki’s original motion

That 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, thus 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.

2. Motion as amended by Hon KWOK Wai-keung

That *Hong Kong people have all along been able to enjoy a sufficient supply of safe drinking water, but* 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~~ *spread to* 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, thus shattering;~~ *although the Government has immediately undertaken remedial measures and comprehensive investigations,* Hong Kong people’s confidence in the safety of drinking water; ~~in addition,~~ *has yet to be restored, and as* the relevant legislation on water supply in Hong Kong is outdated and unable to effectively regulate *and enforcement and regulatory efforts have been lax, there is no effective regulation on* the drinking water quality in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to immediately legislate for the safety of drinking water *review and amend the Waterworks Ordinance and its relevant legislation,* so as to ensure that Hong Kong people are able to consume safe and reliable drinking water; *in addition,*

the Government should also adopt the following measures to restore people's confidence in the safety of drinking water:

- (1) to improve the regulatory regime for water supply systems during the construction and acceptance stages of buildings, which includes adding heavy metal content as one of the testing items for the safety of drinking water, raising the overall safety standard of sampling tests on water quality conducted by the Water Supplies Department for newly constructed buildings, increasing the number of samples to be tested and the frequency of sampling, as well as enhancing the licensing system and supervision methodology for plumbers and relevant professionals;*
- (2) to provide testing support for buildings (such as schools) suspected to have excess lead in drinking water; and*
- (3) to make arrangements for waiving rents and water charges for public rental housing tenants affected by the recent incidents of lead in drinking water until the problem is completely resolved.*

Note: Hon KWOK Wai-keung's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. 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, ~~thus~~ *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.*

Note: Hon CHAN Han-pan's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

That ~~since~~ *given the Government's failure to properly monitor the quality of water pipe installation works in newly constructed public rental housing estates and following* 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, *and among the young children and pregnant women who have taken blood tests, some of them whose blood lead levels have also exceeded the normal level*, but the Government has shown its ineptitude in handling lead in drinking water incidents, thus 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; *and to expedite the sampling tests of drinking water quality of all buildings in the territory, including the testing of lead content in drinking water at buildings which have completed the maintenance work under the Operation Building Bright and have new water pipes installed, drinking fountains in public facilities frequently used by children and young people such as sports centres, libraries*

and study rooms, etc., as well as newly constructed buildings on 'Government, Institution or Community facilities' sites, so as to ensure that Hong Kong people are able to consume safe and reliable drinking water.

Note: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Helena WONG

That *the Government has always claimed that it provides people with quality drinking water, but* 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, thus shattering Hong Kong people's confidence in the safety of drinking water; in addition, the relevant legislation on water supply in Hong Kong is *very* 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; *the relevant contents should include:*

- (1) *to include the supply of drinking water from the source of water supply to consumers' taps in the scope of water quality monitoring for water supply systems in public and private buildings;*
- (2) *to stipulate the responsibilities and supervisory roles of contractors and government departments in building construction works;*
- (3) *to stipulate, in cases where the water quality of the water supply system in a building does not comply with the testing standards, the civil and criminal liability that must be borne by the contractor concerned, as well as the penalties; in cases where the quality of drinking water in a public building does not comply with the testing standards, the responsible government departments must consider replacing the relevant plumbing fixtures;*
- (4) *to establish a monitoring system for the quality of components in the water supply chain, including updating the testing standards for water supply components regularly and introducing a safe drinking water equipment labelling scheme, so as to ensure compliance of all components with the standards;*

- (5) *to stipulate the relevant standards on the quality of water supply for ancillary water facilities of buildings, such as thermostatic electric water heaters;*
- (6) *to stipulate, by making reference to the World Health Organization's Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality, drinking water quality parameters; and make it mandatory for public drinking water suppliers to have drinking water samples tested regularly in accredited laboratories to examine whether the samples have any heavy metals and toxic contaminants;*
- (7) *the Government to compile and publish on a yearly basis drinking water quality testing reports concerning the communities such as public rental housing estates, schools (including nurseries), hospitals, residential care homes and food establishments, etc., so as to give an account of any drinking water quality problems in the communities in the past year; and give the public an explanation of the areas affected and formulate counter-measures; and*
- (8) *to step up the training of plumbing workers and establish a construction site certified workers regime, so as to improve the skill assessment and promotion mechanism for plumbing workers; and affirm the role of licensed plumbers in works supervision.*

Note: Dr Hon Helena WONG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

6. Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

That 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, thus shattering Hong Kong people's confidence in the safety of drinking water, *and so far at least one hundred-odd children living in public rental housing estates with uncovered cases of excess lead in drinking water have been tested with an elevated blood lead level, which may affect their intellectual development*; 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; *and to provide, through subsidized services or*

procurement of outside professional services, therapeutic or training services to the children suffering from developmental delay as a result of elevated blood lead level.

Note: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.