立法會 Legislative Council

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Tel: 3919 3300

Date: 17 October 2016

From: Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 26 October 2016

Motion on

"Urging the Government to amend the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance"

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG has given notice to move the attached motion on "Urging the Government to amend the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance" at the Council meeting of 26 October 2016. The President has directed that it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

(Dora WAI) for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

Motion on

"Urging the Government to amend the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance" to be moved by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG at the Council meeting of 26 October 2016

Wording of the Motion

That the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance ('Ordinance') stipulates that the fire protection of composite and domestic buildings constructed on or before 1 March 1987 must be enhanced to better meet the requirements of the day; information shows that as at end of January 2016, the Administration has issued fire safety directions ('directions') to 5 453 buildings in total, among which only 339 buildings have fully complied with the directions or have been exempted from complying with the directions; persons who have received the directions indicated that, in their attempts to comply with the directions, they have encountered financial and engineering problems as well as operational problems of owners' corporations of the buildings, etc., and with very limited support rendered by the Administration, they were fined or prosecuted for failing to comply with the directions; in this connection, this Council urges the Administration to expeditiously amend the Ordinance to empower responsible persons of the Administration to, under urgent circumstances, carry out improvement works on fire service installations of buildings unable to comply with the directions and provide necessary assistance; moreover, as many buildings are 'three-nil buildings' which do not have owners' corporations or residents' organizations or are not managed by property management companies, and most of their owners and/or occupiers (including elderly and low-income persons) lack professional knowledge of property management and engineering techniques, the Administration should adopt the following measures to provide appropriate support to persons who are required to comply with the directions:

(1) given that the existing Building Safety Loan Scheme, Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme, Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners and Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme provide limited assistance to persons who are required to comply with the directions, the Administration should, by making reference to the Operation Building Bright, launch an 'operation for fire safety improvement' to provide eligible persons with subsidies as well as professional advice and technical support on aspects of engineering techniques, property management, etc.; and

(2) taken into account that the building design of quite a considerable number of old buildings has made it impossible to retrofit modern fire service facilities, such as the installation of standard water tanks for automatic sprinkler systems, and the improvement of fire service installations may involve the issue of ownership, the Administration should adopt a more flexible approach and exercise discretion in handling cases with practical difficulties.