

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 2869 9205
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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 24 May 2006

**Proposed resolution under
the Road Traffic Ordinance**

I forward for Members' consideration a proposed resolution which the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works will move at the Council meeting of 24 May 2006 under the Road Traffic Ordinance. The President has directed that "it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in" on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The speech, in both English and Chinese versions, which the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works will deliver when moving the proposed resolution, is also attached.

(Ray CHAN)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE

RESOLUTION

(Under section 23(3) of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374))

RESOLVED that the period for which there remains in force the limit on the number of vehicles which may be registered as public light buses specified in the Public Light Buses (Limitation on Number) Notice (Cap. 374 sub. leg. K) and extended to 20 June 2006 by Legal Notice No. 141 of 2001, be further extended to 20 June 2011.

Speech Delivered by the Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works to Move the Motion

Madam President,

Since 1976, the total number of vehicles which may be registered as public light buses (“PLBs”) has been limited at the level of 4,350. The limitation was promulgated by the Executive Council through the Public Light Bus (Limitation on Number) Notice. The effective period of the Notice was extended from time to time through resolution passed by the Legislative Council, and it was last extended in June 2001 for five years to 20 June 2006. This motion proposes to further extend the effective period of this limitation for another five years until 20 June 2011.

2. Given the limited road space and community concerns about environmental impact created by road-based vehicles, the Administration accords priority to the development of mass carriers viz. railways and franchised buses with other transport modes assuming a supplementary role. PLBs supplement the mass carriers in the public transport system with the major functions to provide feeder service to railway stations and public transport interchanges and serve areas where passenger demand does not justify the provision of high capacity services.

3. Currently, PLBs make up about 16% of the overall public transport market. In the past few years, the patronage of PLBs has remained stable at around 1.6 to 1.7 million per day. There is spare capacity for PLBs to meet the passenger demand. In the coming years, it is expected that the planned expansion of railways will increase the carrying capacity of the overall public transport system. Growth in the number of PLBs will only cause unhealthy competition within the PLB trade and among other public transport operators. Given the unlikely surge in demand for PLB service, we consider it appropriate to extend the existing limitation on the total number of PLBs at 4,350 for a period of five years up to 20 June 2011. This will also provide greater certainty for the PLB trade to operate in the public transport market.

4. Looking ahead, the Government will continue to implement measures to encourage the conversion of red minibuses to green

minibuses ("GMB"). In pursuance of this objective, the Transport Department will continue to identify suitable new GMB routes to be grouped into packages for open bidding by interested operators. The Government will also liaise closely with the PLB trade to explore measures for improving their operating environment.

5. Madam President, I beg to move the motion.