(Translation)

Motion on "Promoting family-friendly policies" moved by Hon TAM Yiu-chung at the Legislative Council meeting of Wednesday, 12 July 2006

Wording of the Motion

"That, as in recent years a number of serious incidents of domestic violence have occurred successively in Hong Kong, and cases of suicide, domestic abuse and divorce have been on the rise, reflecting that the cohesion of families in Hong Kong is weakening and there are many hidden crises which are detrimental to the harmony and stability of the community, this Council urges the Government to promote family-friendly policies, so as to create an environment that is conducive to rebuilding family values and enhancing family cohesion, thereby creating a harmonious society; the specific measures should include:

- (a) setting up a Family Commission to advise the Government on the promotion of family-friendly policies and initiatives;
- (b) introducing a family impact assessment system for assessing the impact of existing social policies, legislation and measures on families, with a view to making relevant improvements;
- (c) conducting vigorous publicity and promotion campaigns, and strengthening family and parent education as well as promoting family values through community service organizations and schools;
- (d) offering tax concessions and funding for pre-primary education across the board to relieve the financial burden on families in Hong Kong;
- (e) creating a family-friendly environment in workplace, including encouraging public and private organizations to provide staff with child care services and implement flexible working hours; and
- (f) enhancing social welfare services, and providing appropriate and relevant support to families in crisis."