

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 13 May 2009

**Proposed amendment to motion on
“Proposed establishment of a Tourism Bureau
with dedicated responsibility for handling tourism issues”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 542/08-09 issued on 30 April 2009, Hon Fred LI Wah-ming has given notice to move an amendment to Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun’s motion on “Proposed establishment of a Tourism Bureau with dedicated responsibility for handling tourism issues” scheduled for the Council meeting of 13 May 2009. As directed by the President, Hon Fred LI’s amendment will be printed in the terms in which it was handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. For Members’ ease of reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Proposed establishment of a Tourism Bureau
with dedicated responsibility for handling tourism issues”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 13 May 2009**

1. Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun’s original motion

That, in order to promote the development of Hong Kong’s tourism industry in a more effective and systematic manner, this Council urges the Government to:

- (j) establish a ‘Tourism Bureau’ and confer dedicated powers and responsibilities on the ‘Secretary for Tourism’ to formulate tourism policies and take charge of the business of the Bureau, including coordinating the various organizations which regulate and promote the development of tourism, such as placing the Hong Kong Tourism Board (which is responsible for marketing and promotion), the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (which is responsible for regulating travel agents) and the Travel Agents Registry (which is responsible for the licensing of travel agents) within the purview of the Tourism Bureau, and immediately review and abolish over-lapping structures and work procedures, so that the departments can focus on their respective responsibilities and cut down expenditure;
- (k) confer on the ‘Secretary for Tourism’ the authority to represent the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to attend meetings organized by travel organizations worldwide, and directly liaise with the official tourism representatives of various places to handle and promote tourism-related policies and issues;
- (l) assign departments with specific responsibilities to take charge of (i) sea and land transport that primarily serves tourism; (ii) hotel business; (iii) the management and development of tourist attractions; and (iv) tourists’ protection and complaints, so as to ensure that every tourism-related issue is efficiently and directly handled by a corresponding department;
- (m) authorize the ‘Tourism Bureau’ to take over the jurisdiction on hotel licensing to formulate a licensing regulation and rating mechanism, so as to safeguard the rights of tourists;
- (n) formulate a regulatory and rating mechanism for tourist attractions and coordinate and promote the development of new tourist attractions, so as to safeguard the right to know and consumers’ rights of both local and inbound tourists;

- (o) confer financial power on the 'Tourism Bureau' to handle applications for huge expenses for promoting tourism, determine the establishment and remuneration arrangement of the organizations within the purview of the Bureau, regularly review the accumulated balance of the Travel Industry Compensation Fund and adjust the level of stamp levy, reduce the licence fees of travel agents, and abolish the 'Council Levy' which was previously used for operating the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, so as to reduce the operating costs of the industry;
- (p) establish a contingency mechanism under the 'Tourism Bureau' to handle tourism-related crises, review the existing mechanism for issuing 'travel advices' and 'travel warnings' and its efficiency, and arrange Hong Kong tourists stranded overseas to return to Hong Kong;
- (q) ensure that the departments under the 'Tourism Bureau' fully seek the views of the representatives of the tourism industry and invite operators of the industry to take part in policy formulation, so that the policies will closely follow the needs of the market; and
- (r) strive to encourage and assist community organizations and private enterprises in exploring, conserving and developing tourist facilities, and organizing and promoting tourist events or projects that have local characteristics or are appealing to tourists.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

That, *as members of the Board of Directors of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, which is currently responsible for regulating travel agents, are mainly from the tourism industry, this has given rise to a phenomenon of people in the industry regulating people in the industry*; in order to promote the development of Hong Kong's tourism industry in a more effective and systematic manner, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) ~~establish~~ *consider establishing* a 'Tourism Bureau' ~~and confer dedicated powers and responsibilities on the 'Secretary for Tourism'~~ *or setting up a statutory body* to formulate tourism policies ~~and take charge of the business of the Bureau~~, including coordinating the various organizations which regulate and promote the development of tourism, such as placing the Hong Kong Tourism Board (which is responsible for marketing and promotion), the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (which is responsible for regulating travel agents) and the Travel Agents Registry (which is responsible for the licensing of travel agents) within the purview of the Tourism Bureau *or the statutory body*, and immediately review and abolish over-lapping structures and work procedures, so that the departments can focus on their respective responsibilities and cut down expenditure;

- (b) confer on the ~~‘Secretary for Tourism’~~ **‘Tourism Bureau’ or the statutory body** the authority to represent the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to attend meetings organized by travel organizations worldwide, and directly liaise with the official tourism representatives of various places to handle and promote tourism-related policies and issues;
- (c) assign departments with specific responsibilities to take charge of (i) sea and land transport that primarily serves tourism; (ii) hotel business; (iii) the management and development of tourist attractions; and (iv) tourists’ protection and complaints, so as to ensure that every tourism-related issue is efficiently and directly handled by a corresponding department;
- (d) authorize the ‘Tourism Bureau’ **or the statutory body** to take over the jurisdiction on hotel licensing to formulate a licensing regulation and rating mechanism, so as to safeguard the rights of tourists;
- (e) formulate a regulatory and rating mechanism for tourist attractions and coordinate and promote the development of new tourist attractions, so as to safeguard the right to know and consumers’ rights of both local and inbound tourists;
- (f) confer financial power on the ‘Tourism Bureau’ **or the statutory body** to handle applications for huge expenses for promoting tourism, determine the establishment and remuneration arrangement of the organizations within the purview of the Bureau **or the statutory body**, regularly review the accumulated balance of the Travel Industry Compensation Fund and adjust the level of stamp levy, reduce the licence fees of travel agents, and abolish the ‘Council Levy’ which was previously used for operating the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, so as to reduce the operating costs of the industry;
- (g) establish a contingency mechanism under the ‘Tourism Bureau’ **or the statutory body** to handle tourism-related crises, review the existing mechanism for issuing ‘travel advices’ and ‘travel warnings’ and its efficiency, and arrange Hong Kong tourists stranded overseas to return to Hong Kong;
- (h) ensure that the departments under the ‘Tourism Bureau’ **or the statutory body** fully seek the views of the representatives of the tourism industry and invite operators of the industry to take part in policy formulation, so that the policies will closely follow the needs of the market; and
- (i) strive to encourage and assist community organizations and private enterprises in exploring, conserving and developing tourist facilities, and organizing and promoting tourist events or projects that have local characteristics or are appealing to tourists.

Note: Hon Fred LI’s amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.