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Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 8 June 2011

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Setting out a five-year plan for elderly services”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 795/10-11 issued on 26 May 2011, five Members (Hon WONG Sing-chi, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, Hon Vincent FANG Kang, Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit and Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon TAM Yiu-chung’s motion on “Setting out a five-year plan for elderly services” scheduled for the Council meeting of 8 June 2011. As directed by the President, the respective proposed 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 amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon TAM Yiu-chung to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon TAM Yiu-chung’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the five Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon WONG Sing-chi;

- (ii) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che;
 - (iii) Hon Vincent FANG,
 - (iv) Hon Alan LEONG; and
 - (v) Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou;
- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
 - (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
 - (f) the President gives leave to Hon TAM Yiu-chung to speak for the second time on the amendments;
 - (g) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) again to speak;
 - (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 WONG Sing-chi to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment;
 - (i) after Hon WONG Sing-chi'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 Hon TAM Yiu-chung to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon TAM Yiu-chung's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. 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
“Setting out a five-year plan for elderly services”
to be held at the Council meeting of 8 June 2011**

1. Hon TAM Yiu-chung’s original motion

That, given that the trend of the ageing of the society in Hong Kong is accelerating, this Council urges the Government to plan in full speed and formulate as early as possible a more comprehensive elderly policy, and also set out a five-year plan for elderly services, so as to set specific development objectives and pledges for elderly services every five years, with a view to rectifying the serious problems of imbalance between supply of and demand for services, a large number of persons waiting for services and prolonged waiting time, as well as strengthening the care for the needs of elderly persons’ living, and vigorously improving people’s livelihood; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to establish a five-year plan and service pledges in respect of residential care services for the elderly and community care for the elderly, and strive to increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and community care places for the elderly; to review the Standardized Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services; to provide elderly services subsidies for elderly persons by making reference to the mode of the existing education voucher scheme; and to enhance complementary measures for the elderly policy of ‘ageing in place’;
- (b) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance (‘OAA’) to enable elderly persons to spend their twilight years on the Mainland without worries, and allow elderly recipients of Disability Allowance to also receive OAA, so as to improve their living;
- (c) to intensify the policy of portable elderly welfare benefits; to provide allowances to elderly persons who return to their hometowns to live, enabling those elderly persons who choose to spend their twilight years in their hometowns to receive a monthly living supplement; to proactively study in conjunction with the relevant Mainland departments the introduction of medical insurance schemes for Hong Kong elderly persons living on the Mainland, and consider collaborating with the Mainland to run hospitals or provide out-patient services, so as to serve the Hong Kong people living on the Mainland;

- (d) to propose the introduction of an entirely new ‘elderly maintenance grant scheme’ in addition to OAA and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme, so as to provide financial assistance to elderly persons who are not eligible for applying CSSA to help them improve their living;
- (e) to increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to \$1,000, lower the age requirement to 65, streamline administrative arrangements, and encourage the participation of more doctors; and to relax the elderly drug subsidization policy;
- (f) to expedite resource allocation from the Community Care Fund for providing tooth filling and restoration allowances to the elderly, and strengthen elderly dental care services, including the establishment of dental clinics in the 18 districts, introduction of elderly dental care services and opening public dental clinics for elderly persons’ use, etc.;
- (g) to expedite the establishment of public Chinese medicine clinics in the 18 districts, and establish additional elderly health centres and increase their membership;
- (h) to devote resources to strengthen occupational training related to the elderly care service industries, so as to increase manpower for elderly services and care and enhance practitioners’ professional knowledge and quality;
- (i) to formulate a comprehensive and long-term elderly housing policy, examine afresh the current land planning for earmarking sites for elderly housing purposes, proactively study the introduction of the ‘mixed use development’ concept in private and public housing, and design a residence model which integrates elderly housing and complementary facilities;
- (j) to expedite the implementation of a ‘mortgage scheme for the elderly’ (i.e. ‘reverse mortgage’), so as to assist elderly persons with private properties in enhancing their finances and improving living environment and lives in twilight years, and launch a scheme on ‘making use of residential properties to provide for the twilight years of the elderly’ for elderly property owners who have no means of living and do not have any children;

- (k) to implement the elderly-friendly policy in all public places, effectively enforce the requirements of barrier-free facilities, and provide various types of facilities for elderly persons to facilitate their entry and exit; and
- (l) to motivate various transport operators to offer comprehensive and permanent fare concessions to elderly persons; to enrich elderly persons' retirement life by introducing 'recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly' and waiving admission fees for elderly persons in all exhibition halls under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and set up an 'elderly employment fund', so as to assist healthy elderly persons in sustaining their employment and giving full play to their abilities.

2. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi

That, ~~given that~~ *at present*, the trend of the ageing of the society in Hong Kong is accelerating, this Council urges the Government to plan in full speed and formulate as early as possible a more comprehensive elderly policy, and also set out a five-year plan for elderly services, so as to set specific development objectives and pledges for elderly services every five years, with a view to rectifying the serious problems of imbalance between supply of and demand for services, a large number of persons waiting for services and prolonged waiting time, as well as strengthening the care for the needs of elderly persons' living, and vigorously improving people's livelihood; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to establish a five-year plan and service pledges in respect of residential care services for the elderly and community care for the elderly, and strive to increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and community care places for the elderly; to review the Standardized Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services; to provide elderly services subsidies for elderly persons by making reference to the mode of the existing education voucher scheme; and to enhance complementary measures for the elderly policy of 'ageing in place';
- (b) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance ('OAA') to enable elderly persons to spend their twilight years on the Mainland without worries, and allow elderly recipients of Disability Allowance to also receive OAA, so as to improve their living;
- (c) to intensify the policy of portable elderly welfare benefits; to provide allowances to elderly persons who return to their hometowns to live, enabling those elderly persons who choose to spend their twilight years in their hometowns to receive a monthly living supplement; to

proactively study in conjunction with the relevant Mainland departments the introduction of medical insurance schemes for Hong Kong elderly persons living on the Mainland, and consider collaborating with the Mainland to run hospitals or provide out-patient services, so as to serve the Hong Kong people living on the Mainland;

- (d) to propose the introduction of an entirely new ‘elderly maintenance grant scheme’ in addition to OAA and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme, so as to provide financial assistance to elderly persons who are not eligible for applying CSSA to help them improve their living;
- (e) to increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to \$1,000, lower the age requirement to 65, streamline administrative arrangements, and encourage the participation of more doctors; and to relax the elderly drug subsidization policy;
- (f) to expedite resource allocation from the Community Care Fund for providing tooth filling and restoration allowances to the elderly, and strengthen elderly dental care services, including the establishment of dental clinics in the 18 districts, introduction of elderly dental care services and opening public dental clinics for elderly persons’ use, etc.;
- (g) to expedite the establishment of public Chinese medicine clinics in the 18 districts, and establish additional elderly health centres and increase their membership;
- (h) to devote resources to strengthen occupational training related to the elderly care service industries, so as to increase manpower for elderly services and care and enhance practitioners’ professional knowledge and quality;
- (i) to formulate a comprehensive and long-term elderly housing policy, examine afresh the current land planning for earmarking sites for elderly housing purposes, proactively study the introduction of the ‘mixed use development’ concept in private and public housing, and design a residence model which integrates elderly housing and complementary facilities;
- (j) to expedite the implementation of a ‘mortgage scheme for the elderly’ (i.e. ‘reverse mortgage’), so as to assist elderly persons with private properties in enhancing their finances and improving living environment and lives in twilight years, and launch a scheme on ‘making use of residential properties to provide for the twilight years of the elderly’ for

elderly property owners who have no means of living and do not have any children;

- (k) to implement the elderly-friendly policy in all public places, effectively enforce the requirements of barrier-free facilities, and provide various types of facilities for elderly persons to facilitate their entry and exit; ~~and~~
- (l) to motivate various transport operators to offer comprehensive and permanent fare concessions to elderly persons; to enrich elderly persons' retirement life by introducing 'recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly' and waiving admission fees for elderly persons in all exhibition halls under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and set up an 'elderly employment fund', so as to assist healthy elderly persons in sustaining their employment and giving full play to their abilities; *and*
- (m) *to ensure that the elderly will be able to maintain a reasonable standard of living, and establish a universal retirement protection system.*

Note: Hon WONG Sing-chi's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

That, *according to the information of the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong's population is expected to increase from 6.8 million in mid-2003 to 8.38 million in mid-2033, with one elderly person aged 65 or above in every four persons by that time;* given that the trend of the ageing of the society in Hong Kong is accelerating, this Council urges the Government to plan in full speed and formulate as early as possible a more comprehensive elderly policy, and also set out a five-year plan for elderly services, *conduct a review every five years thereafter, and allow the relevant stakeholders to participate in the planning and review process,* so as to set specific development objectives and pledges for elderly services ~~every five years~~, with a view to rectifying the serious problems of imbalance between supply of and demand for services, a large number of persons waiting for services and prolonged waiting time, as well as strengthening the care for the needs of elderly persons' living, and vigorously improving people's livelihood; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to establish a five-year plan and service pledges in respect of residential care services for the elderly and community care for the elderly, ~~and~~ *strive to increase by first addressing issues relating to the relevant services received by all waiting applicants and then increasing,*

according to the ratio of elderly population growth, the number of residential care places for the elderly and community care places for the elderly; to review the Standardized Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services; to ~~provide elderly services subsidies for elderly persons by making reference to the mode of the existing education voucher scheme~~ *review the financing system for long-term elderly care services*; and to enhance complementary measures for the elderly policy of ‘ageing in place’;

- (b) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance (‘OAA’) to enable elderly persons to spend their twilight years on the Mainland without worries, and allow elderly recipients of Disability Allowance to also receive OAA, so as to improve their living;
- (c) to intensify the policy of portable elderly welfare benefits; to provide allowances to elderly persons who return to their hometowns to live, enabling those elderly persons who choose to spend their twilight years in their hometowns to receive a monthly living supplement; to proactively study in conjunction with the relevant Mainland departments the introduction of medical insurance schemes for Hong Kong elderly persons living on the Mainland, and consider collaborating with the Mainland to run hospitals or provide out-patient services, so as to serve the Hong Kong people living on the Mainland;
- (d) *to formulate an elderly retirement protection scheme, so that the elderly can live their lives with greater dignity;*
- (~~d~~)(e) *before formulating an elderly retirement protection scheme*, to propose the introduction of an entirely new ‘elderly maintenance grant scheme’ in addition to OAA and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme, so as to provide financial assistance to elderly persons who are not eligible for applying CSSA to help them improve their living;
- (~~e~~)(f) to increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to \$1,000, lower the age requirement to 65, streamline administrative arrangements, and encourage the participation of more doctors; and to relax the elderly drug subsidization policy;
- (~~f~~)(g) to ~~expedite resource allocation~~ *immediately review the existing experimental Pilot Project on Outreach Primary Dental Care Services for the Elderly in Residential Care Homes and Day Care Centres, and extend the scheme to all elderly persons in Hong Kong who are in need of the relevant services; before implementing the services on a territory-wide basis, to allocate resources* from the Community Care

Fund for providing tooth filling and restoration allowances to the elderly, and strengthen elderly dental care services, including the establishment of dental clinics in the 18 districts, introduction of elderly dental care services and opening public dental clinics for elderly persons' use, etc.;

- (g)(h) to expedite the establishment of public Chinese medicine clinics in the 18 districts, and establish additional elderly health centres and **increase fully open** their membership, **so as to benefit all elderly persons in Hong Kong**;
- (h)(i) to devote resources to strengthen occupational training related to the elderly care service industries, **and link it with the *Qualifications Framework***, so as to increase manpower for elderly services and care and enhance practitioners' professional knowledge and quality;
- (i)(j) to formulate a comprehensive and long-term elderly housing policy, examine afresh the current land planning for earmarking sites for elderly housing purposes, proactively study the introduction of the 'mixed use development' concept in private and public housing, and design a residence model which integrates elderly housing and complementary facilities; **and at the same time, to enhance the *Elderly Persons Priority Scheme and Harmonious Families Priority Scheme*, which are currently implemented by the Hong Kong Housing Authority, and relax their restrictions, so as to encourage more children to live with their elderly parents**;
- (j)(k) to expedite the implementation of a 'mortgage scheme for the elderly' (i.e. 'reverse mortgage'), so as to assist elderly persons with private properties in **having an additional option for** enhancing their finances and improving living environment and lives in twilight years, and launch a scheme on 'making use of residential properties to provide for the twilight years of the elderly' for elderly property owners who have no means of living and do not have any children;
- (k)(l) to implement the elderly-friendly policy in all public places, effectively enforce the requirements of barrier-free facilities, and provide various types of facilities for elderly persons to facilitate their entry and exit; **and**
- (l)(m) to motivate various transport operators to offer comprehensive and permanent fare concessions to elderly persons; to enrich elderly persons' retirement life by introducing 'recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly' and waiving admission fees for elderly persons in all exhibition halls under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, **and set up an**

~~‘elderly employment fund’, so as to assist healthy elderly persons in sustaining their employment and giving full play to their abilities; and~~

- (n) *with a view to giving the elderly a sense of worthiness, the Government should comprehensively review the elderly employment policy, including the promotion of flexible retirement age, and the Government may also take the lead in reviewing the retirement age of civil servants and encouraging enterprises to extend the years of services for their employees or even to adopt flexible retirement schemes, such as employing them on a half-time or contract basis after their formal retirement.*

Note: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon Vincent FANG Kang

That, *as projected by the Census and Statistics Department, the proportion of people aged 65 and above will significantly increase from 13% last year to 28% in 2039;* given that the trend of the ageing of the society in Hong Kong is accelerating, this Council urges the Government to plan in full speed and formulate as early as possible a more comprehensive *and long-term* elderly policy, and also set out a five-year plan for elderly services, so as to set specific development objectives and pledges for elderly services every five years, with a view to rectifying the serious problems of imbalance between supply of and demand for services, a large number of persons waiting for services and prolonged waiting time, as well as strengthening the care for the needs of elderly persons’ living, and vigorously improving people’s livelihood; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to establish a five-year plan and service pledges in respect of residential care services for the elderly and community care for the elderly, and strive to increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and community care places for the elderly; to review the Standardized Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services; to *introduce elderly care vouchers and* provide elderly services subsidies for elderly persons *who are waiting for residential care places* by making reference to the mode of the existing education voucher scheme, *so as to enable them to freely choose and purchase suitable elderly services until they are formally admitted to a residential care home;* and to enhance complementary measures for the elderly policy of ‘ageing in place’;

- (b) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance ('OAA') to enable elderly persons to spend their twilight years on the Mainland without worries, and allow elderly recipients of Disability Allowance to also receive OAA, so as to improve their living;
- (c) to intensify the policy of portable elderly welfare benefits; to provide allowances to elderly persons who return to their hometowns to live, enabling those elderly persons who choose to spend their twilight years in their hometowns to receive a monthly living supplement; to proactively study in conjunction with the relevant Mainland departments the introduction of medical insurance schemes for Hong Kong elderly persons living on the Mainland, and consider collaborating with the Mainland to run hospitals or provide out-patient services, so as to serve the Hong Kong people living on the Mainland;
- (d) to propose the introduction of an entirely new 'elderly maintenance grant scheme' in addition to OAA and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA') Scheme, so as to provide financial assistance to elderly persons who are not eligible for applying CSSA to help them improve their living;
- (e) to increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to \$1,000, lower the age requirement to 65, streamline administrative arrangements, and encourage the participation of more doctors; and to relax the elderly drug subsidization policy;
- (f) to expedite resource allocation from the Community Care Fund for providing tooth filling and restoration allowances to the elderly, and strengthen elderly dental care services, including the establishment of dental clinics in the 18 districts, introduction of elderly dental care services and opening public dental clinics for elderly persons' use, etc.;
- (g) to expedite the establishment of public Chinese medicine clinics in the 18 districts, and establish additional elderly health centres and increase their membership;
- (h) to devote resources to strengthen occupational training related to the elderly care service industries, so as to increase manpower for elderly services and care and enhance practitioners' professional knowledge and quality;
- (i) to formulate a comprehensive and long-term elderly housing policy, examine afresh the current land planning for earmarking sites for elderly housing purposes, proactively study the introduction of the 'mixed use development' concept in private and public housing, and design a

residence model which integrates elderly housing and complementary facilities;

- (j) to expedite the implementation of a ‘mortgage scheme for the elderly’ (i.e. ‘reverse mortgage’), so as to assist elderly persons with private properties in enhancing their finances and improving living environment and lives in twilight years, and launch a scheme on ‘making use of residential properties to provide for the twilight years of the elderly’ for elderly property owners who have no means of living and do not have any children;
- (k) to implement the elderly-friendly policy in all public places, effectively enforce the requirements of barrier-free facilities, and provide various types of facilities for elderly persons to facilitate their entry and exit;
~~and~~
- (l) to motivate various transport operators to offer comprehensive and permanent fare concessions to elderly persons; to enrich elderly persons’ retirement life by introducing ‘recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly’ and waiving admission fees for elderly persons in all exhibition halls under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and set up an ‘elderly employment fund’, so as to assist healthy elderly persons in sustaining their employment and giving full play to their abilities;
- (m) *with a view to alleviating the pressure of middle-class children in supporting their parents and encouraging them to support their parents, to increase the various allowances for maintaining dependent parents or grandparents;*
- (n) *to relax the restriction for those who live with the dependent parents or grandparents to claim the Dependent Parent/Grandparent Allowance, so as to encourage the young generation to closely take care of their elderly parents and promote family harmony; and*
- (o) *with a view to encouraging the employment of local home care workers, to provide a tax allowance for home care for children who employ local home care workers trained by recognized institutions to take care of their elderly parents at home, so as to encourage ageing in place and also boost local employment.*

Note: Hon Vincent FANG Kang’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit

That, ~~given that~~ *in order to cope with the phenomenon that* the trend of the ageing *and poverty* of the society in Hong Kong is accelerating, this Council urges the Government to plan in full speed and formulate as early as possible a more comprehensive elderly policy, and also set out a five-year plan for elderly services, so as to set specific development objectives and pledges for elderly services every five years, with a view to rectifying the serious problems of imbalance between supply of and demand for services, a large number of persons waiting for services and prolonged waiting time, as well as strengthening the care for the needs of elderly persons' living *and their retirement protection*, and vigorously improving people's livelihood; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to establish a five-year plan and service pledges in respect of residential care services for the elderly and community care for the elderly, and strive to increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and community care places for the elderly; to review the Standardized Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services; to provide elderly services subsidies for elderly persons by making reference to the mode of the existing education voucher scheme; and to enhance complementary measures for the elderly policy of 'ageing in place';
- (b) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance ('OAA') to enable elderly persons to spend their twilight years on the Mainland without worries, and allow elderly recipients of Disability Allowance to also receive OAA, so as to improve their living;
- (c) *to abolish the requirement that family members of elderly persons should submit a declaration on their financial conditions (commonly known as a 'statement on non-provision of financial support' or 'bad son statement') before elderly persons can become eligible for applying for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance on their own, so that elderly persons can spend their twilight years in contentment;*
- (e)(d) to intensify the policy of portable elderly welfare benefits; to provide allowances to elderly persons who return to their hometowns to live, enabling those elderly persons who choose to spend their twilight years in their hometowns to receive a monthly living supplement; to proactively study in conjunction with the relevant Mainland departments the introduction of medical insurance schemes for Hong Kong elderly persons living on the Mainland, and consider collaborating with the Mainland to run hospitals or provide out-patient services, so as to serve the Hong Kong people living on the Mainland;

- (d) ~~to propose the introduction of an entirely new ‘elderly maintenance grant scheme’ in addition to OAA and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme, so as to provide financial assistance to elderly persons who are not eligible for applying CSSA to help them improve their living~~
- (e) *to implement a universal retirement protection scheme to alleviate the basic livelihood problems faced by the elderly, the working poor and unpaid homemakers in their retirement lives, and when the labour force in the society is still sufficient at present, to enable the three sides of employees, employers and the Government to implement community savings plans, so as to properly prepare for the crisis arising from the peak of population ageing in the future;*
- (e)(f) to increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to \$1,000, lower the age requirement to 65, streamline administrative arrangements, and encourage the participation of more doctors; and to relax the elderly drug subsidization policy;
- (f)(g) to expedite resource allocation from the Community Care Fund for providing tooth filling and restoration allowances to the elderly, ~~and~~ *and for introducing elderly dental care vouchers, and comprehensively* strengthen elderly dental care services, including the establishment of dental clinics in the 18 districts, introduction of elderly dental care services and opening public dental clinics for elderly persons’ use, etc.;
- (g)(h) to expedite the establishment of public Chinese medicine clinics in the 18 districts, ~~and~~ *extensively* establish additional elderly health centres and increase their membership, *and set the objective of reducing the waiting time to less than two months;*
- (h)(i) to devote resources to strengthen occupational training related to the elderly care service industries, so as to increase manpower for elderly services and care and enhance practitioners’ professional knowledge and quality;
- (i)(j) to formulate a comprehensive and long-term elderly housing policy, examine afresh the current land planning for earmarking sites for elderly housing purposes, proactively study the introduction of the ‘mixed use development’ concept in private and public housing, ~~and~~ design a residence model which integrates elderly housing and complementary facilities, *increase elderly persons’ living area to provide them with sufficient space for placing rehabilitation appliances, and increase the number of places under the Harmonious Families Priority Scheme, so that more elderly persons can live with their family members;*

- (j)(k) to expedite the implementation of a ‘mortgage scheme for the elderly’ (i.e. ‘reverse mortgage’), so as to assist elderly persons with private properties in enhancing their finances and improving living environment and lives in twilight years, and launch a scheme on ‘making use of residential properties to provide for the twilight years of the elderly’ for elderly property owners who have no means of living and do not have any children;
- (k)(l) to implement the elderly-friendly policy in all public places, effectively enforce the requirements of barrier-free facilities, and provide various types of facilities for elderly persons to facilitate their entry and exit; and
- (l)(m) to motivate various transport operators to offer comprehensive and permanent fare concessions to elderly persons; to enrich elderly persons’ retirement life by introducing ‘recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly’ and waiving admission fees for elderly persons in all exhibition halls under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and set up an ‘elderly employment fund’, so as to assist healthy elderly persons in sustaining their employment and giving full play to their abilities.

Note: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

6. Motion as amended by Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

That, given that *the demand for elderly services from the society has continued to increase, and* the trend of the ageing of the society in Hong Kong is accelerating, this Council urges the Government to plan in full speed and formulate as early as possible a more comprehensive elderly policy, and also set out a five-year plan for elderly services, so as to set specific development objectives and pledges for elderly services every five years, with a view to rectifying the serious problems of imbalance between supply of and demand for services, a large number of persons waiting for services and prolonged waiting time, as well as strengthening the care for the needs of elderly persons’ living, and vigorously improving people’s livelihood; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) *focusing on the varying quality of private residential care homes for the elderly at present, to take the operating conditions of the sector seriously, and study providing the market with venues which are suitable for operating private residential care homes for the elderly by perfecting the land planning and housing policy; at the same time, to ensure that purchase prices are able to meet the costs of providing*

quality services; and to promote the voluntary accreditation system for private residential care homes for the elderly, so as to encourage the sector to upgrade its quality;

- (b) focusing on the continuous increase in the number of dementia patients in the society and the impact on the healthcare, social welfare, law, public order and ethics, etc., to take the gravity of the problem seriously and formulate corresponding proposals, so as to protect dementia patients and their family members;*
- (c) to encourage local radio stations to provide dedicated channels for the elderly, and also to encourage television stations to produce more elderly programmes, so as to provide senior citizens with more free audio-visual entertainment;*
- (d) through publicity and education, to proactively advocate the spirit of respecting, loving and caring for the elderly;*
- ~~(a)~~*(e) to establish a five-year plan and service pledges in respect of residential care services for the elderly and community care for the elderly, and strive to increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and community care places for the elderly; to review the Standardized Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services; to provide elderly services subsidies for elderly persons by making reference to the mode of the existing education voucher scheme; and to enhance complementary measures for the elderly policy of ‘ageing in place’;*
- ~~(b)~~*(f) to abolish the absence limit in respect of application for Old Age Allowance (‘OAA’) to enable elderly persons to spend their twilight years on the Mainland without worries, and allow elderly recipients of Disability Allowance to also receive OAA, so as to improve their living;*
- ~~(c)~~*(g) to intensify the policy of portable elderly welfare benefits; to provide allowances to elderly persons who return to their hometowns to live, enabling those elderly persons who choose to spend their twilight years in their hometowns to receive a monthly living supplement; to proactively study in conjunction with the relevant Mainland departments the introduction of medical insurance schemes for Hong Kong elderly persons living on the Mainland, and consider collaborating with the Mainland to run hospitals or provide out-patient services, so as to serve the Hong Kong people living on the Mainland; **on the other hand, focusing on the incessant return of Hong Kong elderly persons from the Mainland to Hong Kong in recent years, to formulate a more comprehensive strategy so as to assist such poor and helpless elderly***

persons in settling down in Hong Kong again and living their twilight years without worries;

- ~~(d)~~**(h)** to propose the introduction of an entirely new ‘elderly maintenance grant scheme’ in addition to OAA and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme, so as to provide financial assistance to elderly persons who are not eligible for applying CSSA to help them improve their living;
- ~~(e)~~**(i)** to increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to \$1,000, lower the age requirement to 65, streamline administrative arrangements, and encourage the participation of more doctors; and to relax the elderly drug subsidization policy;
- ~~(f)~~**(j)** to expedite resource allocation from the Community Care Fund for providing tooth filling and restoration allowances to the elderly, and strengthen elderly dental care services, including the establishment of dental clinics in the 18 districts, introduction of elderly dental care services and opening public dental clinics for elderly persons’ use, etc.;
- ~~(g)~~**(k)** to expedite the establishment of public Chinese medicine clinics in the 18 districts, and establish additional elderly health centres and increase their membership;
- ~~(h)~~**(l)** to devote resources to strengthen occupational training related to the elderly care service industries, so as to increase manpower for elderly services and care and enhance practitioners’ professional knowledge and quality;
- ~~(i)~~**(m)** to formulate a comprehensive and long-term elderly housing policy, examine afresh the current land planning for earmarking sites for elderly housing purposes, proactively study the introduction of the ‘mixed use development’ concept in private and public housing, and design a residence model which integrates elderly housing and complementary facilities;
- ~~(j)~~**(n)** to expedite the implementation of a ‘mortgage scheme for the elderly’ (i.e. ‘reverse mortgage’), so as to assist elderly persons with private properties in enhancing their finances and improving living environment and lives in twilight years, and launch a scheme on ‘making use of residential properties to provide for the twilight years of the elderly’ for elderly property owners who have no means of living and do not have any children;

- ~~(k)~~(o) to implement the elderly-friendly policy in all public places, effectively enforce the requirements of barrier-free facilities, and provide various types of facilities for elderly persons to facilitate their entry and exit; and
- ⊕(p) to motivate various transport operators to offer comprehensive and permanent fare *waiver* concessions to elderly persons; to enrich elderly persons' retirement life by introducing 'recreation and sports vouchers for the elderly' and waiving admission fees for elderly persons in all exhibition halls under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and set up an 'elderly employment fund', so as to assist healthy elderly persons in sustaining their employment and giving full play to their abilities.

Note: Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.