

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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Tel : 2869 9205

Date : 25 November 2010

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

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**Council meeting of 8 December 2010**

**Motion on  
“Air pollution and public health”**

Hon KAM Nai-wai has given notice to move the attached motion on “Air pollution and public health” at the Council meeting of 8 December 2010. The President has directed that “it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in” on the Agenda of the Council.

( Mrs Justina LAM )  
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Air pollution and public health”  
to be moved by Hon KAM Nai-wai  
at the Legislative Council meeting  
of Wednesday, 8 December 2010**

**Wording of the Motion**

That, as the problem of air pollution in Hong Kong has continued to be serious, posing threats to public health, yet the Government has not updated Hong Kong's Air Quality Objectives ('AQOs'), and at present, many highly polluting franchised buses and lorries still run on the roads, continuing to emit exhaust gas, this Council expresses its disappointment in this regard; according to the statistics of the Hedley Environmental Index, in the first 10 months of this year, air pollution caused as many as 635 premature deaths and more than 4 million attendances of medical consultation in Hong Kong; given that air pollution has incurred huge monetary losses and social costs, this Council urges the Government to implement the following proposals, so as to expeditiously improve air quality for the protection of public health:

- (a) to immediately update AQOs by adopting the most stringent standards of the World Health Organization's air quality guidelines as Hong Kong's AQOs, and undertake to review AQOs regularly in the future;
- (b) by way of financial subsidy or franchise extension, to push ahead the early phasing out and replacement of franchised buses with high emissions, so as to improve roadside air quality, and immediately install emission reduction devices on all buses that have not been phased out or replaced;
- (c) to enhance the scheme for the replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles mentioned in the Budget of this year, including placing Pre-Euro and Euro-I vehicles under the scheme and allowing those vehicle owners who only write off their vehicles to receive subsidies under the scheme;
- (d) to increase the number, usage and types of electric vehicles; improve and strengthen support facilities to tie in with the introduction of electric vehicles by, for example, actively discussing with various developers the provision of recharging facilities for electric vehicles in the car parks

of their properties; and expeditiously study amending the legislation to expedite and streamline the procedure for electric vehicle drivers to apply for the permit to drive on expressways, so as to assist in popularizing electric vehicles;

- (e) to urge bus companies to expand and increase the provision of interchange concessions and services which appeal to passengers, and to expedite the reorganization and improve the arrangement of bus routes, with a view to avoiding the overlapping of bus routes, relieving traffic congestion and reducing air pollution;
- (f) to expeditiously implement the proposal of designating 'low emission zones', so as to restrict the entry of vehicles with high emissions into designated areas;
- (g) in respect of the situation where the Air Pollution Index reaches the 'extremely severe' level, to formulate specific guidelines, including implementation of measures to suspend schools and arrange for workers who need to work outdoors for long hours to suspend work, etc., so as to protect the health of school children and the socially disadvantaged, such as people with chronic illness, the elderly and workers working outdoors, in situations where the pollution is serious;
- (h) when formulating measures to improve air pollution, to adopt the latest objectives and benchmarks of the World Health Organization, and evaluate the effectiveness of each measure in improving public health, and set improving public health as the primary policy objective in addressing the problem of air pollution; and
- (i) to recognize that air pollution is a public health issue, and require accountable officials from the Food and Health Bureau to participate in the formulation of policies on improving air quality.