

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Facing up to the transport needs of people with disabilities”
moved by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 20 October 2010**

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po

That, as the Government advocates the cultivation of a people-oriented, loving and caring social culture, and in retrospect, this Council passed motions on a number of occasions over the past few years calling for improvement to transport facilities for all people with disabilities in Hong Kong and offer of concessionary transport fares to them, but the Administration, some statutory transport corporations and other public transport operators still fail to fully face up to and give effect to the motions, and even though some public transport operators have given effect to the motions, they only do so in an unfair and selective manner, and the crux of the problem is the Government's lack of a specific policy on fare concessions for people with disabilities and determination to take the lead to make improvements; this Council strongly demands the Administration to take the lead in implementing in those public transport operators with the Government as the major shareholder and set an example for pushing various public transport operators to immediately and fully respond as well as give effect to the relevant motions previously passed by this Council and the recommendations in the Report of the Council's Subcommittee to Study the Transport Needs of and Provision of Concessionary Public Transport Fares for Persons with Disabilities in the last term; in addition, the Government must implement the following concrete measures to more comprehensively address the transport needs of people with disabilities so as to enable them to integrate into society more effectively:

- (a) to formulate a policy on fare concessions on public transport which covers all people with disabilities in Hong Kong, including those with different degree of disability;
- (b) in order to effectively assist people with disabilities in integrating into society, to adopt legislative, administrative and financial measures to press various major public transport operators to offer concessionary fares to all people with disabilities in Hong Kong;
- (c) to put forth, in the near future, specific proposals and a timetable for introducing half-fare concession on public transport for all people with disabilities in Hong Kong, so as to help them integrate into society and improve their life;
- (d) to allocate additional resources to comprehensively improve the Rehabus service and, in particular, enhance such service for people with disabilities living in remote areas and new towns;

- (e) to set aside a certain percentage of the cash dividends received from the MTR Corporation Limited each year to subsidize the transport fares of people with disabilities;
- (f) to request the MTR Corporation Limited to expeditiously install facilities such as platform screen doors, platform gates and automatic mechanical gap fillers for all its rail lines in order to strengthen platform safety, and improve station facilities with a view to creating a barrier-free environment;
- (g) to request various public bus companies to expeditiously replace their buses with low floor type buses to cater for the transport needs of people with disabilities, and when a bus makes stops, inform passengers of the routing arrangement through its public address system for the convenience of the blind, and at the same time incorporate provisions in the new franchise agreements on public bus services to require bus companies to offer concessionary fares to people with disabilities;
- (h) to study subsidizing people with disabilities in need to purchase electrical wheelchairs so as to facilitate them to use public transport;
- (i) to request the Transport Department to explore waiving the licence fee for people with disabilities who purchase private cars with a cylinder capacity of over 1 500 c.c. so as to make it convenient for them to carry larger and heavier electrical wheelchair and supporting equipment, provide additional auto-fuel allowances for people with disabilities, subsidize drivers with disabilities for using private tunnels and provide parking spaces for them, so that people with disabilities do not have to pay high transportation fees; and
- (j) to step up consultation with people with disabilities to fully realize the concept of 'Transport for All', and strictly regulate public transport operators in providing barrier-free facilities, so as to enable more people with disabilities to use public transport and integrate into society.