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 21 December 2011

Amendments to motion on "Improving the voter registration system to rebuild people's confidence in the electoral system"

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 219/11-12 issued on 8 December 2011, three Members (Hon Ronny TONG, Dr Hon Philip WONG and Hon Albert CHAN) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon KAM Nai-wai's motion on "Improving the voter registration system to rebuild people's confidence in the electoral system" scheduled for the Council meeting of 21 December 2011. As directed by the President, the respective 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 KAM Nai-wai to speak and move his motion;
 - (b) the President proposes the question on Hon KAM Nai-wai's motion;
 - (c) the President calls upon the three Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:

- (i) Hon Ronny TONG;
- (ii) Dr Hon Philip WONG; and
- (iii) Hon Albert CHAN;
- (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 KAM Nai-wai 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 three Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon Ronny TONG to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon Ronny TONG's amendment;
- (i) after Hon Ronny TONG's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other two amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon KAM Nai-wai to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon KAM Nai-wai'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 "Improving the voter registration system to rebuild people's confidence in the electoral system" to be held at the Council meeting of 21 December 2011

1. Hon KAM Nai-wai's original motion

That the media have recently disclosed the discovery of many suspected vote-rigging cases after the District Council Election held on 6 November this year; besides, after every Legislative Council Election and District Council Election in the past, the Administration also received tens of thousands of returned poll cards; as there is a lack of an effective verification mechanism under the voter registration system, law-breakers may easily register as voters with falsified addresses, thus ruining the electoral system and causing voters to lose confidence, this Council urges the Administration to spare no efforts in investigating suspected vote-rigging cases, institute prosecutions against law-breakers, and comprehensively review the voter registration system, so as to ensure that before the Legislative Council Election to be held in September next year, the loopholes are plugged and people's confidence in the electoral system is rebuilt.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Ronny TONG

That the existing voter registration system has room for improvement, and the media have recently disclosed the discovery of many suspected vote-rigging cases after the District Council Election held on 6 November this year; besides, after every Legislative Council Election and District Council Election in the past, the Administration also received tens of thousands of returned poll cards; as there is a lack of an effective verification mechanism under the voter registration system, law-breakers may easily register as voters with falsified addresses, thus ruining the electoral system and causing voters to lose confidence, this Council urges the Administration to spare no efforts in investigating suspected vote-rigging cases, institute prosecutions against law-breakers, and comprehensively review the voter registration system, including studying the adoption of the following measures:

(a) to consolidate all existing laws relating to eligibility requirements for voters and voters' exercise of their voting right into a centralized, clear and easy-to-understand electoral law;

- (b) to require newly registered voters to provide residential address proof for verifying their declared residential addresses;
- (c) to add to statutory voter registers the listing of voters' particulars by residential addresses, so as to facilitate public inspection;
- (d) to extend the deadlines for lodging notices of objection regarding provisional registers, so as to facilitate members of the public and groups to check voters' particulars; and
- (e) to specify that voters must report any changes in their residential addresses to the Administration within a statutory time frame,

so as to ensure that before the Legislative Council Election to be held in September next year, the loopholes are plugged and people's confidence in the electoral system is rebuilt.

Note: Hon Ronny TONG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

3. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Philip WONG

That the media have recently disclosed the discovery of many suspected vote-rigging cases after the District Council Election held on 6 November this year; besides, after every Legislative Council Election and District Council Election in the past, the Administration also received tens of thousands of returned poll cards; as there is a lack of an effective in this connection, this Council considers that the Administration should further enhance the verification mechanism under the voter registration system, law-breakers may easily register so as to prevent law-breakers from registering as voters with falsified addresses, thus ruining the electoral system and causing voters to lose confidence; on the other hand, the right to vote is a very important right, and under Article 26 of the Basic Law, permanent residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ('HKSAR') shall have the right to vote and the right to stand for election in accordance with law; in this connection, this Council urges the Administration to spare no efforts in investigating suspected prosecutions vote-rigging cases, institute against law-breakers, comprehensively review the voter registration system, so as to and, while upholding HKSAR permanent residents' right to vote, ensure that before the Legislative Council Election to be held in September next year, the loopholes are plugged and people's confidence in the electoral system is rebuilt.

<u>Note</u>: Dr Hon Philip WONG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon Albert CHAN

That the media have recently disclosed the discovery of many suspected vote-rigging cases after the District Council Election held on 6 November this year; besides, after every Legislative Council Election and District Council Election in the past, the Administration also received tens of thousands of returned poll cards; as the problem of vote-rigging is long-standing and has existed for many years, but the Government has disregarded its gravity, causing the problem of vote-rigging to worsen acutely in recent years; and, there is a lack of an effective verification mechanism under the voter registration system, law-breakers may easily register as voters with falsified addresses, thus ruining the electoral system and causing voters to lose confidence, this Council expresses strong condemnation of Mr Stephen LAM, the former Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs and incumbent Chief Secretary for Administration, and the Registration and Electoral Office for bringing disgrace to Hong Kong through their dereliction of duty, and urges the Administration to spare no efforts in investigating suspected prosecutions against law-breakers, vote-rigging cases, institute comprehensively review the voter registration system, so as to ensure that before the Legislative Council Election to be held in September next year, the loopholes are plugged and people's confidence in the electoral system is rebuilt.

Note: Hon Albert CHAN's amendment is marked in **bold and italic type**.