

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Optimizing the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
for the unemployed”**

**Moved by Hon James TIEN
at the Council meeting of 23 January 2013**

**Motion as amended by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG and
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen**

That, as there is no legislation prohibiting age discrimination in Hong Kong, making it extremely difficult for middle-aged and elderly people with low education attainment to find jobs, with some of them having to apply for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), this Council urges the Government to expeditiously adopt effective measures, including reviving labour-intensive industries, human services, agriculture and other industries for the development of economic diversification; increasing training opportunities, establishing career ladders for different trades, creating more employment opportunities, and promoting a family-friendly working environment; and optimizing the system of CSSA for the unemployed by relaxing the disregarded earnings mechanism to encourage employment and motivate those with the ability to work to be self-reliant, and taking measures to eradicate abuse of CSSA for the unemployed, so as to focus resources on helping people with genuine needs; as the situation of CSSA recipients being adversely labelled has become increasingly serious in recent years, this Council urges the Government to review the system of CSSA for the unemployed.