

(Translation)

Motion on
“Domestic free television programme service licence applications”
moved by Hon Claudia MO
at the Council meeting of 28 November 2012

Motion as amended by Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok

That, given that the progress of vetting the three applications for domestic free television programme service licences (‘free TV licences’) has always been of major concern to the society, but the Government has not yet announced the application results, causing various speculations in society; in order to give the local free television industry a business environment for fair competition and sustainable development, this Council puts forward the following views and recommendations, and urges the relevant authorities to respond positively, including:

- (a) as the Government has been promoting a pluralistic and open society, but on the applications for free TV licences, it has not made a decision after almost three years, this Council therefore requests the Government to undertake to issue additional free TV licences before the end of March next year and issue the licences as soon as possible;
- (b) as the cultural and creative industry is one of the six industries where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, and in Hong Kong a considerable number of young people enroll in relevant multi-media courses, in order to increase employment opportunities for these young people and facilitate the development of creative media, the Government should proactively formulate the relevant policies and measures; and
- (c) the Government should make the vetting process of free TV licence applications open and transparent to dispel public misgivings; the relevant broadcasting ordinances and codes of practice should keep pace with the times and, on a fair and equal basis, apply across the board to existing free TV licensees and operators joining the competition in the future.