

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 732/12-13

Ref : CB(3)/M/MM

Tel : 3919 3302

Date : 27 June 2013

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 3 July 2013

**Amendments to motion on
“Formulating a population policy”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 699/12-13 issued on 19 June 2013, eight Members (Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN, Hon James TO, Hon Claudia MO, Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon Gary FAN, Hon Cyd HO, Hon Frankie YICK and Hon Kenneth LEUNG) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon IP Kwok-him’s motion on “Formulating a population policy” scheduled for the Council meeting of 3 July 2013. 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 IP Kwok-him to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon IP Kwok-him’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the eight Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN;
 - (ii) Hon James TO;

- (iii) Hon Claudia MO;
 - (iv) Hon IP Kin-yuen;
 - (v) Hon Gary FAN;
 - (vi) Hon Cyd HO;
 - (vii) Hon Frankie YICK; and
 - (viii) Hon Kenneth LEUNG;
- (d) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak;
 - (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
 - (f) the President gives leave to Hon IP Kwok-him to speak for the second time on the amendments;
 - (g) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
 - (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the eight Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN's amendment;
 - (i) after Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other seven amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon IP Kwok-him to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon IP Kwok-him's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Ms Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Formulating a population policy”
to be held at the Council meeting of 3 July 2013**

1. Hon IP Kwok-him’s original motion

That manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong’s success, but with the average age of the population continuing to rise and the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become ‘an ageing society with fewer children’, and such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong’s sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society.

2. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN

That *over the years, the HKSAR Government has continuously conducted population policy studies, but the overall population policy planning has not progressed noticeably*; manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong’s success, but with the average age of the population continuing to rise and the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become ‘an ageing society with fewer children’, and such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong’s sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society; *specific policy proposals should include:*

- (1) *to conduct studies on preferential policies for encouraging childbirth and undertake manpower and resource planning on services for infants and young children in various aspects;*
- (2) *in accordance with the demographic structures of various districts, to conduct comprehensive service planning on demands for different public services;*
- (3) *to review the various existing schemes on admitting talents from outside Hong Kong, and perfect the relevant policies; and*
- (4) *to discuss with the Central Government to enable the HKSAR Government to participate in the vetting and approval of one-way permit applications.*

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

3. Motion as amended by Hon James TO

That *all along, the Government has not formulated a set of effective population development strategies, making it difficult for Hong Kong to have long-term planning on various fronts;* manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success, but with the average age of the population continuing to rise and the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become 'an ageing society with fewer children', and such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong's sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society; *specific measures should include:*

- (1) *to formulate a medium-term public finance strategy for the next 10 years, project the impacts of population ageing on taxation and the expenditure pattern of public finance, and allocate funding from the fiscal surplus to set up an 'old age population fund', followed by an annual capital injection from the accumulated surplus of the Exchange Fund, so as to cope with future drastic increases in public expenditure arising from population ageing;*

- (2) *to review the immigration policy, strive for the right to vet and approve one-way permit applications, and discuss with the Mainland authorities on adjusting the allocation system of one-way permit places;*
- (3) *as for couples who have fertility problems or are infertile and have financial difficulties, the Government should allocate additional resources to enable them to receive government subventions or subsidies for proper treatment, so as to help remove obstacles to childbearing; and*
- (4) *to accord priority to providing ancillary services for the care of Hong Kong children and mothers during their antenatal and postnatal periods, etc., so as to avoid Hong Kong people being deprived of the resources they are entitled to.*

Note: Hon James TO's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

4. Motion as amended by Hon Claudia MO

~~That manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success, but with~~, *as the average age of the population continuing Hong Kong population continues to rise and while the fertility rate fluctuating fluctuates downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become 'an ageing society with fewer children', and such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong's sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society; in addition, given that in accordance with the spirit of the Basic Law, the HKSAR Government enjoys a high degree of autonomy and is vested with executive power except in defence and foreign affairs, and society generally considers that this should include the power of vetting and approving the entry of immigrants, the authorities should therefore change the current practice and fully exercise Hong Kong's power of vetting and approving the entry of immigrants.*

Note: Hon Claudia MO's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Hon IP Kin-yuen

That, *with the continuous change in Hong Kong's population structure, changes in the fertility rate, the mortality rate as well as population flows have far-reaching impact on Hong Kong, posing a challenge to the planning of services relating to education and manpower training, healthcare, welfare, etc., which needs to be addressed early*; manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success, but with the average age of the population continuing to rise and the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become 'an ageing society with fewer children', and such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong's sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society; *when formulating, implementing and reviewing the population policy, the authorities should consider the following factors:*

- (1) *with population ageing, the slow growth of the labour force and the rising dependency ratio, the authorities should adopt measures to improve the quality of the labour force, including expeditiously implementing 15-year free education and small-class teaching, increasing the numbers of subsidized degree and sub-degree programme places, and increasing local youngsters' opportunities to enrol in postgraduate programmes;*
- (2) *with the frequent population flows between the Mainland and Hong Kong, which constitute an uncertain factor in demands for public services, the authorities should closely follow the situation relating to the receipt of education in Hong Kong by children born in Hong Kong to Mainland residents; and at the same time, in response to the demands of cross-boundary students and children arriving in Hong Kong on one-way permits for early childhood education and basic education services, the authorities should conduct early consultation with the education sector, and properly formulate school place planning, so as to avoid the dissatisfaction of schools and parents arising from inappropriate school place planning and address the challenge brought by demographic changes;*

- (3) *in response to factors such as the increasing demand for elderly services arising from population ageing, the succession gap of blue-collar workers, the need for new manpower resources for developing industries with competitive edge, etc., the authorities should conduct planning on and strengthen vocational education and manpower training, so as to avoid a mismatch of talents and ensure sufficient manpower resources to meet the demands;*
- (4) *the authorities should review the supply and demand of international school places, and ensure sufficient places for children of foreigners intending to come to work in Hong Kong, so as to avoid their switching to work in other countries or places due to their inability to arrange education for their children in Hong Kong, thereby attracting talents to Hong Kong and making the population more diverse; and*
- (5) *the authorities should face up to the difficulties of the rapidly increasing ethnic minority population in integrating into society, and strengthen the support for ethnic minority youngsters in respect of their right to learn Chinese and receive education, so as to ensure an equal opportunity for them in further education, employment and integration into society.*

Note: Hon IP Kin-yuen's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

6. Motion as amended by Hon Gary FAN

~~That manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success, but with the average age of the population continuing to rise and the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become 'an ageing society with fewer children',~~ *and over the past 10 years, the fertility rate in Hong Kong has been relatively low, with net inward migration (particularly new immigrants from the Mainland) being a major source of population growth for Hong Kong; at present, the One-Way Permit Scheme is administered by the Mainland authorities with a daily quota of 150; over the past 10 years, the number of one-way permit holders coming to Hong Kong has been over 450 000, with 55% of them aged between 25 and 44; babies born to 'doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women' is another major source of population growth, increasing in number from 620 in 2001 to 35 736 in 2011; however,* such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong's sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should *take back the powers to vet, approve, review and reject one-way permit applications, and*

discuss with the Central Government on initiating the procedures for amending the Basic Law to abolish the right of abode in Hong Kong enjoyed by babies born in Hong Kong to ‘doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women’ so as to thoroughly resolve the issue of babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland parents; at the same time, the Government should also establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society.

Note: Hon Gary FAN’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

7. Motion as amended by Hon Cyd HO

That *although* manpower resources are ~~the cornerstone~~ *one of the cornerstones* of Hong Kong’s success, ~~but~~ with the average age of the population continuing to rise ~~and~~, the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, *and the elderly dependency ratio rising continuously*, Hong Kong has gradually become ‘an ageing society with fewer children’, and such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong’s sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society; *in addition, the Government should also:*

- (1) *allocate \$50 billion for establishing a seed fund for universal retirement protection; and*
- (2) *require an investment immigrant to implement a business plan, which is to be operated for no less than three years with the investment amount required by the authorities, and to provide no fewer than five full-time jobs each year within those three years.*

Note: Hon Cyd HO’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

8. Motion as amended by Hon Frankie YICK

That manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success, but with the average age of the population continuing to rise and the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become 'an ageing society with fewer children', ~~and such a trend of demographic change~~ ***resulting in various industries and trades facing a serious shortage of manpower and professionals, and as the HKSAR Government's talent training policy has not yet perfected over the years, there is a mismatch between positions at various levels and manpower resources, and such a trend*** will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong's sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive ***and feasible*** population policy, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and related recommendations; at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies ***for dovetailing with the development of the economy and industrial structure***, and regularly ~~review the effectiveness of various policies and make timely adjustments to them~~ ***conduct reviews***, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society.

Note: Hon Frankie YICK's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

9. Motion as amended by Hon Kenneth LEUNG

That manpower resources are the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success, but with the average age of the population continuing to rise and the fertility rate fluctuating downwards, Hong Kong has gradually become 'an ageing society with fewer children', and such a trend of demographic change will pose a severe challenge to Hong Kong's sustainable development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously announce a comprehensive population policy ***blueprint***, and conduct public consultation on the objectives of the population policy and ~~related recommendations;~~ ***specific recommended measures; the authorities should set a timetable for formulating and implementing the population policy, so as to expeditiously deal with the impacts of population ageing and establish policies on education, manpower, welfare and the economy, etc., which are necessary for dovetailing with changes in the population structure;*** at the same time, the Government should establish a dedicated population policy implementation framework to facilitate the co-ordination and continuous promotion of the short, medium and long-term population policies, and regularly review the effectiveness of various policies

and make timely adjustments to them, so as to address the challenge of demographic change to society.

Note: Hon Kenneth LEUNG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.