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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 20 March 2019

**Amendments to motion on
“Reforming the immigration and admission policies”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 436/18-19 issued on 8 March 2019, five Members (Hon Claudia MO, Hon Alvin YEUNG, Hon Steven HO, Hon CHU Hoi-dick and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Gary FAN’s motion on “Reforming the immigration and admission policies”. As directed by the President, the respective amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the five amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and the amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon Gary FAN to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Gary FAN’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the five Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon Claudia MO;
 - (ii) Hon Alvin YEUNG;

- (iii) Hon Steven HO;
 - (iv) Hon CHU Hoi-dick; and
 - (v) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG;
- (d) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak;
 - (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
 - (f) the President calls upon Hon Gary FAN 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 five Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon Claudia MO to move her amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon Claudia MO's amendment;
 - (i) after Hon Claudia MO's amendment has been voted upon, the Council deals with the other four amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Gary FAN to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Gary FAN's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' reference, the terms of the original motion and the marked-up version of the amendments are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Reforming the immigration and admission policies”**

1. Hon Gary FAN’s original motion

That between mid-1997 and end 2017, there had been an annual average entry of 48 300 One-way Permit (‘OWP’) holders into Hong Kong, giving a cumulative inflow of 990 000 people; moreover, between 2013 and 2017, an annual average of some 53 500 non-local professionals were allowed to work and settle in Hong Kong under three major talent admission schemes; as there have been strong views in the Hong Kong community in recent years, expressing concern that the persistent increase in Hong Kong’s population has created a heavy burden on public services and facilities in Hong Kong, and that some of the entrants have committed immigration frauds (including concealing overseas assets, using false identities, forging documents, engaging in bogus marriages) to obtain right of abode and social welfare, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform the immigration and admission policies by adhering to the principle of ‘putting Hong Kong people first’ and taking into account the local carrying capacity; specific measures include:

- (1) establishing a dual vetting and approval mechanism for OWP in accordance with Articles 22 and 154 of the Basic Law and the Immigration Ordinance whereby the SAR Government can exercise the power to vet and approve entry for immigration and taking back the initiative in the policy on OWP, so as to serve properly the gatekeeping role on the population policy of Hong Kong;
- (2) striving for reducing OWP quota by half to 75 per day and reviewing the quota for various talent admission schemes, so as to alleviate the burden on public healthcare services, subsidized housing, social welfare and educational resources posed by an increasing number of immigrants and entrants in the future, so that priority can be accorded to meeting the needs of the Hong Kong people in the allocation of public resources in Hong Kong;
- (3) reforming the OWP application system to make it on a par with the dependents system of various talent admission schemes by incorporating the approval conditions on financial means, to be complemented by a points system, so as to make early identification

and selection of immigrants having long-term means to live at a standard well above the subsistence level to settle in Hong Kong;

- (4) negotiating with the relevant departments of Mainland China in respect of the OWP system for a study on the introduction of a ‘return mechanism’ to allow people coming to Hong Kong on OWPs to temporarily retain their household registration in the Mainland and return to Mainland China for resettlement if they cannot adapt to the life in Hong Kong;
- (5) regarding people who are granted the right of abode in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes and the OWP system, stepping up investigation into their overseas assets if they apply for social welfare and subsidized housing in Hong Kong, so as to plug the loopholes in the existing policy;
- (6) stepping up efforts in combating cross-boundary bogus marriages by, among others, drawing reference from the practice of the United Kingdom, extending the period for the issue of a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages if the Registrar of Marriages has reasonable suspicions of non-local people planning to get married in Hong Kong engaging in bogus marriages, so that government departments can have more time to conduct investigations and take enforcement actions to prevent fraudsters from obtaining through bogus marriages the requisite documents to apply for settlement in Hong Kong, and the Immigration Department should compile statistics on the number of bogus marriages in Hong Kong annually; and
- (7) stepping up efforts against immigration frauds at the local and international levels by, drawing reference from the practices of the United Kingdom and Australia, establishing an inter-departmental dedicated team to tackle organized immigration crime to carry out, focusing on applications suspected of using false identities, forging documents, making false statements, etc., strict verification of supporting documents, and participating in the global cooperation on immigration fraud prevention.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Claudia MO

That, *Hong Kong’s population continues to increase*, between mid-1997 and end 2017, there had been an annual average entry of 48 300 One-way Permit (‘OWP’) holders into Hong Kong, ~~giving a cumulative inflow of 990 000 people;~~ *as at 2018, more than 1.03 million people have come to Hong Kong on OWPs*; moreover, between 2013 and 2017, an annual average of some 53 500 non-local professionals were allowed to work and settle in Hong Kong

under three major talent admission schemes; as there have been strong views in the Hong Kong community in recent years, expressing concern that the persistent increase in Hong Kong's population has created a heavy burden on public services and facilities in Hong Kong, and that some of the entrants have committed immigration frauds (including concealing overseas assets *outside Hong Kong*, using false identities, forging documents, engaging in bogus marriages) to obtain right of abode and social welfare, this Council urges the SAR Government *to safeguard Hong Kong from 'Mainlandization', and* to reform the immigration and admission policies by adhering to the principle of 'putting Hong Kong people first' and taking into account the local carrying capacity; specific measures include:

- (1) establishing a dual vetting and approval mechanism for OWP *first* in accordance with Articles 22 and 154 of the Basic Law and the Immigration Ordinance whereby the SAR Government can exercise the power to vet and approve entry for immigration and taking back the initiative in the policy on OWP, so as to serve properly the gatekeeping role on the population policy of Hong Kong; *in the long run, vesting in the SAR Government the full responsibility for vetting and approving OWP applications;*
- (2) striving for reducing OWP quota by half to 75 per day and reviewing the quota for various talent admission schemes, so as to alleviate the burden on public healthcare services, subsidized housing, social welfare and educational resources posed by an increasing number of immigrants and entrants in the future, so that priority can be accorded to meeting the needs of the Hong Kong people in the allocation of public resources in Hong Kong; *if the quota cannot be reduced by half across the board, considering to first reduce OWP quota in a progressive manner to 100 to 120 per day;*
- (3) reforming the OWP application system to make it on a par with the dependents system of various talent admission schemes by incorporating the approval conditions on financial means, to be complemented by a points system, so as to make early identification and selection of immigrants having long-term means to live at a standard well above the subsistence level to settle in Hong Kong;
- (4) negotiating with the relevant departments of Mainland China in respect of the OWP system for a study on the introduction of a 'return mechanism' to allow people coming to Hong Kong on OWPs to temporarily retain *apply for restoring* their household registration in the Mainland and return to Mainland China for resettlement if they cannot adapt to the life in Hong Kong;

- (5) regarding people who are granted the right of abode in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes and the OWP system, stepping up investigation into their overseas assets *outside Hong Kong* if they apply for social welfare and subsidized housing in Hong Kong, so as to plug the loopholes in the existing policy;
- (6) stepping up efforts in combating cross-boundary bogus marriages by, among others, drawing reference from the practice of the United Kingdom, extending the period for the issue of a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages if the Registrar of Marriages has reasonable suspicions of non-local people planning to get married in Hong Kong engaging in bogus marriages, so that government departments can have more time to conduct investigations and take enforcement actions to prevent fraudsters from obtaining through bogus marriages the requisite documents to apply for settlement in Hong Kong, and the Immigration Department should compile statistics on the number of bogus marriages in Hong Kong annually; ~~and~~
- (7) stepping up efforts against immigration frauds at the local and international levels by, drawing reference from the practices of the United Kingdom and Australia, establishing an inter-departmental dedicated team to tackle organized immigration crime to carry out, focusing on applications suspected of using false identities, forging documents, making false statements, etc., strict verification of supporting documents, and participating in the global cooperation on immigration fraud prevention;
- (8) *providing language and cultural support, including learning Cantonese and traditional Chinese characters, to Mainland residents who are granted the right of abode in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes and the OWP system, so as to avoid Hong Kong people having to deliberately accommodate them due to language and cultural differences, with a view to safeguarding Hong Kong from ‘Mainlandization’; and*
- (9) *setting up a high-level inter-departmental steering committee to conduct studies on measures to reform the immigration and admission policies, and expeditiously formulating a timetable in response to strong public concerns.*

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

3. Motion as amended by Hon Alvin YEUNG

That, *in recent years, there has been a rapid growth in Hong Kong's population*, between mid-1997 and end 2017, there had been an annual average entry of 48 300 One-way Permit ('OWP') holders into Hong Kong, giving a cumulative inflow of 990 000 people; ~~moreover, between 2013 and 2017, an annual average of some 53 500 non-local professionals were allowed to work and settle in Hong Kong under three major talent admission schemes;~~ as there have been strong views in the Hong Kong community in recent years, expressing concern that the persistent increase in Hong Kong's population has created a heavy burden on public services and facilities in Hong Kong, and that some of the entrants have committed immigration frauds (including concealing overseas assets, using false identities, forging documents, engaging in bogus marriages) to obtain right of abode and social welfare, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform the immigration and admission policies by adhering to the principle of 'putting Hong Kong people first' and taking into account the local carrying capacity; specific measures include:

- (1) establishing a dual vetting and approval mechanism for OWP in accordance with Articles 22 and 154 of the Basic Law and the Immigration Ordinance whereby the SAR Government can exercise the power to vet and approve entry for immigration and taking back the initiative in the policy on OWP, so as to serve properly the gatekeeping role on the population policy of Hong Kong;
- (2) ~~striving for~~ ***conducting a universal consultation on*** reducing OWP quota by half to 75 per day and reviewing the quota for various talent admission schemes, so as to ~~alleviate~~ ***assess*** the ~~burden on~~ ***demand for*** public healthcare services, subsidized housing, social welfare and educational resources posed by an increasing number of immigrants and entrants in the future, ~~so~~ ***thereby ensuring*** that priority can be accorded to meeting the needs of the Hong Kong people in the allocation of public resources in Hong Kong;
- (3) ***establishing a mechanism for communicating with the Central Government in accordance with Article 22 of the Basic Law in order to regularly make recommendations to the Central Government on the OWP quota according to the policy needs of Hong Kong, and consulting the Legislative Council on the adjustment of the quota every time before making recommendations;***
- (3)(4) ~~reforming the OWP application system to make it on a par with the dependents system of various talent admission schemes by incorporating the approval conditions on financial means, to be~~

~~complemented by a points system,~~ **and when vetting and approving such applications, comprehensively consider various factors such as family reunion, financial means and humanitarian need,** so as to make early identification and selection of immigrants having ~~long-term~~ means to live at a standard well above the subsistence level to settle in Hong Kong;

- (4)(5) negotiating with the relevant departments of Mainland China in respect of the OWP system for a study on the introduction of a 'return mechanism' to allow people coming to Hong Kong on OWPs to temporarily retain their household registration in the Mainland and return to Mainland China for resettlement if they cannot adapt to the life in Hong Kong;
- (5)(6) regarding people who are granted the right of abode in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes and the OWP system, stepping up investigation into their overseas assets if they apply for social welfare and subsidized housing in Hong Kong, so as to plug the loopholes in the existing policy;
- (6)(7) stepping up efforts in combating cross-boundary bogus marriages by, among others, drawing reference from the practice of the United Kingdom, extending the period for the issue of a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages if the Registrar of Marriages has reasonable suspicions of non-local people planning to get married in Hong Kong engaging in bogus marriages, so that government departments can have more time to conduct investigations and take enforcement actions to prevent fraudsters from obtaining through bogus marriages the requisite documents to apply for settlement in Hong Kong, and the Immigration Department should compile statistics on the number of bogus marriages in Hong Kong annually; ~~and~~
- (7)(8) stepping up efforts against immigration frauds at the local and international levels by, drawing reference from the practices of the United Kingdom and Australia, establishing an inter-departmental dedicated team to tackle organized immigration crime to carry out, focusing on applications suspected of using false identities, forging documents, making false statements, etc., strict verification of supporting documents, and participating in the global cooperation on immigration fraud prevention; **and**
- (9) **establishing a standing office of population policy and its areas of work include examining various factors affecting population growth in the short and medium term, especially the OWP system, dependents system and various talent admission schemes, making timely**

recommendations to the Chief Executive on the immigration and admission policies and coordinating the work of the relevant government departments, with a view to avoiding the overloading of Hong Kong's public services and facilities as a result of a persistent increase in population.

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

4. Motion as amended by Hon Steven HO

That, *among the over 7 million Hong Kong people or their forefathers, many of them are Mainlanders coming to Hong Kong for settlement;* between mid-1997 and end 2017, there had been an annual average entry of 48 300 One-way Permit ('OWP') holders into Hong Kong *for family reunion*, giving a cumulative inflow of 990 000 people; moreover, between 2013 and 2017, an annual average of some 53 500 non-local professionals were allowed to work and settle in Hong Kong under three major talent admission schemes; *all the aforesaid persons who have immigrated to and entered Hong Kong are important manpower resources for Hong Kong now and in the future, contributing to the promotion of social and economic development, and even alleviating the problem of ageing population in Hong Kong;* as there have been ~~strong views~~ *concerns* in the Hong Kong community in recent years, ~~expressing concern~~ that the persistent increase in Hong Kong's population has created a heavy burden on public services and facilities in Hong Kong, and that some of the entrants have committed immigration frauds (including concealing overseas assets, using false identities, forging documents, engaging in bogus marriages) to obtain right of abode and social welfare, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform the immigration and admission policies ~~by~~ *under the following four principles: (1) adhering to the principle of 'putting Hong Kong people first' and in safeguarding Hong Kong people's right to family reunion; (2) ensuring the sustainable development of manpower, public services and resources of Hong Kong in the future; (3) addressing the population ageing problem; and (4) taking into account the local carrying capacity of Hong Kong;* specific measures include:

- (1) ~~establishing a dual vetting and approval mechanism~~ *continuing to perform the gate-keeping role stringently* for OWP *and various talent admission schemes* in accordance with Articles 22 and 154 of the Basic Law and the Immigration Ordinance ~~whereby the SAR Government can exercise the power to vet and approve entry for immigration and taking back the initiative in the policy on OWP, so as to serve properly the gatekeeping role on the population policy of Hong Kong,~~ *including ensuring that the information submitted by applicants is correct and accurate, issuing Certificates of Entitlement to the Right of Abode to*

children of Hong Kong permanent residents, and rendering assistance, when necessary, in verifying the authenticity of the supporting documents submitted by OWP applicants and their claimed relationship with relatives in Hong Kong;

- (2) ~~striving for reducing OWP quota by half to 75 per day and reviewing the quota for various talent admission schemes, so as to alleviate the burden on public healthcare services, subsidized housing, social welfare and educational resources posed by an increasing number of immigrants and entrants in the future, so that priority can be accorded to meeting the needs of the Hong Kong people in the allocation of public resources in Hong Kong~~ *in the light of the facts that at present the Mainland authorities have, as warranted by the actual circumstances, approved on average fewer than 150 Mainlanders coming to Hong Kong on OWPs per day, and that the SAR Government has continuously implemented various talent admission schemes, assessing the impact of the relevant system and schemes on Hong Kong's population structure, so as to make proper planning to cater for the demands for various services and facilities of Hong Kong residents;*
- (3) ~~reforming continuing to ensure that the OWP application system to make it on a par with the dependents system of various talent admission schemes by incorporating the approval conditions on financial means, to be complemented by a points system, so as to make early identification and selection of immigrants having long term means to live at a standard well above the subsistence level to settle in Hong Kong~~ *is in line with the objective of family reunion, and stepping up investigation into the family and financial conditions of OWP applicants, so that the SAR Government can grasp the relevant information as early as possible to make longer-term planning on public services and manpower training;*
- (4) ~~negotiating with the relevant departments of Mainland China~~ *Mainland departments* in respect of the OWP system for a study on the introduction of a 'return mechanism' to allow people coming to Hong Kong on OWPs to temporarily retain their household registration in the Mainland and return to ~~Mainland China~~ *the Mainland* for resettlement if they cannot adapt to the life in Hong Kong;
- (5) ~~regarding people who are granted the right of abode in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes and the OWP system, stepping up investigation into their overseas assets if they apply~~ *in accordance with the existing policy and criteria applicable to all Hong Kong people, scrutinizing stringently the eligibility of people coming to Hong Kong for settlement in their applications* for social welfare

and subsidized housing in Hong Kong, so as to ~~plug the loopholes in the existing policy~~ *ensure that they have truthfully declared all their assets in and outside Hong Kong*;

- (6) stepping up efforts in combating cross-boundary bogus marriages by, among others, drawing reference from the practices of ~~the United Kingdom, extending the period for the issue of a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages if the Registrar of Marriages has reasonable suspicions of non-local people planning to get married in Hong Kong engaging in bogus marriages, so that government departments can have more time to conduct investigations and take enforcement actions~~ *places outside Hong Kong* to prevent fraudsters from obtaining through bogus marriages the requisite documents to apply for settlement in Hong Kong, and the Immigration Department should compile statistics on the number of bogus marriages in Hong Kong annually; and
- (7) stepping up efforts against immigration frauds at the local and international levels by, *among others*, drawing reference from the practices of ~~the United Kingdom and Australia, establishing an inter-departmental dedicated team to tackle organized immigration crime to carry out~~ *places outside Hong Kong, and carrying out*, focusing on applications suspected of using false identities, forging documents, making false statements, etc., strict verification of supporting documents, and participating in the global cooperation on immigration fraud prevention.

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

5. Motion as amended by Hon CHU Hoi-dick

~~That between mid-1997 and end 2017, there had been an annual average entry of 48 300 One-way Permit ('OWP') holders into Hong Kong, giving a cumulative inflow of 990 000 people; moreover, between 2013 and 2017, an annual average of some 53 500 non-local professionals were allowed to work and settle in Hong Kong under three major talent admission schemes; as there have been strong~~ *according to the Hong Kong Population Projections 2017-2066 published by the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong's population will increase from 7.34 million in mid-2016 to 7.72 million in mid-2066 and the average annual growth rate is 0.1%; general population growth is mild on the surface, but given the extremely low birth rate, there would be a natural decrease of 1.49 million in the local population and a net inward migration of 1.88 million over the entire projection period; there are* views in the Hong Kong community ~~in recent years, expressing concern that the persistent increase in Hong Kong's population has created a heavy burden~~

~~on public services and facilities in Hong Kong, and that some of the entrants have committed immigration frauds (including concealing overseas assets, using false identities, forging documents, engaging in bogus marriages) to obtain right of abode and social welfare~~ ***that the Government's population policy has all along put too much emphasis on inward migration and neglected the need to encourage childbirth by improving people's living environment, and at the same time, the Government has systematically expedited the integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland and relegated Hong Kong's system and culture, making it difficult for Hong Kong people to have steady development of a sense of community, worse still, the fear of being 'diluted' has intensified the conflicts between local residents and inward migrants; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform the immigration and admission policies by adhering to the principle of 'putting Hong Kong people first' and taking into account the local carrying capacity with the objective of reducing the weighting of inward migration;*** specific measures include:

- (1) ***modelling on the policies of advanced countries to promote childbirth by providing affordable housing, long maternity leave and sound child care services for childbearing families, with a view to boosting Hong Kong people's desire for childbearing and thereby reducing the weighting of inward migration;***
- ~~(1)~~(2) establishing a dual vetting and approval mechanism for OWP in accordance with Articles 22 and 154 of the Basic Law and the Immigration Ordinance whereby the SAR Government can exercise the power to vet and approve entry for immigration and taking back the initiative in the policy on OWP, so as to serve properly the gatekeeping role on the population policy of Hong Kong;
- ~~(2)~~(3) ~~striving for reducing OWP quota by half to 75 per day and reviewing the quota for various talent admission schemes, so as to alleviate the burden on public healthcare services, subsidized housing, social welfare and educational resources posed by an increasing number of immigrants and entrants in the future, so that priority can be accorded to meeting the needs of the Hong Kong people in the allocation of public resources in Hong Kong~~ ***changing the policy direction of overstressing inward migration and reducing correspondingly the number of inward migration, including but not limited to reducing the daily quota for OWP;***
- ~~(3)~~(4) ~~reforming studying, under the principle of being on a par with the systems for reunion with overseas spouse and children, to incorporate into the OWP application system to make it on a par with the dependents system of various talent admission schemes by~~

~~incorporating the approval conditions on ‘no adverse record’ or financial means, to be complemented by a points system, so as to make early identification and selection of immigrants having long-term means to live at a standard well above the subsistence level to settle in Hong Kong (such conditions not applicable to Mainland-born children of Hong Kong Permanent Residents), and to require the Hong Kong residents concerned having the means to support the dependents’ living at a standard above the subsistence level in Hong Kong and provide adequate accommodation; and discussing with the Chinese Government to strive for allowing people coming to Hong Kong on OWPs to temporarily retain their household registration in the Mainland, so that they can return to Mainland China for resettlement if they cannot adapt to the life in Hong Kong;~~

- ~~(4) negotiating with the relevant departments of Mainland China in respect of the OWP system for a study on the introduction of a ‘return mechanism’ to allow people coming to Hong Kong on OWPs to temporarily retain their household registration in the Mainland and return to Mainland China for resettlement if they cannot adapt to the life in Hong Kong;~~
- (5) regarding people who are granted the right of abode in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes and the OWP system, stepping up investigation into their overseas assets if they apply for social welfare and subsidized housing in Hong Kong, so as to plug the loopholes in the existing policy;
- (6) stepping up efforts in combating cross-boundary bogus marriages by, among others, drawing reference from the practice of the United Kingdom, extending the period for the issue of a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages if the Registrar of Marriages has reasonable suspicions of non-local people planning to get married in Hong Kong engaging in bogus marriages, so that government departments can have more time to conduct investigations and take enforcement actions to prevent fraudsters from obtaining through bogus marriages the requisite documents to apply for settlement in Hong Kong, and the Immigration Department should compile statistics on the number of bogus marriages in Hong Kong annually; and
- (7) stepping up efforts against immigration frauds at the local and international levels by, drawing reference from the practices of the United Kingdom and Australia, establishing an inter-departmental dedicated team to tackle organized immigration crime to carry out, focusing on applications suspected of using false identities, forging documents, making false statements, etc., strict verification of

supporting documents, and participating in the global cooperation on immigration fraud prevention.

Note: Hon CHU Hoi-dick's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

6. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG

That between mid-1997 and end 2017, there had been an annual average entry of 48 300 One-way Permit ('OWP') holders into Hong Kong, giving a cumulative inflow of 990 000 people; moreover, between 2013 and 2017, an annual average of some 53 500 non-local professionals were allowed to work ~~and settle~~ in Hong Kong under three major talent admission schemes; *as between 2013 and 2016, some 6 500 non-local professionals obtained right of abode each year on average; the carrying capacity of public services and facilities in Hong Kong has seriously eroded due to the Government's serious planning blunders on various fronts, including, on the housing front, the abolishment of the public housing production target and cessation of the production of Home Ownership Scheme flats in 2002, and implementation of land sale by the Application Mechanism in place of traditional regular land sale in 2004 had resulted in reduced housing supply, soaring property prices and increasingly long waiting time for public rental housing; on the healthcare front, at present, the reduced number of hospital beds under the Hospital Authority between 2003 and 2010 has yet to be restored to the level of 2003, the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme introduced in 2002 led to the departure of over 1 000 nurses and around 100 doctors, and the development of the medical services industry proposed in 2009 to encourage private healthcare caused a wastage of healthcare staff of public hospitals; on the social welfare front, the abolishment of the population-based planning ratios for elderly services and facilities in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, and failure in increasing the number of places for home care services to keep pace with the growth of the elderly population; in addition,* there have been strong views in the Hong Kong community in recent years, expressing concern that the persistent increase in Hong Kong's population has created a heavy burden on public services and facilities in Hong Kong, and that some of the entrants have committed immigration frauds (including concealing overseas assets, using false identities, forging documents, engaging in bogus marriages) to obtain right of abode and social welfare, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform the immigration and admission policies by ~~adhering to the principle of 'putting Hong Kong people first' and~~ taking into account the local carrying capacity; specific measures include:

- (1) establishing a dual vetting and approval mechanism for OWP in accordance with Articles 22 and 154 of the Basic Law and the

Immigration Ordinance whereby the SAR Government can exercise the power to vet and approve entry for immigration and taking back the initiative in the policy on OWP, so as to serve properly the gatekeeping role on the population policy of Hong Kong;

- (2) ~~striving for reducing~~ **reviewing** OWP quota ~~by half to 75 per day and reviewing~~ **and** the quota for various talent admission schemes, ~~so as to alleviate the burden on public healthcare services, subsidized housing, social welfare and educational resources posed by an increasing number of immigrants and entrants in the future,~~ so that priority can be accorded to meeting the needs of the Hong Kong people in the allocation of public resources in Hong Kong;
- (3) ~~reforming~~ **reviewing** the OWP application system **and studying whether** to make it on a par with the dependents system of various talent admission schemes by incorporating the approval conditions on financial means, to be complemented by a points system, so as to make early identification and selection of immigrants having long-term means to live at a standard well above the subsistence level to settle in Hong Kong;
- (4) negotiating with the relevant departments of Mainland China in respect of the OWP system for a study on the introduction of a 'return mechanism' to allow people coming to Hong Kong on OWPs to temporarily retain their household registration in the Mainland and return to Mainland China for resettlement if they cannot adapt to the life in Hong Kong;
- (5) regarding people who are granted the right of abode in Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes and the OWP system, stepping up investigation into their overseas assets if they apply for social welfare and subsidized housing in Hong Kong, so as to plug the loopholes in the existing policy;
- (6) stepping up efforts in combating cross-boundary bogus marriages by, among others, drawing reference from the practice of the United Kingdom, extending the period for the issue of a Certificate of Registrar of Marriages if the Registrar of Marriages has reasonable suspicions of non-local people planning to get married in Hong Kong engaging in bogus marriages, so that government departments can have more time to conduct investigations and take enforcement actions to prevent fraudsters from obtaining through bogus marriages the requisite documents to apply for settlement in Hong Kong, and the Immigration Department should compile statistics on the number of bogus marriages in Hong Kong annually; and

- (7) stepping up efforts against immigration frauds at the local and international levels by, drawing reference from the practices of the United Kingdom and Australia, establishing an inter-departmental dedicated team to tackle organized immigration crime to carry out, focusing on applications suspected of using false identities, forging documents, making false statements, etc., strict verification of supporting documents, and participating in the global cooperation on immigration fraud prevention.

Note: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.