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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 21 July 2021

**Amendments to Hon Elizabeth QUAT's motion on
"Enacting legislation to combat false information on the Internet"**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 762/20-21 issued on 8 July 2021, the President has given permission for Hon KWOK Wai-keung and Hon Tommy CHEUNG to move amendments to Hon Elizabeth QUAT's motion, and has directed that the amendments 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 the amendments. I set out below the relevant proceedings in which the President will:

- (a) call upon the motion mover to speak and move the motion;
- (b) propose the question on the motion;
- (c) call upon the Members who wish to move amendments to the motion to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon KWOK Wai-keung; and
 - (ii) Hon Tommy CHEUNG;

- (d) call upon the public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) invite other Members to speak;
- (f) call upon the motion mover to speak on the amendments;
- (g) call upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
- (h) deal with the amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above, i.e. first invite the mover of the first amendment to move the amendment and forthwith propose and put to vote the question on the amendment, and thereafter proceed to deal with the remaining amendment(s); and
- (i) after all amendments have been dealt with, call upon the motion mover to reply, and then put to vote the question on the motion, or the 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**.

4. Members are reminded that in accordance with Appendix IIIA to the House Rules, the **maximum duration of this joint debate (including voting) is four hours**. The motion mover will have a total of 10 minutes to make introductory speech and reply, and another five minutes to speak on the amendment(s). The mover(s) of the amendment(s) and other Members may each speak once up to a maximum of five minutes. The public officer(s) will not be subject to any speaking time limit.

(Miranda HON)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Enacting legislation to combat false information on the Internet”**

1. Hon Elizabeth QUAT’s original motion

That, in the age of growing popularity of Internet usage, rapid information flow may cause significant impacts; the prevalence of false information on the Internet not only misleads members of the public, but even brings about severe adverse impacts on the safety, stability and development of the international community; false information on the Internet has already become an issue of concern of the international community which warrants serious and immediate action; during the occurrence of the ‘black-clad violence’ incidents in Hong Kong in 2019, some individuals or organizations used voluminous false information on the Internet to incite public hatred against the Police, advocate violence and create social dissension in an endeavour to confront the Central Government and SAR Government; during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, there has been lots of false information spreading maliciously on the Internet with an intent to hinder anti-epidemic work; in July this year, some people being suspectedly ‘self-radicalized’ under the influence of false information on the Internet hurled inflammable objects at the Government House and attacked police officers with sharpened objects, and some other people subsequently took advantage of these cases to disseminate false information to incite hatred and advocate terrorist activities, various sectors of the community therefore consider that the Government must formulate effective measures to address false information; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously enact legislation to combat acts of spreading false information on the Internet.

2. Motion as amended by Hon KWOK Wai-keung

That, ~~in given~~ the age of growing *widespread* popularity of Internet usage *online social platforms and instant messaging software*, rapid information flow may cause significant impacts; the prevalence of false information (*including fake news*) on the Internet not only misleads members of the public, but even brings about severe adverse impacts on the safety, stability and development of the international community; false information on the Internet has already become an issue of concern of the international community which warrants serious and immediate action; during the occurrence of the ‘black-clad violence’ incidents in Hong Kong in 2019, some individuals or organizations used voluminous false information on the Internet to incite public hatred against the Police, advocate violence and create social dissension in an endeavour to confront the Central Government and SAR Government; during the

Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, there has been lots of false information spreading maliciously on the Internet with an intent to hinder anti-epidemic work; in July this year, some people being suspectedly ‘self-radicalized’ under the influence of false information on the Internet hurled inflammable objects at the Government House and attacked police officers with sharpened objects, and some other people subsequently took advantage of these cases to disseminate false information to incite hatred and advocate terrorist activities; *many countries have enacted legislation to combat false information, for example, the United States enacted the Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act in 2016, Germany enacted the Network Enforcement Act in 2017, France enacted the Law Against the Manipulation of Information and the Law Against False Information in 2018, Singapore enacted the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act in 2019 and so on*, various sectors of the community therefore consider that the Government must *learn a lesson from the proliferation of false information during the ‘black-clad violence’ in 2019 and, by making reference to overseas experience*, formulate effective measures *suitable for Hong Kong* to address false information; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously:

- (1) enact legislation to combat acts of spreading false information on the Internet;
- (2) *subsidize academic institutions to conduct studies on using big data platforms to collect information and data from mainstream social media in Hong Kong and applying artificial intelligence technologies to assist in the screening of false information;*
- (3) *strengthen ‘media literacy’ education to enhance the competence of members of the public in identifying false information; and*
- (4) *establish a database for fact-checking to assist the public in verifying the authenticity of information.*

Note: Hon KWOK Wai-keung’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon Tommy CHEUNG

That, in the age of growing popularity of Internet usage, rapid information flow may cause significant impacts; the prevalence of false information on the Internet not only misleads members of the public, but *may even brings bring* about severe adverse impacts on the safety, stability and development of the international community; false information on the Internet has already become an issue of concern of the international community which warrants serious and

immediate action; during the occurrence of the ‘black-clad violence’ incidents in Hong Kong in 2019, some individuals or organizations used ~~voluminous~~ ***different online platforms and instant messaging software to spread*** false information ~~on the Internet~~ to incite public hatred against the Police, advocate violence and create social dissension in an endeavour to confront the Central Government and SAR Government; during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, there has been lots of false information spreading maliciously on the Internet with an intent to hinder anti-epidemic work; in July this year, some people being suspectedly ‘self-radicalized’ under the influence of false information on the Internet hurled inflammable objects at the Government House and attacked police officers with sharpened objects, and some other people subsequently took advantage of these cases to disseminate false information to incite hatred and advocate terrorist activities, various sectors of the community therefore consider that the Government must formulate effective measures to address false information; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously enact legislation to combat acts of spreading false information on the Internet.

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