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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 26 January 2022

**Amendments to Hon TANG Ka-piu's motion on
"Reforming the poverty alleviation policies and strategies
of Hong Kong"**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 29/2022 issued on 14 January 2022, the President has given permission for eight Members (Hon TANG Fei, Hon Mrs Regina IP, Hon Stanley NG, Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, Hon Dennis LEUNG, Hon LAM Chun-sing, Hon Stanley LI, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG) to move amendments to Hon TANG Ka-piu'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 Mrs Regina IP;
 - (ii) Hon Stanley NG;
 - (iii) Hon Dennis LEUNG;

- (iv) Hon Stanley LI;
 - (v) Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG;
 - (vi) Hon LAM Chun-sing;
 - (vii) Hon YUNG Hoi-yan; and
 - (viii) Hon TANG Fei;
- (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. The terms of the original motion and the marked-up version of the amendments are set out in the **Appendix** for Members' easy reference.

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
“Reforming the poverty alleviation policies and strategies of Hong Kong”**

1. Hon TANG Ka-piu’s original motion

That with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its inadequate efforts in implementing them have led to significant elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Mrs Regina IP

~~That with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its inadequate efforts in implementing them have~~ *the SAR Government’s practice to define the size of the poor population according to the definition of ‘relative poverty’ and mainly rely on public money to implement poverty alleviation measures as a safety net* has led to significant elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including

setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes.

Note: Hon Mrs Regina IP's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon Stanley NG

That with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious ***in recent years***, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its inadequate efforts in implementing them have led to significant elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes; ***moreover, the SAR Government should:***

- (1) ***devise dedicated poverty alleviation strategies, by focusing on various groups, such as the elderly, women and ethnic minorities, to achieve 'targeted poverty alleviation';***

- (2) *set a 'subsistence living protection line' to measure the basic living expenses of the grass roots, thereby achieving the specific target of poverty alleviation;*
- (3) *improve the existing social security system to achieve a wider and more comprehensive coverage;*
- (4) *create a dedicated Commissioner for Poverty Alleviation with specific responsibilities for poverty alleviation;*
- (5) *formulate policies on provision of affordable housing to increase public housing supply and alleviate the burden of housing on the grass roots;*
- (6) *provide subsidies to students living in subdivided units and from grass-roots families, strengthen the support for grass-roots children (such as organizing mentorship activities), and encourage grass-roots children to actively strive for upward mobility to free themselves from cross-generational poverty;*
- (7) *provide more child care and child-minding services in the community and support children deprived of a good family environment, so as to unleash the labour force of their families and enable the parents to go to work without worries, thereby improving their livelihood; and*
- (8) *step up manpower resources training and skills upgrading, including providing employment and job transfer support to low-skilled and grass-roots workers, thereby enabling workers from various strata to share the fruits of economic development in the new economy and amid industrial restructuring.*

Note: Hon Stanley NG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

4. Motion as amended by Hon Dennis LEUNG

That with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious *in recent years*, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its inadequate efforts in implementing them have led to significant elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all

fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes; *the SAR Government should also:*

- (1) *change the period of review of the minimum wage to once every year, and improve the wage adjustment mechanism;*
- (2) *abolish the system of outsourcing non-skilled and regular government positions;*
- (3) *increase the profits tax rate by 1% for enterprises making high profits whose assessable profits exceed \$100 million so that such enterprises will make more commitment to alleviating the poverty problem, thereby manifesting the principle of vertical equity;*
- (4) *review various social welfare and social security measures, including policies on disbursing recurrent cash and improvements to the retirement protection system; and*
- (5) *enhance policies on redistributing wealth in society, including exploring the introduction of negative income tax, capital gains tax, estate duty, idle land tax, etc.*

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

5. Motion as amended by Hon Stanley LI

That *according to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2020, the poor population before government policy intervention was 1.653 million and the poverty rate was 23.6%, hitting a new record high in 12 years;* with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its

inadequate efforts in implementing them have led to significant elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, *improving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, building more public housing and alleviating the burden of housing on grass-roots families, reviewing the adjustment mechanism for the statutory minimum wage, enhancing the Working Family Allowance Scheme, expanding employment support services*, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes.

Note: Hon Stanley LI's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

6. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG

That ~~with~~ *according to the Government's Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2020, the poor population before government policy intervention was as many as 1.653 million and the poverty rate was 23.6%, hitting a new record high in nearly 12 years, reflecting the increasing severity of* the poverty problem of Hong Kong ~~becoming more serious;~~ although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its inadequate efforts in implementing them have led to significant elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly),

upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, *drawing reference from the Mainland's successful experience in 'targeted poverty alleviation', compiling district-based statistics on various kinds of support needed by over 100 000 residents of subdivided units ('SDUs'), and making public the relevant figures, thereby formulating specific support measures and encouraging the community to assist these families to bid farewell to SDUs*, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes.

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

7. Motion as amended by Hon LAM Chun-sing

That with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its ~~inadequate efforts in implementing them have~~ *lack of comprehensive planning has* led to ~~significant~~ *serious* elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, *as well as improving the housing policy and industry structure in the long run to alleviate the disparity between the rich and the poor*, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong ~~and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes.~~

Note: Hon LAM Chun-sing's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

8. Motion as amended by Hon YUNG Hoi-yan

That with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its inadequate efforts in implementing them have led to significant *child poverty*, elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), upgrading the quality of human resources in society and enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes.

Note: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

9. Motion as amended by Hon TANG Fei

That with the poverty problem of Hong Kong becoming more serious, although the SAR Government has continuously formulated poverty alleviation strategies over the years, its inadequate efforts in implementing them have led to significant elderly poverty and working poverty problems and a further widening of the disparity between the rich and the poor in society, resulting in deep-rooted conflicts in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to reform poverty alleviation policies and strategies and make the utmost efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures on all fronts, including setting specific targets for reducing the poor population and narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor, reviewing the methods for measuring poverty, implementing livelihood and fiscal measures that serve the function of redistributing wealth in society, promoting quality employment for all people (especially women and the elderly), *providing children and young people affected by inter-generational poverty with necessary support for their growth and development*, upgrading the quality of human resources in society and

enhancing the overall employment terms and conditions of employees in order to cater for the future economic development, and establishing a dedicated poverty alleviation department to take forward and intensify the work on poverty alleviation, with a view to gradually realizing common prosperity for all the people in Hong Kong and achieving an olive-shaped society (with a narrow poor class, a wide middle class and a narrow rich class) in which everyone has opportunities and everyone harbours hopes.

Note: Hon TANG Fei's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type***.