(Translation)

Hon CHAN Hoi-yan's motion on "Ten-year plan for primary healthcare"

Wording of the Motion

That the pressure faced by Hong Kong's public healthcare system has been at bursting point for a long time, such as the waiting time for specialist outpatient services remaining at a high level, the accident and emergency departments being always full during the influenza surge and the occupancy rates of medical wards persistently exceeding the capacity; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to implement a 'ten-year plan for primary healthcare' and plan afresh the allocation of resources and manpower training for healthcare services with an approach which is more prevention-focused than treatment-oriented, including making optimal use of mobile clinics and setting up influenza triage clinics to triage patients properly in the community; enhancing training for family medicine specialists, and making good use of healthcare professions such as Chinese medicine practitioners and pharmacists to reduce the chances of patients being hospitalized due to serious illnesses and ameliorate the problem of inadequate frontline healthcare manpower; reforming public dental services; and setting health indicators to raise people's awareness of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, thereby reducing the number of patients seeking medical consultation at public hospitals to resolve the existing overload problem in the public healthcare system.