

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3)14/2024

Ref : CB(3)/M/MM

Tel : 3919 3303

Date : 5 January 2024

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 10 January 2024

**Amendment to Ir Hon LEE Chun-keung's motion on
"Addressing the needs of the middle class"**

Further to the email (LC Paper No. CB(3)8/2024) issued on 27 December 2023, the President has given permission for Hon Frankie YICK to move an amendment to Ir Hon LEE Chun-keung's motion, and has directed that the amendment be printed in the terms in which it was handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the amendment. 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 Member who wishes to move an amendment to the motion to speak, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage;
- (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 amendment;

- (g) call upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
- (h) invite the amendment mover to move his amendment and forthwith propose and put to vote the question on the amendment; and
- (i) 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 amendment (LC Paper No. CB(3)14/2024(01)) are attached for Members' easy reference. The amendment is also accessible via the hyperlink below:
<https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2024/english/counmtg/motion/cm20240110m-lcke.htm>

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 (paragraph 2(a) and (i) above refers), and another five minutes to speak on the amendment(s) (paragraph 2(f) above refers). The mover(s) of the amendment(s) and other Members may each speak once up to a maximum of five minutes.

5. For enquiries, please contact Senior Council Secretary (3)3, Miss Mandy NG, at tel. no. 3919 3307.

(Jessica CHAN)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Addressing the needs of the middle class”**

1. Ir Hon LEE Chun-keung’s original motion

That middle-class people in Hong Kong have all along ‘paid large amounts of tax but enjoyed few welfare benefits’, which, coupled with inflated commodity prices, high global interest rates and persistently high property prices in recent years, as well as uncertain economic prospects, has increased their expenditure on aspects such as supporting parents, healthcare and children’s education, putting them under immense pressure in their lives; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to put forward proactive measures focusing on areas such as childbearing, healthcare, children’s education, housing, transport, taxation, retirement and insurance, thereby addressing the needs of middle-class people and responding to their aspirations.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Frankie YICK

That *the middle class is a major driving force for the advancement of society, but the Government has made perfunctory efforts to support middle-class people*; middle-class people in Hong Kong have all along ‘paid large amounts of tax but enjoyed few welfare benefits’, which, coupled with inflated commodity prices, high global interest rates and persistently high property prices in recent years, as well as uncertain economic prospects, has increased their expenditure on aspects such as supporting parents, healthcare and children’s education, putting them under immense pressure in their lives *and making it difficult for them to move upward*; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to put forward proactive measures focusing on areas such as childbearing, healthcare, children’s education, housing, transport, taxation, retirement and insurance, *including*:

- (1) *actively studying the establishment of a middle class commission to comprehensively review the policies or measures relating to the middle class from a focused and higher-level perspective, and laying down a clear and precise definition of the middle class, as well as regularly publishing relevant statistics in respect of the definition;*
- (2) *adjusting salaries tax downwards, in particular widening the tax bands for salaries tax and lowering the marginal rate, so as to vigorously alleviate the burden on the marginal middle class;*

- (3) *relaxing the restrictions on the dependent parent or dependent grandparent allowance;*
- (4) *introducing a ‘progressive child tax allowance’ to encourage childbearing among middle-class families;*
- (5) *allowing a tax deduction for the expenses of employing foreign domestic helpers; and*
- (6) *introducing an ‘education voucher scheme’ and a tax allowance for children’s education,*

thereby *consolidating the strength of the middle class*, addressing the needs of middle-class people and responding to their aspirations.

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