

(Translation)

**Hon SHIU Ka-fai's motion on
“Enhancing the measures on the importation of manpower”**

Wording of the Motion

That due to population ageing and the impact of other factors, Hong Kong faces a structural labour force shrinkage, and in order to alleviate the problem of manpower shortage in various industries, the Government introduced the Sector-specific Labour Importation Schemes and the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme (‘ESLS’) in 2023, and ESLS, which covers 26 job categories normally excluded from the Supplementary Labour Scheme during a two-year implementation period, has been accepting applications since 4 September 2023; according to the Government’s manpower projection in 2028, Hong Kong’s manpower shortage will persist, with manpower shortages forecasted to worsen significantly across all occupation groups, and there is a continued need for Hong Kong to import outside talents and labour in an appropriate scale to fill manpower and skills gaps to support economic development; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to continue to enhance the measures on the importation of manpower, including:

- (1) extending ESLS to replenish Hong Kong’s labour force so as to sustain the impetus of economic and social development;
- (2) given that the wage of foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong is not required to be set according to the median monthly wage of local domestic helpers, reviewing the requirement that the wages of imported workers should not be lower than the median monthly wages of relevant positions in Hong Kong, in order to enhance Hong Kong’s competitiveness; and
- (3) handling the accommodation arrangements for imported workers more flexibly by allowing imported workers to choose to live in the accommodation provided by their relatives and friends in Hong Kong.