

立法會
Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 16 January 2019

**Amendments to motion on
“Reviewing the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 276/18-19 issued on 2 January 2019, five Members (Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG, Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, Hon AU Nok-hin and Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon SHIU Ka-chun’s motion on “Reviewing the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme”. As directed by the President, the respective amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the five amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and the amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon SHIU Ka-chun to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon SHIU Ka-chun’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the five Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG;
 - (ii) Hon LEUNG Che-cheung;

- (iii) Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung;
 - (iv) Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki; and
 - (v) Hon AU Nok-hin;
- (d) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
- (f) the President calls upon Hon SHIU Ka-chun to speak for the second time on the amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the five Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's amendment;
- (i) after Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's amendment has been voted upon, the Council deals with the other four amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon SHIU Ka-chun to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon SHIU Ka-chun's motion, or his 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**.

(Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Reviewing the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme”
to be held at the Council meeting of 16 January 2019**

1. Hon SHIU Ka-chun’s original motion

That, given that the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme is outdated, the amount of assistance received by CSSA recipients is unable to cover their basic needs in daily lives, this Council urges the Government to immediately review and improve the CSSA Scheme, particularly the mechanism to determine the amount of assistance, so as to safeguard the basic income of CSSA recipients.

2. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG

That, ~~given that~~ the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme is *has not been reviewed since 1996 and its contents are* outdated, *therefore* the amount of assistance received by CSSA recipients is unable to cover their basic needs in daily lives; *in this connection*, this Council urges the Government to immediately review and improve the CSSA Scheme; *specific proposals include:*

- (1) *particularly formulating afresh* the mechanism to determine the amount of assistance;
- (2) *adjusting upward the special grants to CSSA recipients with disabilities and in ill health, including rent allowance, relocation allowance and special diet allowance, so as to ensure that they can live in adequate rented housing in light of their health care needs, and receive sufficient subvention for purchasing suitable food and health supplements on the recommendation of doctors;*
- (3) *relaxing the disregarded earnings arrangement under the CSSA Scheme and regularizing the ‘Pilot Scheme on Raising the Maximum Level of Disregarded Earnings for Recipients with Disabilities under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme’ under the Community Care Fund, so as to encourage recipients with disabilities to work and sustain employment to safeguard the their basic income of CSSA recipients;*

- (4) *granting, in accordance with the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the Government in 2012, people with disabilities the right to apply for and receive CSSA on an individual basis, and extending this right to the elderly; and*
- (5) *shelving the tightening of eligibility age for elderly CSSA to 65.*

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

3. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Che-cheung

That, ~~given that~~ the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA') Scheme is outdated, *therefore* the amount of assistance received by CSSA recipients is unable to cover their basic needs in daily lives; *in this connection*, this Council urges the Government to immediately review and improve the CSSA Scheme, particularly the mechanism to determine the amount of assistance, so as to safeguard the basic income of CSSA recipients; *moreover, in order to ensure that different categories of CSSA recipients receive more appropriate support, this Council also urges the Government to adopt the following proposals:*

- (1) *maintaining the eligible age for elderly CSSA at 60, and extend the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme to cover other provinces of the Mainland;*
- (2) *strengthening the support for single-parent families, including increasing the single parent supplements and support services for single-parent families;*
- (3) *reviewing the disregarded earnings arrangement to increase the incentive to encourage able-bodied CSSA recipients to work;*
- (4) *increasing the grants to people with disabilities for various medical treatment and rehabilitation services to help them meet daily nursing care needs; and*
- (5) *improving the rent allowance mechanism to alleviate the rent burden on the CSSA households.*

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

4. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

That, ~~given that~~ *the Government's policy on poverty alleviation has failed, coupled with the fact that* the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA') Scheme is outdated, the amount of assistance received by CSSA recipients is unable to cover their basic needs in daily lives; *in this connection*, this Council urges the Government to immediately review and improve the CSSA Scheme, particularly the mechanism to determine the amount of assistance, so as to safeguard the basic income of CSSA recipients; *other proposals include:*

- (1) *calculating the maximum amount of rent allowance on the basis of the average increase in actual rent payments of CSSA recipients renting private residential units;*
- (2) *reintroducing the grants for rent deposit and removal expenses for able-bodied CSSA recipients to alleviate their financial pressure from finding accommodation elsewhere;*
- (3) *providing long-term supplement for families who are not living with the elderly, the disabled or ill-health and have been in receipt of CSSA for 12 consecutive months or more, so as to help them replace durable goods such as furniture and electrical appliances;*
- (4) *providing grants to CSSA recipients, irrespective of age and disability, for covering costs of dental treatment and glasses having regard to their physical conditions and needs;*
- (5) *adjusting the arrangements for disregarded earnings to increase the amount of disregarded earnings of CSSA recipients; and*
- (6) *allowing the elderly and the disabled to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.*

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

5. Motion as amended by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

That, given that *the SAR Government's poverty alleviation measures have been ineffective*, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA') Scheme *as a safety net* is outdated *as the Government has made reference to the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices as the benchmark for adjustment*, the amount of assistance received by CSSA recipients is unable to

cover their basic needs in daily lives *and they even have to borrow money to make up for the inadequate CSSA payments; in this connection*, this Council urges the Government to immediately review and improve the CSSA Scheme, particularly the mechanism to determine the amount of assistance, *and introduce additional subsidy items for CSSA recipients in response to social changes*, so as to safeguard the basic income *and quality of life* of CSSA recipients; *the relevant measures include:*

- (1) *revising the principle stipulated by the Government based on the Report on Review of CSSA Scheme published in 1996, and redefining the existing benchmark for the maximum levels of rent allowance having regard to the actual rents affordable by 90% of the CSSA families living in private housing; and*
- (2) *before revising the benchmark for basic living allowance, taking account of structural changes in society and provide additional items of necessary family expenditure, such as subsidies for service fees of mobile phones, so as to develop a comprehensive safety net that does not only enable the recipients to cope with the basic living needs, but also satisfy their personal needs.*

Note: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

6. Motion as amended by Hon AU Nok-hin

That, given that the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ('CSSA') Scheme is outdated, the amount of assistance received by CSSA recipients is unable to cover their basic needs in daily lives, this Council urges the Government to immediately review and improve the CSSA Scheme, particularly the mechanism to determine the amount of assistance, so as to safeguard the basic income of CSSA recipients; *specific proposals include:*

- (1) *shelving the tightening of eligibility age for elderly CSSA to 65 before perfecting the support measures for elderly employment;*
- (2) *conducting the study on basic and essential needs on a regular basis to establish the support items for different groups to maintain a basic standard of living, and re-determining the CSSA rates based on the findings of the study;*
- (3) *reinstating the various special grants cancelled in 1999, including the grants for rent deposit, removal expenses and dental treatment, and regularly reviewing the items and amounts of special grants; and*

- (4) *by drawing reference from policies such as the Working Family Allowance Scheme and the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme, allowing applicants to apply for CSSA on an individual or household basis.*

Note: Hon AU Nok-hin's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.