

(Translation)

Council meeting of 12 May 2021

**Hon LAU Kwok-fan's motion on
"Driving the development of New Territories North with port economy"**

Motion as amended by Hon YIU Si-wing

That there are seven land control points along the boundary between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, most of which are located in New Territories North; but at present, these control points in New Territories North merely serve as a cross-boundary transport infrastructure facility for residents commuting between the two places, and their surrounding areas have remained barren and undeveloped; the vast area of land in the northern New Territories can become a major source of land supply for Hong Kong in the future, offering a long-term solution to Hong Kong's problem of land shortage and serious supply-demand imbalance in lands for residential, economic and community uses; at the same time, with its advantageous location, New Territories North serves as a major hub for the convergence of people and goods flows between Hong Kong and Shenzhen and even the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, thus New Territories North possesses the potential to become a new core development region in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to:

- (1) set up a dedicated organization to expedite the planning and development for New Territories North; by capitalizing on its geographical advantage accorded by its location at the convergence of the 'port economy belt' and 'Eastern Knowledge and Technology Corridor', develop New Territories North into a new core development region with the convergence of talents and capital from Hong Kong and Shenzhen and the dominance of innovative technology and high-end education; and develop new towns radiating from such control points;
- (2) conduct studies on the setting up of government departments, public organizations and higher education institutions in New Territories North or their relocation to the region, so as to inject economic impetus into new development areas in New Territories North and dovetail with industries' development;
- (3) expedite the construction of the Northern Link and extend it to various control points, such as Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and Huanggang Port, and conduct studies on connecting Hong Kong's

railways to Shenzhen Bay Port; and, at the same time, under the principle of according priority to building transport infrastructure, draw up planning for the construction of another north-south railway connecting new development areas in New Territories North to the urban centres of Hong Kong, so as to provide a prerequisite for development of New Territories North;

- (4) while balancing conservation needs, through a fresh consolidation of green belt areas, agricultural lands and brownfield sites in northern New Territories and expediting the land rezoning and development processes, expeditiously proceed with land rezoning in port areas as a means to release lands for economic and residential uses, and the reprovisioning of agricultural and brownfield operations;
- (5) improve the existing rehousing and compensation policy to provide affected households with in-situ rehousing, and offer assistance to brownfield operators and fisheries and agricultural practitioners for resuming operation and production or upgrading and restructuring; and
- (6) partially open up the closed area of Sha Tau Kok Town, and make use of the Sha Tau Kok Public Pier to develop marine tourism and Chung Ying Street to develop boundary tourism, so as to promote economic development in New Territories North.