

(Translation)

Council meeting of 16 June 2021

**Hon POON Siu-ping's motion on
"Policy on unemployment loan"**

Motion as amended by Hon LUK Chung-hung and Hon Vincent CHENG

That the rampant COVID-19 epidemic has led to a global economic downturn of which Hong Kong cannot be spared, with many industries having been dealt a heavy blow, the overall unemployment and underemployment rates remaining high and people's daily lives being gravely affected; some academics and experts anticipated that it would be difficult for the Hong Kong economy to fully recover within a short period of time; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate a sustainable policy on unemployment loan and, prior to that, the Government should immediately introduce a cash allowance for unemployment and suspension of work, subject to a ceiling of \$9,000 for a six-month payment period, and continue the 100% Personal Loan Guarantee Scheme with the beneficiaries of the Scheme expanded to the underemployed and people taking no-pay leave, so as to improve the unemployment assistance scheme, thereby helping the unemployed alleviate their financial pressure; prior to formulating a policy on unemployment loan, the Government should also conduct a study on the arrangement for an unemployment assistance.