

(Translation)

**Hon CHAN Hak-kan's motion on
"Supporting the unemployed and underemployed"**

Wording of the Motion

That, due to the blow of the riots and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, the Hong Kong economy has suffered a continued decline with the unemployment rate hitting a record high time and again, reaching 6.4% which is a new high in 16 years; apart from about 260 000 people being unemployed, there are about 150 000 people being underemployed, and the six-month Employment Support Scheme ('ESS') ended in late November 2020, it is therefore generally expected in society that the waves of closures of enterprises will continue, and the unemployment and underemployment rates will also rise further; to support the unemployed and underemployed who are in financial distress to tide over the difficulties, this Council urges the Government to actively consider implementing the following measures:

- (1) establishing an unemployment assistance to help alleviate the financial pressure of the unemployed;
- (2) enhancing the existing Working Family Allowance Scheme and establishing an 'underemployment allowance' to provide direct support for low-income working families ;
- (3) creating more temporary posts, including providing more internship programmes exclusively for young people and fresh graduates;
- (4) after reviewing the two previous tranches of ESS and plugging its loopholes, launching expeditiously the third tranche of ESS so as to subsidize enterprises with genuine difficulties to retain jobs;
- (5) implementing as soon as possible the mutual recognition system for health codes of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to resume economic and personnel interactions among the three places on the premise of fulfilling infection control requirements, thereby boosting the Hong Kong economy to create employment opportunities; and
- (6) exploring the development of a half-time 'job-sharing' culture to increase job supply in the labour market.