

(Translation)

**Hon CHAN Kin-por's motion on
"Resolving the problems of traffic safety of and insurance premium
increases for taxis"**

Wording of the Motion

That in recent years, taxi accidents have frequently occurred, posing danger to passengers, drivers, pedestrians and other vehicles; the increase in taxi accidents has led to an increase in insurance compensations paid by insurance companies and the corresponding rise of insurance premiums, forcing the taxi trade to apply for fare increases to offset their expenses and thereby affecting people's livelihood; a number of recent taxi accidents have involved elderly drivers, arousing public concern; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to take the following measures:

- (1) with the Transport Department and the Insurance Authority taking the lead, discussing with the taxi trade and the insurance sector effective and mutually acceptable methods to prevent accidents or reduce the risk of accidents, so as to achieve the goal of reducing insurance premiums or insurance excesses;
- (2) providing incentives to encourage taxi owners to phase out old taxis in poor conditions, and adopting more stringent annual examination standards for taxis which are 20 years of age or above;
- (3) after discussion with the trade, amending the legislation expeditiously to implement the lowering of the age for taxi drivers to undergo medical examination to 65 and require them to undergo medical examination once every year;
- (4) requiring all taxis to progressively be installed with driver assistance devices to monitor drivers' mental state and driving behaviour and provide instant reminders, and using technology to record taxi drivers' driving behaviour to rectify their bad driving habits; and
- (5) requiring all taxis to progressively be installed with cloud-connected dash cameras to record traffic conditions, so as to clarify responsibilities for accidents and, at the same time, remind drivers to drive with care and prevent insurance frauds.