

(Translation)

**Hon LAU Kwok-fan's motion on
“Reviewing the works approval process and aligning construction
standards, and leveraging innovative technologies to reduce construction
costs and time”**

Wording of the Motion

That, as pointed out in the Arcadis 2023 International Construction Cost Index, Hong Kong's construction costs rank first in Asia and eighth globally; the Government is about to commence a number of major development programmes, including the development projects of the Northern Metropolis and the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands, while aiming to achieve the housing supply targets, build transport infrastructure and so on; as estimated by the Construction Industry Council, the construction expenditure forecast ranges from HK\$240 billion to HK\$375 billion per annum in the coming 10 years; and after works of the major development programmes and infrastructure projects have progressively commenced, construction costs will be pushed further up; in this connection, the Government must, apart from continuing to collaborate with the industry to make early preparation and deploy resources such as manpower, materials and equipment, as well as widely adopting advanced technologies and innovative construction techniques, also actively consider the following proposals:

- (1) comprehensively reviewing, enhancing and amending the Buildings Ordinance and the relevant ordinances;
- (2) considering streamlining the works approval process as well as stipulating and aligning construction standards, so as to reduce the time and costs for vetting and approval;
- (3) setting up a dedicated department or expanding the coordinating function of the Development Projects Facilitation Office, so as to follow up and coordinate different types of projects;
- (4) authorizing recognized professionals other than those in government departments to independently conduct professional certification in lieu of administrative approval on more works procedures, so as to enhance the efficiency of vetting and approval;
- (5) setting time limits or performance pledges, etc. for vetting and approving applications, including internal consultations within the Government; if

an application is rejected, the department must give reasons and provide practical solutions as appropriate for the applicant to make improvements and corresponding arrangements; and

- (6) introducing innovative construction technologies, techniques and materials and encouraging the industry to widely adopt them,

with a view to compressing project duration and reducing construction costs on all fronts while uplifting project efficiency as well as productivity and capacity of the industry.