(Translation)

Dr Hon Kennedy WONG's motion on "Managing the Government's non-financial assets more proactively"

Wording of the Motion

That Article 107 of the Basic Law stipulates that 'The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall follow the principle of keeping the expenditure within the limits of revenues in drawing up its budget, and strive to achieve a fiscal balance, avoid deficits and keep the budget commensurate with the growth rate of its gross domestic product', but in recent years, Hong Kong has been facing challenges on many fronts, posing difficulties for its economic recovery; and the SAR Government's forecast of a consolidated deficit exceeding HK\$100 billion for the 2023-2024 financial year, along with a decline in fiscal reserves from over HK\$940 billion in 2022 to about HK\$730 billion by the end of March 2024, highlights a worrying financial position; in this connection, this Council urges the SAR Government to adopt diversified fiscal strategies, including drawing reference from the asset management practices of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, to manage the SAR Government's non-financial assets more proactively, and to adopt a strategic mindset and proactively participate in formulating investment strategies to facilitate diversity in the operating models and financing options of its assets, so as to enhance operation efficiency and capital efficiency of the relevant assets to maximize benefits, thereby contributing to the financial sustainability of Hong Kong.