

(Translation)

**Hon Edward LEUNG's motion on
"Comprehensively regulating unsolicited calls"**

Wording of the Motion

That it has been reported that fraud cases recorded in the first 10 months of last year accounted for 46.3% of the total crimes, with the amount of monetary loss involved reaching \$7.04 billion, and many of them were telephone deception cases; some members of the public have missed emergency calls as they choose to refuse to answer calls from unknown numbers, causing inconvenience to their daily lives; in order to effectively regulate unsolicited calls, as well as curb frauds and nuisance, this Council urges the Government to:

- (1) by making reference to the SMS Sender Registration Scheme, establish a call authentication and registration system allowing, in phases, government departments, public and commercial organizations, etc. to insert a '#' sign as a prefix in the calling number display when making telephone calls after they have passed the authentication, so as to assist members of the public in identifying the callers;
- (2) by making reference to the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance and the Do-not-call Registers system, study the establishment of a register for opting out from receiving unsolicited calls and enact relevant legislation, so as to enable members of the public to register their telephone numbers for the purpose of rejecting unsolicited calls of a commercial promotional nature;
- (3) enhance the existing Real-name Registration Programme for Subscriber Identification Module ('SIM') Cards, including adding the requirement of using facial recognition for identity verification during authentication of the identity document of the applicant, lowering the maximum number of pre-paid SIM cards that can be registered with each telecommunications operator by each individual user who does not register with a Hong Kong Identity Card to no more than two, and setting up a one-stop platform for members of the public to enquire about the number of pre-paid SIM cards that have been registered with their names in various telecommunications operator;

- (4) by making reference to the Online Criminal Harms Act of Singapore, establish a system allowing relevant departments to block telephone calls and conduct investigations immediately when they 'suspect or have reason to believe' that frauds are involved in the telephone calls; and
- (5) comprehensively review the effectiveness of the Codes of Practice on Person-to-Person Marketing Calls implemented by the relevant industries and study the feasibility of enacting legislation to regulate telemarketing calls.