

主旨: Views on Population Policy  
附件: Views on population consultation document.doc

Dear Sir,

My views and suggestions on Hong Kong's population policy are in the attached file.(See attached file:  
Views on population consultation

document.doc)

As per your consultation document, my views and suggestions are as follows:

**Exploring a cap on population while reducing its inorganic growth**

In the light of scarce resources of Hong Kong in various aspects, (i.e. housing education, healthcare and land), the Government should actively consider to explore the maximum capacity of Hong Kong and take such barometer as a guiding principle for planning.

Amid the inorganic growth of population in recent years, Hong Kong people are eager to reduce the influx of people from Mainland. There are assertions in the society to urge the Government to seriously fight for the approval authority of One-way Permit. In view of effective border control, the Government should have a say to scrutinize and approve whom can gain access and stay in Hong Kong.

Recently, voices have been heard concerning about the existing quota of One-way Permit Scheme. Perception in the community that the current arrangements brush aside the scarce social resources of Hong Kong is increasing. Allaying public concern and for our benefit, the quota of One-way Permit should be reviewed and downwards adjusted, let's say, from 150 per day to 150 per month. There is no denying that Hong Kong is already a very crowded place. In addition, the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates should also be scaled down to non-local graduates dissuade staying in Hong Kong.

**Unleashing the potential of existing population**

With better health, higher education levels and less physically demanding jobs in the market, the elderly workers may be interested in deferring their retirement age. To contribute to labor force, private and public sectors could consider permitting physically viable employees having medical certification to voluntarily extend their retirement age if workplace allowed.

Longer working life should commensurate with adequate Employees' Compensation Insurance covered. The Government should take the lead to liaise with relevant industries to review the existing policy of Employees' Compensation Insurance to accommodate those employees working after normal retirement age, let's say, 60.

Mature workers may look for a less hectic working life prior complete retirement. As

such, employers may consider allowing mature workers to voluntarily change from full-timer to part-timer if conditions permit.

Objectively speaking, ethnic minorities are a vibrant source for the much-needed low skilled manpower. Enhancing their Chinese literacy skills will definitely facilitate their upward social mobility and unleash their potential to the society.

Inadequate Chinese skills have kept many ethnic minorities away from the job market. In this regard, Employees Retraining Board should arrange more tailor-made training for ethnic minorities in order to let them have more hands-on job related Chinese read-and-write experience. During the training, for example those aspire to work in logistics, property management, or retail management, students not only can acquire the latest industry knowledge but also can acquaint themselves with various documents used in industries. Such training is definitely an advantage edge for them in job hunting. Besides intensive training, promoting Chinese atmosphere within their community, more publicly-funded Chinese literacy courses should be encouraged and organized by NGOs.

Promoting upward mobility, the Chinese requirement threshold for ethnic minorities to post secondary education should also be lowered. Furthermore, such threshold should also be downwardly adjusted to accommodate more ethnic minorities to civil servant, especially those physically demanding vacancies, let's say, disciplinary forces.

### **Enhancing quality of our home-grown talent**

In the age of knowledge-based economy, driving our economy forward, we must have enough locally-bred professional pool to meet the ever-growing demand of economic needs. Hong Kong people must be better equipped with skills and knowledge.

Amid the depreciation qualifications, to be fair, more education opportunities should be opened only to "local" Hong Kong students. More publicly-funded graduate, post graduate programs, together with government funded scholarships must only be available solely to "local" Hong Kong students in order to fulfill the goal of enhancing quality of our home-grown talent and boosting the totally local-bred professional pool.

Mainland students are encouraged to study in Mainland.

### **Fostering a Supportive Environment for our People to Form and Raise Families**

More affordable housing, timely accessible childcare and adequate quality education are main factors to foster family raising.

Soothing pressure on obstetric service, “Zero Delivery Quota” arrangement of obstetric service should be upheld to stop expectant mainland mother from giving birth in Hong Kong. Moreover, the export control on infant powdered formula should be kept in place to let Hong Kong parents have enough infant powdered formula for their infant children. The aforementioned measures would unquestionably boosting local parents to raise their children.

In terms of subsidies, the government could consider emulating Canada’s Child Tax Benefit and its Child Benefit Supplement to setup our “Children Nutrient Supplement Subsidies”. Permanent residents of Hong Kong having children under the age of 18, living together with primarily responsibility for the care and upbringing of the children, could apply such non-means-tested subsidies to reduce strain on finances.

In a few words, money makes the mare go.

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