

主旨: Give Views

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Comments:

(1) It is good to notice that our government wants to have a new population policy. However, please point me a web link to the current one. I had a hard time to find the online document of it. Population policy should come very first ahead of other policies, because without people demand, there would not be any need of government.

(2) The document of the PEEPP does mention ways to improve the local work force, and thus the economy. So there come the critics of the paper being a labour centered one. Surely employment should have a high priority among various government policies. Because, in general a society cannot sustains itself when many people are out of work. Extend the work life of ageing people in an aging society will ease the problem. Another important point is the quality of jobs. One big reason why people stop working is that they cannot find good job or even acceptable one. That is true to old people and to a lesser degree but nevertheless true to young people. There is a lot of worker exploitation and crooked employers in the Hong Kong labour market. For example, some employers regard the so called Middle-Age-Employment Scheme as just a fat chance to exploit workers.

(3) Yes, there are more to make a population policy works. We need other policies to improve our culture towards aging people include employment, retirement, healthcare, insurance, housing, transportation, etc. Make Hong Kong a good place to live for all age groups.

(4) With respect to the approval right for one-way entry people from Mainland China, certainly Hong Kong has a voice. It is not just a matter of being fair. It is even stated in the Basic Law. The form can be in the approval procedure of Hong Kong's Immigration Department. That means both sides have a say to whether the applicant can become a permanent resident of the city. So in order for one to obtain the legal resident status, he has to be approved by the corresponding government agency of both sides.

(5) So what about some necessary targets a good population policy should have like maximum and minimum population size? I strongly believe there needs to have such figures. While the need of an optimum population size is debatable, but a health city has its limit in natural resources, namely land. Forever try to increase our land supply is like try to increase our income in order to beat price inflation. It is futile, and will fail big time eventually.

All in all, if people perceive Hong Kong is not a good place to live, there will not be much incentive to raise children here, not to mention to reside here. So what we need to have first in a population policy is set the goal - what city size do we want Hong Kong to have. Mega city, mid-size city or small town? In my honest opinion, it is largely measured by its population size.