

主旨:

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Comments:

There have been talks about increasing the birth rate, importing foreign labour, and extending the retirement age.

I don't agree with these proposals. Increase in the population should be put on hold with a view to gradual reduction. Everything have limits. Hong Kong is limited in size, and its resources simply cannot be enough if people keep on multiplying. More people is also going to further aggravate current unsolved problems - the handling of wastes, to name one of the most prominent. Sustainable development and improvement in livelihood certainly depends much more on quality rather than quantity.

Extending the retirement age will increase unemployment and hinder the upward advancement of young people. Instead of extending the retirement age, the government should consider re-employing capable retirement staff by contracts. In this way, useful workforce can be maintained and the dead wood and redundant can be gotten rid of.

Tax on consumer merchandise should be imposed asap, as we daily receive such a large number of relatively affluent consumer tourists and shopping visitors. Income tax should be increased by scale to the extent that the big earners and conglomerates pay more than what they do now, but still remain attractive and competitive for business and investment. On the other hand, reduction in salary tax for middle to low wage earners can compensate for the tax they have to pay for the merchandises on which consumer tax are imposed.