

主旨:

Give Views

Comments:

I have been a pensioner for nearly nine years. I would like to put forward a few points to this exercise.

Population policy should be treated as a long term steering policy for the betterment of Hong Kong. It is desirable that a standing committee with high level leadership to oversee the development and implementation of recommendations arising from this exercise.

With the growing aging population, there are both opportunities and challenges for our community. This should be treated with priority and sustained effort.

It is perhaps useful to survey in more detail, if it has not been done, the level of dependency of public support for the aging group, and in which sector. It is generally perceived that the current 60-70 year old group has a higher level of financial independence as a result of good education, pensions and savings. Friends around me do not have worries financially but have concerns on health care and in particular sufficiency of manpower to provide quality service in this sector. Health care should be looked at in a broad sense to include mental health care.

Small families result in lack of relative support when help is needed.

It is perhaps time to promote and foster mutual support in the community. For a start, the District Office can take a lead to recruit local talents to get the ball rolling which can gradually develop into various focus groups in the longer term.

Provide part time work opportunities for retirees to fill gaps in manpower supply. Government can take a lead and to invite the private sector to join. This can relieve to an extent some mental burden of retirees and make them less dependent on, and at least delay them to qualify for claiming financial support from the Government.

Recruit suitably qualified retirees to help the integration of ethnic minorities either as a volunteer or as a part time worker. It is becoming a priority to engage and to work the ethnic minorities to increase the number of our workforce both in terms of numbers and cultural diversity. Provide good language learning

environment is one of the starting points.

Identify suitable recreational, cultural and sport activities for retirees in furtherance of active aging. This can be provided in the form of social enterprise with retirees' participation.

Increase health education and to provide early detection and prevention of long term illness which can be a major stumbling block to active aging.

Introduce affordable medical insurance as soon as possible.

Promote the concept of reverse mortgage and to increase the provisioning of such by commercial institutions to provide cash for retirees to pursue active aging.

Introduce quality investment vehicles for retirees. For example, age and inflation linked bonds. The concept is similar to reverse mortgage.

To conclude, I strongly support the drawing up and early implementation of a highly visible and effective population policy for the betterment of our community.