

主旨: Give Views

Comments:

As a parent of a one month old daughter these are my humble views and suggestions:

1. Baby Bonus will not help in the long run. For the short run it may help cover certain expenses that are bound to arise due to the birth of a child.
Nevertheless, a baby bonus should be given as a short term help. It should be given to families (one bread winner and wife as a housewife) making HKD 10000-25000/a month. The baby bonus should range from 5-8000/baby.
2. For middle class families receiving no housing support (income of 25000 and the father only acting as the bread winner) the single most concern in relation to having children is the cost associated with raising a child in HK. It is just too expensive to have two children in HK. In order to help alleviate or mitigate this situation, i think the Government needs to help subsidize the second child's upbringing financially. Certainly once, the second child is born my suggestion would be to consider housing subsidies for that family with a second child. 2 children families could receive subsidies in the form of free education starting from KG school, rental subsidies (pay half the rent subject to a limit of 6K a month) or prioritize families with 2 children to become home owners asap.
3. While child care/upbringing services are adequate, i think we should increase the availability of these services further. For example subsidized ART is too time consuming. there is a long line for ART services. We should lower the time spent on the waiting list for ART services.

Where to generate the funds for the above suggestions:

1. It is high time we introduce a GST. Most of the major developed economies have a GST to supplement and complement their budgetary commitments. HKG should have one too. GST can rang from 4-8% of the total bill.