

Christine Chan

To: taxreform@fstb.gov.hk

cc:

Subject: Greedy tax reform

2006/07/25 10:53 AM Urgent

Return Receipt

Your argument for tax reform is a forseeable insufficient funding for the government expenditure in the years to come due to less and less income tax as a result of aging citizens. Do you know that large amount of government expenditure goes to salaries of civil servants which are now at least three times what ordinary <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns =

"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />Hong Kong citizens are getting? Your argument is that they have to get not a cent less than what they were getting in 1997 because the Basic Law said their salary conditions should not be worse than those of 1997. However, do you know that If a public servant is getting HK\$70,000 then, the buying power now for HK\$70,000 is many times more than what it was for HK\$70,000 in 1997 because everything is much cheaper now, price of flats, rent, eating out, etc. I think you are aware of this but in order to let these "civil servants" satisfied and would not rebel against the government, you do not want to cut their salary and pretend you do not know this fact. <?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

However, this is still the truth whether you would like to pretend you do not know about this or not. So, please do not exploit the citizens any more by asking more tax!!! We are only earning 1/3 of what these "civil servants" are getting and we do not even have job security. The "civil servants" have unreasonably high pay, high benefits, job security and pension. (Oh yes! I must say that provision of pension for these "civil servants" means that they are not even earning three times more of what we are getting but may be four or five times more because even though they have retired, we still have to pay them some salary. We have to pay for their living for the rest of their lives. I think the salary conditions of civil servants in HK are the best in the whole wide world. No other government is comparable to that in HK when you take a look at that of Canada, UK and US)

After you have read this picture, do you still think we as taxpayers, should pay more to the government because of a forseeable insufficient funding which is largely due to the provision of living for an incredible high-paying workforce like the "civil servants"? Do you think it is fair if you were in our shoes? May be you can think about cutting some of their salaries so that you can make both ends meet. Of course, you won't because you yourself is also a "civil servant". So think of other ways but don't try to rob us citizens anymore!!!