

Vicky W.K. TONG

To: <taxreform@fstb.gov.hk>

cc:

Subject: Tax reform

27/07/2006 05:57

☐ Urgent
☐ Return Receipt

This my opinion regarding the GST.

First of all, there are many ways to broaden the tax income for the government. For example, increase Corporate Tax which is relatively low in the world and re-establish the Inheritance Tax for wealthy family. I do not understand why the government abolished the inheritance tax because normally only wealthy family pays a lot of tax on inheritance and to me, that is a tax relief for those who are already very rich and do not need any tax relief. But this abolishment lower the tax income for the government which now the government is trying to put the burden on the middle class!

And if there isn't any other way to broaden the tax income further, GST can be a good solution, given a good consideration and implementation.

HOWEVER, from the paper, I do not see the government has put enough thoughts about how much more a middle class family will pay. And all the so called "relief measure" is only assisting low income family or family on benefit. This will make the middle class families struggle further.

I strongly against the idea of giving out cash to low income family for assistance, because that will only end up being another benefit that people can cheat for. Look at UK for example, people are on benefit without doing a single day of work because the government is too generous giving out cash in a form of tax credit!

I think we need to be careful first of all, not getting Hong Kong to become a place where "Rich People Gets Richer" and "Middle Class Struggles".

Secondly, we also need to be careful of giving out any cash benefit. Because from overseas experience, generous welfare does not help productivity, it only helps people to get lazier and not willing to work. And it will result poor people are better off than middle class family who works all their lives.