



To: taxreform@fstb.gov.hk
cc:
Subject:

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Urgent

Return Receipt

I am strongly against the idea of imposing GST on the general public. GST is a regressive tax whereby the lower income groups would be impacted more severely. Some opine that it would be the higher income groups who contribute more to the tax, and that there will be rebates and subsidies to reimburse or compensate the lower income groups. People who hold this opinion lack the conscience to think in other people's shoes and consider the limited means of the lower income groups in terms of cashflow and resources. Some have income lower than the tax net : how will rebates be passed on to them ? How can they come with the spare cash to subsist when they have to pay the tax now and get reimbursed at a much later date ? It is like telling poor people that "if you do not have bread to eat, why not eat cakes ?" I sincerely hope that the government would endeavour a course of action to a more equitable and harmonious society, not to the guillotine.

Besides the fact that it affects many aspect of life, the GST is more costly to administer. This will further inflate the already inefficient public service. Sales tax is a viable option where it can be levied at the point of wholesale and on selected goods, with the tax burden more squarely rest on higher income groups.

Catherina