

From:

To: ceo@ceo.gov.hk

Sent: Sunday, October 01, 2006 5:48 PM

Subject: Comment on various government policies

Dear Mr. Tsang and staff,

I got your email address through the net as a lot of people are dissatisfied with some government policies. As there is no place else we can voice our opinion and the people on the net think it will help if each person send you one email individually, so here goes my humble thoughts:

1) Middle-class policy- or the lack of it

Middle-class people are really left out in your policy. We contribute the most to and receive the least from the government. We pay high taxes when we have work, have no medical benefits or unemployment insurance when we lost employment. Prices of housing are high and apart from a little tax credit, we receive no help having a roof over our heads in our old age when we retire. Have you thought of doing something to help us?

2) Housing and welfare policy:

We saved many years for downpayment for our flat and continue to pay heavily each month on the mortgage. **A few blocks down the roads, people on welfare live in a flat the same size as ours for a few thousands a month.** They don't even have to pay if they are on welfare. I looked into their flats (public housing) through the opened wooden doors and saw plasma TVs and wall paper from wall to wall. Why do I bother go to university and work hard when I can just be a parasite of society and enjoy a handout. I really feel like a fool. Or is this government too kind and lenient to parasites?

Some dare complain they don't have enough parking spaces in public housing. Some of these people have a Benz. I don't have a plasma TV or a car, not even a Toyota. Is this being fair? Some people in public housing are rich and should be asked to LEAVE and give the flat to people REALLY in NEED.

3) Immigration Policy

Mainland pregnant women are allowed to give birth and claim right of residence for their babies. Worse still, they are filling up our maternity wards and some do not even pay their hospital bills. Some local moms have to sleep in corridors due to lack of space. A friend of mine waited 2 hours after birth before her wound was sewed up as there was insufficient maternity staff due to the influx of mainland women. She got a bad infection as a result of this delay.

Worse still, these babies may end up living in HK and bring their parents and families. It will be a big challenge to our schooling, public housing and welfare system. Please do not expect me to pay more taxes for them. Please think of a way to stop them from coming and please don't tell me it makes up for our low birth rate. We want quality immigrants, like IT people and professors, not those coming here for a handout. Can you guarantee that if birth and family reunion is the only criteria to let people in?

4) Land policy

I think buidlings are too tall and air quality is worsening. Tall commercial buidlings are an eye-sore at the harbour front and make the harbour smaller than it seems. I disagree if the government intends to sell more sites near the harbour that permit tall buidlings. IFC 2 is a monstrosity.

Property developers are dishonest and govenment rules allow them to mis-represent themselves. The USABLE area in their brochures are not ready usable in layman's understanding. They include public areas, club house, air con stands, wall depth and things I can't even imagine as definition of usable area. When I asked the developer why, they say terms are defined and agreed by the government, not them. So you either do not know what they are doing, or you know and let them do it just the same.

A 700 sq ft flat build 20 years ago is the same size as a 1000 sq ft flat built now. There is no place to put anything and mini-warehouses are becoming popular to store personal belongings not in season.

4) GST

The Financial Mininster said that GST will net off being a benefit to the middle class as it spreads out the tax base. He also promises to lower the salary tax rate. Our experience in the past is that taxes usually go up and up. It may net off being a benefit in the short run, but the middle class will still lose out in the long run when you increase the salary tax again. After all, who will support the ever-increasing list of welfare recepients and low-tech immigrants who cannot find jobs.

Rich people have overseas trusts and they have accountants to help them evade taxes anyway, GST or otherwise

With best regards,

(Name provided)

(Editor's note: Cannot ascertain whether the sender agrees to disclose his/her identity.)