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 Urgent Return Receipt

To: "budget@fstb.gov.hk" <budget@fstb.gov.hk>

cc: etwbenq@etwb.gov.hk

Subject: RE: Suggestion for the coming 07-08 buget concerning transportation subsidies and environmental protection tax

Dear Sir,

I have the following suggestions : (Transportation Subsidies and Environmental Protection Tax to large_scale property developers)

1) Government can susidize the MTR and Rail Transport Fees by 50% of those corporation's revenue. This will release the burden on citizen of whole Hong Kong. The transportation fees we are paying are inproprately high and it is the highest and most expensive in South East Asia.

In my experience of living in Seoul Korea in the past 4 years, their transportation fees for subway, is only 800 won for the whole trip from Seoul City Centre to the Airport in Kimpo. That meant around HK\$ 6.7 for one trip, However, for us, the citizen who are living in Tung Chung, they have to pay at least HK\$12.6 to go to only Tsing Yi, the nearest station. If for us to go from HK island to Tung Chung, in order to go to the airport, we need to pay at least HK\$23 for one trip , which is 70% higher than in Seoul Korea.

Each month, we need to spend at least 800 to 1000 in Transporation fees and mostly are paid to the MTR Corporation. In Seoul, Korea, the Government susidized a lot for the public transport, and all the subway and rail fees are kept at a very low level, and the tax rate is 8% for all people.

Even , here, only some people who need to pay the lowest 6% tax, but to us, the transportation fees are too much to us.

I supported that everyone should pay tax, even the low income people, then it will be fair that the government will provide benefits for the population here. If the HK Govenment can act like the Korean Government, reserve some buget to support the public transport, rather than just support portion of the low income community, the whole society should be benefitted from low transport fees no matter they are high income group or low income group. Then, it will be fair.

Metro http://www.smrt.co.kr/english_smrt/service_smrt/fare.jsp (Korean Subway Fare Table)

You travel from Seoul City centre to Kimpo airport, the transportation charges is less than 1000 won,

than equal to HK\$12 only.

Although there are not so much services young men inside each station. So, can the HK Government think of subsidizing the MTR Corporation rather than charging the HK citizen unreasonable high traffic fees here. The reason why Korean subway charges are cheap and remain low during the past 10 years, almost at the same rate, is due to Korean Government's bulk subsidies. That will be the best way to minimize the gap between the rich and the poor. It is because almost most of our income are used up in paying daily transportation. That is unreasonable and the HK Government's transportation policy of monopoly are the main reasons why the local citizen had to pay extremely high transportation fees.

As being one of the citizens living in Tung Chung, we are not allowed to have any choice of public transportation except the very expensive MTR fares and also the very long rounded buses. If the Government can consider of opening the Public transport services to different kind or mode of public transport, like mini buses by completely freeing them of any flyover charges, then those who like us, living in Tung Chung, can be benefitted from low cost transport.

But, the most important is that the Fincancial Secretary should consider of subsidizing the MTR Corporation and the Rail by Bulk Subsidies, so that the whole route's fair can be reduced by half to around HK\$6 to HK\$7, then most of the citizen in HK will be benefitted, and also reduce the labelling effect of labelling those who apply for your transportation subsidies as low income group. But I agreed that all the citizen in HK should be at least a minimum tax of at least 6 to 8%, so that all have the right to enjoy a lower transportation benefits.

Secondly, I suggest that the Government should issue a environmental protection tax which needed to be paid by those property developers who build houses higher than a certain numbers of floor that obstruct the blowing of winds and causing the inner city to raise in temperature. The taxes collected here can be used to reduce the pollution caused by those large scale building developer, and also an incentive to encourage more property developers to aware of the bad environmental impact they will cause on the public. For example, those skyline property building along the seacoast and those which will have casued a sheltering effect. Those property development that will cause an unfavourable environmental effects to the neighbourhood should be taxed here. This is one of the social responsibility of the big Property Developers. Government should not just give favour to them and exploit the general public's interest. As the continuous building of too many skyscraper will cause many air pollution problem and land refuse problem. They property developer should do their social responsibility in beautifying the landscape around whenever they build any too high skyscraper type of buildings that completely blocked the air flow and wind. This is the most serious problem, that will casue the HK inncer city's temperature to raside 1 to 2 degree per year if no restriction or regulation are applied on that

kind of building style and building structure. The HK Government had responsibility to restrict that kind of building structure even they match all the building standard.

This is my comment on your financial buget concerning transportation subsidies to the MTR Corporation and the need to help protect the environment by imposing Enviromental Protection tax to those who build buildings that affect the neighbourhood environment.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours Sincerely.

Jacky LEE

(Editor's note: The newspaper cuttings, publications or website materials, etc. contained in this submission are not published in the compendium.)