



2007/02/20 01:39 PM

 Urgent Return Receipt

To: <budget@fstb.gov.hk>

cc:

Subject: Suggestions on the budget 200708

Dear Financial Secretary,

Though there is an improvement in the general economic situation in Hong Kong for year 2006 but our tax base is narrow, largely from income/revenue taxes and sale of land. The latter is not a reliable source, I urge you to re-initiate the GST for consultation. We used to have the tax on bequeathal but is abolished during your term of Financial Secretary. It's not making sense that the middle class is paying the major share for the expenditure for Hong Kong.

The relief due to tax exemption for supporting parents, children, home purchasing may not be enjoyed by many middle class tax payers. Also some business professionals who earn their living but don't need to pay income tax by not reporting. The imposition of GST will force everyone in Hong Kong to pay tax. If you could re-packaging the GST by giving some exemptions for the real poor, like exclusion on daily necessity (uncooked food/fruits) adopted in the US, I do think that there is a great chance that the GST could be passed by the general public. Bear in mind, to start anything new is going to have resistance from the business class, like the beat smoking legislation recently enforced. If the general Hong Kong people and the HKSAR government is determined, the GST can pass through and our generation can enjoy the long term benefits in the years to come. To broaden our tax base is necessary noting that the expenditure on medical is rising due to the aging trend worldwide.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

(Name provided)

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