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From:

Date:2002/05/13 Mon AM 09:11:24 CST

To:jsscs@jsscs.gov.hk

Subject: My opinion toward the proposed civil sevice pay revamp

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Dear Sir/Madam.

My name is I am an ordinary citizen living in Hong Kong. I have no political affiliation and I'd like to shed my humble opinion toward the proposed civil service pay review.

It is in fact, quite ironic that in times of economic bloom (probably before the economic turmoil), where people in the private sector are enjoying generous bonuses offered by their emplyers, handsome fringe benefit, housing allowance, 15-odd months pay and so on, no one, esp those legco members and party politicians are ready to stand for the civil servants. No one is calling for a pay rise for them, not to mention even a word of thanks. The civil servants still, dedicated themselves for the well-being of the society.

People's attitude suddenly changed in lifht of sluggish economy, they started to be concerned with the salary of the civil servants. It should be remembered that they used to be apathetic to this issue some years ago. Some say that the civil servants should weather the storm with the rest of the society and thus, accept an immediate pay-cut. There is simply no logic behind such argument.

After reading the consultation paper, I urge the committee to consider not only the stability of the civil service crew, but also the stability of the whole society. Once a pay-cut is due to be carried, it will spark a pay-cut in the private sector as well. The consumption ability of the civil servants will be dampaned and thus, lowering the pace of economic recovery.

I suggest a different pay-cut for senior civil servants and mid-rank / lower rank civil servants. It is not only fair, but also reasonable for the seniors who are enjoying handsome salary and lots of other fringe benefits to bear a larger share of pay slash. Currently, the SAR government is granting housing allowance and other benefits to those of higher rank, in other words, it is sort of proportional increase in salary and other perks. Thus, if the perks are to be slashed, it should be done in the same sense.

Secondly, the disiplinary force should not become the victim of economic downtum. The reason is crystal clear, they are needed in times of bad economy which crimes may soar. Theyir morale shold be maintained, and not to mention their integrity, which, to a certain extent, closely-related to their salary,

which keep them away from temptation.

If a pay-slash should be carried, other factors are to be considered. One should strike a balance between the demand of the public as well as the demand of the civil servants. Let not to forget that the 18000-odd civil servants are actually tax-payer as well. It is understood that the government should look for new source of revenue and to restrain its spending, nevertheless, this may be done in various ways, for instance, introducing land and sea departure tax.

A union is calling for its members to raise funds to bring the governmen to the court once their pay is slashed. Is it worth for the HKSAR government to run such a risk? It's time to pacify the civil servants by announcing a moderate pay-slash (probably by 1%, 2% and 4% respectively). Anxieties and worries among the civil servants are not conducive to productivity.

I am more than willing to further elaborate my ideas. Thank you for paying attention to this email.

Regards,



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