

8th December, 2006

Mr. Stephen Ip,
Secretary for Economic Development and Labour,
Economic Development and Labour Bureau,
8/F., West Wing, Central Government Offices,
Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Mr. Ip,

Fair Competition - the means to maximise Productivity

The Philippines was once an affluent Asia country in the Sixties but now when there are only a few mega families and business groups dominating the economy, the economic situations for the population at large is obvious.

In Hong Kong, when more and more economic sectors go oligopoly, unfair competitions create an additional small size of newly formed rich at the expense of a significant portion of middle class being dragged downwards contributing to a widening rich and poor gap.

Wastage and exploitation result - there are some 80,000 private apartments unsold but set at selling prices well above market equilibrium; taxi and public light bus drivers give way to empty train compartments running along the West Rail and Ma On Shan Rail. And the costs are borne by the less well-to-do majority of Hong Kong population. This inefficiency will make it very hard for the poor to turn around and it suppresses economic energy.

Let us be bold to regulate for fair business competitions and make no false hope that mega businesses invest Hong Kong for sentimental reasons, the hard fact is, businesses survive hard time by having looked at financial returns and invested wherever profit margins were higher.

A wealthy country is normally measured by the existence of a significant portion of middle class like Europe and Japan. We don't want to see Hong Kong follow the undesirable footsteps of some countries but being a fair competition ground for people to work their way up and leave the cross generation poverty problem behind them.

Yours truly,



Lap Fong, an ordinary citizen.