

According to the recent policy of "Fruit Money", people aged 65 or above have to be screened before receiving money. It has stirred up much controversy since it was announced by the Chief Executive Donald Tsang.

As he mentioned, he tried to distribute the money to the elderly in a more effective way to ensure that the needy ones can benefit from it. Also, he is worried that the long term expenditure of fruit money will become a great financial burden on the Hong Kong society. It might be true to a certain extent; however, what he did may disgrace the effort of the elderly.

We should always bear in mind that the elderly had been once promising contributors to Hong Kong's development. The fruit money can be regarded as a reward or recognition of their effort instead of a social burden. So, there should not be any screening process.

Next time when we are dealing with such disputable issues, perhaps we should think of other alternatives. In order to strike a balance between the sustainability of Hong Kong's development and the benefit of the elderly, the amount of fruit money should be adjusted according to the economic environment. Surveys should also be conducted to ensure the amount given is reasonable.