



Time to Save Struggling SMEs

Policy Address should consider the needs of the businesses who are making huge sacrifices to help to control the pandemic



是時候拯救水深火熱的中小企業

商界為協助控制疫情作出重大犧牲，《施政報告》應考慮這些企業的需要

一如往常，總商會當下正忙於籌備《施政報告》建議書，並將於稍後提呈行政長官參詳。然而，香港當前面對的境況卻絕不尋常。

連月的破壞性示威活動，以及緊接的新冠病毒疫情，徹底擾亂了我們的日常生活和商業運作。近日「第三波」疫情爆發，更造成了新一輪的打擊，而疫情消退亦似乎遙遙無期。

要在保障公眾健康與維持經濟運作之間取得平衡，世界各地的決策者均陷入了兩難局面，而他們亦正投放數十億計的款項，防止經濟崩潰。《施政報告》公布在即，全城焦點將落在行政長官如何制訂清晰的經濟支援計劃，協助香港在疫後復蘇。

商界的一大願望，是營商環境重回安穩。我們進行的會員調查結果顯示，穩定是企業正常運作和籌劃未來的要素。

目前有太多不明朗因素充斥，而我們深明抗疫為當務之急。事實上，看到市民和商界同心協力，

遵守建議和規則，防範病毒傳播，實在令人自豪。

然而，這些強制關閉和限制措施卻對本地企業造成了巨大損失，尤其是首當其衝的零售、餐飲、個人護理和健身行業，其中不少是中小企業。這些公司要在持續的封鎖措施下掙扎求存，關鍵在於《施政報告》能夠推出進一步的支援措施。

疫情爆發初期，香港為全球各地樹立了良好榜樣；我們希望各方的努力，能再次遏止病毒蔓延。但無論香港在控制疫情方面有多成功，若然政府在這段時期不向本地企業伸出援手，將會令社會各界大失所望。

有別於很多其他經濟體，香港坐擁龐大的財政儲備；疫情當前，企業急需援助之際，推出紓困措施實在刻不容緩。我們希望行政長官能聆聽總商會會員的關注，確保香港企業得到適切的支援，協助他們渡過這個空前的困境。

Here at the Chamber, as is usual at this time of the year, we are busy putting together our Policy Address submission to the Chief Executive. However, there is nothing usual about the conditions facing Hong Kong right now.

Months of destructive protests followed by the Covid-19 pandemic have turned normal life and business operations upside down. The recent “third wave” of cases is a fresh blow, and it seems there is no end to the pandemic in sight.

Policymakers around the world are torn between protecting public health and keeping their economies ticking over and are spending billions to prevent their economies from collapsing. All eyes will be on the Chief Executive when she delivers her upcoming Policy Address, as she is expected to lay out a clear plan for supporting the economy and help Hong Kong recover once the pandemic eases.

For the business community, a key wish is for a safe and stable operating environment. Our member surveys have underlined that stability is essential for normal operations and to plan for the future.

This is a very uncertain time, and we fully understand that defeating the virus comes first. In fact, we are proud to see the public and businesses

playing their part in complying with the recommendations and rules to limit the spread.

But this has been at tremendous cost to local businesses, especially the retail, food and beverage, personal care and fitness sectors, which have been hit hardest by the mandated closures and restrictions. Many are SMEs who will struggle to survive a prolonged lockdown, so it is vital that the Policy Address includes further measures to help.

Hong Kong was an example to the world in the early months of the pandemic, and we hope that our efforts will halt transmission once again. But no matter how successful Hong Kong is in controlling the virus, if the Government does not help local businesses survive this period, it will have failed in the eyes of society.

Unlike many other economies, Hong Kong has huge fiscal reserves, and we cannot afford to hold back at this time of great need. We hope the Chief Executive will listen to the concerns of Chamber members and ensure that Hong Kong businesses are given appropriate support to help them survive these unprecedented times.

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