

The Lion Rock Institute

Submission to the Subcommittee on Poverty on the Poverty Line

The Lion Rock Institute believes that poverty should be measured absolutely, and not relatively. The current way of measuring poverty and devising the poverty line, which is derived from the median income, does not fully help those truly in need.

In order to fully help those truly in need, resources should not be diverted and wasted on those who do not need help. In a system which industry, initiative and innovation is compensated, if and when the poverty line is devised on a relative basis, there will always be individuals who would be defined as under the poverty line, yet seen as rich and prosperous to other people around the world.

The absurdity of the current system can be seen if applied to a country like The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North), which seen through the eyes of normal people, is a country stricken with widespread poverty. Yet according to our internal research, measured with Hong Kong government's way, there is no poverty in North Korea. If a supranational agency were to follow Hong Kong government's way of measuring poverty, and help us and not our brave North Korean comrades, that would be the height of absurdity and material waste.

Also, if we were to use the current system and apply it onto the Legislative Council membership, where members are guaranteed at least 80,000 HKD, there would also be widespread poverty.

We believe that the resources used to alleviate poverty should be directed to those who are truly suffering from poverty. The current formula in devising the poverty line is not only flawed, but also harmful to those truly in need, and therefore should be changed immediately.

Therefore, we believe that the government should move to an absolute measurement of poverty based on objective measurements such as calorie count, living space size et cetera.

We believe the origins of such relative measures used today were devised by developed nations in the past so as to obfuscate the level of absolute poverty in many of their former colonies. Such relative measures have then been adopted by those closet Marxists who believe in eternal class struggle to achieve equality of outcome.

We remain hopeful that those who support the current system of measuring poverty only do so out of ignorance and not out of Marxist ideology - henceforth, embrace The Lion Rock Institute's way.