

Invitation for submission – LegCo, reference no. EAC8AC97

Against airbnb, against flat owners illegally rent their flats to visitors in short term just like licensed hotel/guest house

Hong Kong is famous of high rental price (base on earning) for living in the world due to high density of people and not enough area for building of house/flats at this moment/near future. Hong Kong government is trying the best to ease the situation by getting more land or various ways for development of more house/flats for people to live in.

The illegal renting of flats to visitors in short term via airbnb is in a way of cutting the supply of rentable flats to Hong Kong people as these flats owners get a better return. We do not know what is the percentage of rentable flats are used as illegal renting to visitors, but even small percentage will affect the rental price (the price will be higher) simply follow the law of supply and demand, thus those Hong Kong people who need to rent a flat for living will suffer a higher price or living smaller space. If the percentage is higher than those Hong Kong people who need to rent a flat for living will be suffer more and more.

Who get benefit, who suffer, who have benefit and disadvantage from illegal renting flats to visitors in short term.

A) Who get benefit

- 1) Airbnb – get commissions and earn a fortune.
- 2) Owners illegally rent their flats to visitors in short term – get better return.

B) Who suffer

- 1) Hong Kong people who need to rent a flat for living – as the rental price will be higher.
- 2) Hong Kong people who live near or next to those flats illegally rent to visitors – have security, safety, inconvenience and disturbance issues
- 3) Owners of licensed hotel/guest house – have competition with these illegal activity and unfair as have cost to fulfill license requirement. .

C) Who have benefit and disadvantage

- 1) Visitors who illegally rent flats in short term which are not licensed – as they may pay a little less but in a high risk of security, safety and insurance issues.

CONCLUSION

The Hong Kong Government should increase the penalty for airbnb and those flats owners who illegally renting their flats to visitors in short term including imprisonment so that the poor Hong Kong people who need to rent flats for living can be better off.

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