

社評  
雙語道

# 小巴司機老齡化背後問題須重視解決

## Problems behind the aging of PLB drivers need addressing

原文

下文摘錄自8月10日香港《文匯報》：

本港人口老化，不少行業出現從業員嚴重老齡化、缺乏新人入行的問題，影響到經濟發展和社會服務質素。當中小巴司機平均年齡達70歲以上，成為一個重災行業，業界向政府爭取將小巴司機納入「補充勞工計劃」，容許營運商聘請外勞以維持營運。其實本港多個行業都面臨從業員老齡化的問題，政府在充分聽取業界意見的同時，有必要主動審視、研究問題背後的深層原因，在優先保護本地勞動市場的前提下，適當平衡為社會提供優質服務的需要。

根據運輸署統計，全港70歲或以上的司機人數，5年間激增八成，其中小巴行內司機的平均年齡竟高達70歲。小巴是為普通市民提供短途、支線接駁交通服務的主力，是香港公共運輸體系不可缺少的組成部分。小巴司機老齡化會衍生眾多問題，一是空缺率高、脫班嚴重，影響對市民的服務承諾；二是高齡司機長時間工作更加容易出現駕駛疲勞，造成嚴重的道路交通安全隱患；第三是容易衍生服務態度和工作表現差的問題，相關投訴數字在過去10年上升逾六成。在種種影響下，小巴又難免會流失乘客、收入減少，出現愈做愈縮、愈來愈沒新人入行的惡性循環。

類似問題並非小巴行業所獨有，隨着整體人口老齡化，本港很多行業都面對從業員老齡化問題；其中部分行業的老齡化問題會嚴重影響基本服務質

素，值得政府部門重視和尋求解決之道。根據勞工處的「補充勞工計劃」，在香港經營業務的僱主如確實未能在本港聘得合適人手，可申請輸入屬技術員級別或以下的勞工。現時建築地盤業、珠寶、酒店、電子等行業的個別職位，均在計劃內，可適當引入外勞，但小巴業以至運輸業均不在名單上。業界建議將小巴業納入名單，才能提升服務質素和保住生存空間。

輸入外勞的矛盾，是一方面要優先保障本地勞動市場，另一方面也要滿足社會需要，政府需要具體從每一個行業去審視實際需要。具體在小巴業而言，現時小巴司機人手嚴重不足，個別路線空缺率超五成，適當引入外勞根本不存在影響本地僱員飯碗的問題；加上小巴司機待遇人工本來就不高，業界要為引入的外勞提供住宿，成本較請本地司機更高，希望輸入外勞顯然並不是為了減少僱員薪資支出。小巴既然是關係市民生活的重要基本服務，長期人手短缺造成的諸多弊病就不能不尋求解決辦法，其中適當引入外勞就是一種值得積極探討的方法。

「補充勞工計劃」規定，為保障本地工人的就業機會及薪酬福利，僱主必須優先聘用本地工人，並致力培訓本地工人，以填補職位空缺。但小巴行業式微背後有交通工具發展的大環境，不容易有大的改變。香港有關部門有必要虛心聆聽業界意見，與業界共同商討應對策略。在可行的情況下盡量在政策上作出調整配合，好讓業界健康發展。



◆小巴司機老齡化會衍生眾多問題。

資料圖片

譯文

With the aging of population in Hong Kong, problems arise of aging of practitioners in and the lack of entrants to some industries, thus affecting the economic development and the quality of social services. Public light bus (PLB) sector, with the average age of drivers being 70 years or older, has been hit hard and striving for having light bus drivers included in the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS), which allows employers to import workers to maintain the operations. In fact, many industries in Hong Kong are facing the problem of aging workers. While the Government is fully listening to the views of the industries, it should take the initiative to examine and study the underlying causes of the problem, so as to strike a proper balance and satisfy the need to provide quality services to the community while giving priority to protecting the local labour market.

According to the statistics of the Transport Department, the number of drivers aged 70 or above in Hong Kong has surged by 80% in five

years, with the average age of PLB drivers reaching 70. PLBs are the mainstay of short-haul and feeder transport services for the public and are an integral part of Hong Kong's public transport system. The aging of PLB drivers will lead to many problems: firstly, it leads to high rate of vacancy and of lost trips, affecting the service commitment to the public; secondly, elderly drivers are more likely to suffer from driving fatigue during long working hours, posing serious road safety hazards; thirdly, it easily brings forth poor service attitude and performance, and the number of related complaints has increased by more than 60% in the past 10 years. With all these effects, PLBs inevitably lose passengers and revenue, resulting in a vicious cycle of shrinking business and less entrants to the sector.

Similar problems are not unique to the PLB sector. With the aging of the population, many industries in Hong Kong are facing the problem of aging of their employees. The aging problem in some of these industries seriously affects the quality of basic services, warranting attention

from government departments and their search for solutions. Under the SLS of Labour Department, employers carrying on business in Hong Kong may apply to import workers at technical level or below to fill vacancies which they have genuine difficulties in recruiting suitable staff locally. At present, selected jobs in such industries as construction work sites, jewellery, hotel and electronics are included in SLS and can be filled by imported workers. However, PLB sector, or even transport industry, are excluded from SLS. PLB sector has demanded to be included in SLS to enhance its service quality and ensure its survival.

The paradox of importing workers is that on the one hand, priority must be given to protecting the local labour market, and on the other hand, social needs must also be met. The government should concretely examine the actual needs of each industry. Specifically, in the PLB sector, there is currently a severe shortage of drivers, with vacancy rate of over 50% on individual routes, so appropriate importing of workers will not affect the employment of local work-

ers. Moreover, the purpose of importing workers is not to reduce salary expenses, as employers need to provide accommodation to imported workers, thus causing higher expenses than employing local drivers. Since PLBs are an important basic service for people's livelihood, we cannot help but look for solutions to the many problems caused by the chronic shortage of manpower, among which the appropriate importing of workers is a method worth active exploration.

SLS stipulates that, to safeguard the employment opportunities for as well as salaries and benefits of local workers, employers must accord priority to filling available job vacancies with local workers, and take active efforts to train local workers for the vacancies. However, the decline of PLB sector happened in the broad environment of transport development, and will not change significantly. Concerned government departments should listen to the views of the sector with an open mind, discuss with them on strategies to cope with the situation, and make policy adjustments as far as practicable to facilitate the healthy development of the sector.

## 英文名字多含義 張三李四勿亂叫

恒 大英萃

隔星期二見報

開學了！還記得以前不少同學上第一堂英文課時，多被老師要求取一個英文名字。相信現今同學們都早有準備，無論是父母賜予或是自己選取，你知道自己英文名字箇中含義嗎？

Tom、Dick and Harry 使用作男生名字絕不少見吧！真正因為它們的普遍，所以英語的 every Tom, Dick and Harry 就是解作「隨便任何人」，類似中文的張三、李四、王五。例句：Don't tell him anything; he can't keep a secret and soon every Tom, Dick and Harry will know about it.（跟他少說點話好了，否則守不了秘密的他很快會將事情廣傳給任何人。）

除了直呼全名，日常生活我們亦將名字簡化，例如「文仔」或「阿文」，英文名亦有不少縮寫。有些較為明顯的，例如 Tom 是 Thomas 的縮寫，Harry 是 Harold 的縮寫。猜猜 Dick 是從哪個英文名演變出來？答案是 Richard，想不到吧。

Dick 這名字亦見尷尬，俚語時解作陽具（難怪是男生名字。其他亦可解陽具的名字包括 Roger、Peter、Johnson 和 Willy。同一個器官真的需要那麼多別名嗎），又是神憎鬼厭的人，或是傻瓜笨蛋：He's acting like a complete dick by insulting women all the time.（他老是侮辱女性，真討

厭！）A clever dick 別以為就聰明起來，其實更糟，解作自以為是的人。

那 Dicky 應該沒事吧？當然，加上 y 作尾的名字就像是那名字的小孩子版本，可愛感滿滿，例如 Tom 變 Tommy，Rick 變 Ricky，但偏偏 dicky（小寫 d）又有其形容詞之用，解虛弱的：Don't startle me for I'm having a dicky ticker.（我虛弱的心臟受不了刺激啊！）

Dick 作動詞用時亦未能「洗底」：I just wanted to cancel this Internet plan but the provider has been dicking me around for months!（我只想取消這個上網計劃，但供應商拖延了我多月亦未成事！）Dick somebody around 解三心兩意或拖延時間而產生困難。

John 亦夠普遍吧？誰不知小寫 j 的 john 亦更常見：I'm going to the john; be right back! 小寫 j 的 john 正是抽水馬桶裝置，泛指廁所。箇中原因相信不難理解。對，發明者就名為 Dr John Harington。

有說之後有位 Thomas Crapper 的英國水管工人再加以改良 John 的裝置，使其更易沖走便，Crapper 更將自己大名印在馬桶上，久而久之 crap 亦解大便。

其實名字並非代表人生！「What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.」這出自莎士比亞名著《羅密歐與茱麗葉》的名句就道出真諦：名稱有什麼關係呢？玫瑰不叫玫瑰，仍是一樣芳香。

## 玫瑰奢華喻安逸 人生難免有低谷

英語世界

隔星期二見報

中外古今，玫瑰花是不少文人雅士的題材，出現在很多藝術品當中，例如詩歌、畫作、標誌和各種圖像設計。玫瑰（rose），特別是紅玫瑰，予人鮮艷燦爛的感覺，經常象徵熱情、溫馨、愛戀等美好事物。說事情發展順利，漸入佳境，英文會說 coming up roses，用玫瑰花開比喻，寓意好景將要到來。

The economy is improving this year and it is coming up roses. 今年經濟逐步改善，漸入佳境。

另外一句英文常用語 a bed of roses（一床的玫瑰花），亦用上玫瑰花正面幸福的象徵，比喻安樂、如意的處境。想像一下，鋪滿了玫瑰花的花海，美麗奢華，令人感到幸福快樂，a bed of roses 代表了稱心如意的環境、安逸舒適的生活。

His parents have virtually made his life a bed of roses. 他的父母無疑是為他安排了玫瑰花般的無憂生活和幸福人生。

玫瑰的象徵意義早於中世紀在歐洲出現，13世紀法國有長篇敘事詩《Le Roman de la Rose》，英文的意思就是 a bed of roses，是西方廣為流傳的文學作品。中文譯作《玫瑰傳奇》，是描寫愛情的詩篇，詩中戀人夢見自己在花園中散步，見到噴泉旁邊的玫瑰花床，牽動了愛意。其後英國劇作家及詩人 Christopher Marlowe 在他的詩作《The Passionate Shepherd to His Love》（熱情牧羊人寫給戀人的戀歌）》當中亦寫道：And I will make thee beds of roses. 我將為你鋪起一床又一床玫瑰花。

玫瑰花象徵浪漫歡樂等正面意思，a bed of roses 代表沒有困擾的安樂窩、愜意人生。不過，世事並不盡如人意，人生不會永遠一帆風順。

後來，可能因為要提醒人們不要耽於安逸，不要只看到好的一面而忽視壞的一面，便常常把 a bed of roses 用於否定句，not a bed of roses，或者 not all roses，也成了日常慣用語。

說 not a bed of roses 或 not all roses，意思是事情不是想像中容易，會有困難要應對，不會如表面看起來一般美好，難免有挑戰，或者說不一定事事順境，並非盡善盡美。此外，亦有說法是 not all sunshine and roses，意思一樣，不是一切盡如人意。

He was always angry with the world, not without reasons. His life had not been a bed of roses. 他常常憤世嫉俗，但是不無原因，他的人生並不如意。

Life is not all roses. It takes effort and time to overcome different hurdles and difficulties. 人生並不全是平坦順暢，途中必有難難險阻，需要費力氣和時間一一克服。

用 not a bed of roses / not all roses 描述一個情況，不是指情況很壞，只是說不是十全十美，有正面亦有負面的狀況。玫瑰象徵美好，大家都希望未來會像玫瑰花一般漂亮，所以說 We hope the future will be coming up roses.（我們希望將來的日子向好，事事如意。）

不過，玫瑰畢竟是帶刺的植物，即使滿園花開，亦未必無憂無慮，還是要居安思危。

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