

Professor Anthony Cheung on structural fiscal deficit

-- By Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, Advisor (Public Administration) of the Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies

- In a contributed article to *Ming Pao*, Professor Cheung gave a deep analysis on the fiscal deficit today, explaining its origins and citing past experiences in dealing with fiscal deficit cycles in previous years.
- Professor Cheung noted that the current fiscal deficit is structural, involving more than just cyclical problems and financial management. He highlighted that two major factors—international geopolitics and the Mainland economy—will determine whether the government's financial deficit crisis is merely a false alarm.
- To address the crisis, he suggested that the government should set realistic medium-term goals, focus on economic growth, and rebuild fiscal discipline without drastic cuts that could harm public services and recovery.
- Additionally, he advised against a pay cut for civil servants and public organisation employees, as it would affect economic recovery; and suggested that the government's senior officials and legislators should share the burden with the public, aligning with the concept of "fiscal justice."
- <https://news.mingpao.com/pns/%e8%a7%80%e9%bb%9e/article/20250204/s00012/1738602975532>
- <https://news.mingpao.com/pns/%e6%b8%af%e8%81%9e/article/20250204/s00002/1738602970548>