



EDITORIAL

大公社評

Voter registration system must be improved

The Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) yesterday met the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Raymond Tam Chi-yuen to report 148 suspected vote-rigging (vote-planting) cases in last month's district council elections it had uncovered, and demand these cases be investigated and dealt with so as to safeguard the fairness and justice of Hong Kong's electoral system.

In the meantime, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said it has received more than 400 complaints about vote-rigging in the district council elections. A newly set up ICAC taskforce has begun investigating into 27 suspected voting-fraud cases.

In respect of the vote-planting complaints in the aftermath of the district council elections, relevant authorities of the SAR Government are following up and launching investigations in accordance with the law. Tentatively, the problem may be approached from three aspects. The first is, as DAB complained yesterday, some members from the opposition camp are suspected of vote-planting by using fake residential addresses. The second is that there may be unintentional mistakes - nothing to do with vote-rigging. In evidence is the fact that some 60,000 voting notices were undeliverable because the addresses were too vague or mistaken or the addressees had moved out but failed to notify. The third is that there are indeed some flaws and loopholes in the current voter registration system, which must be plugged up to improve the system. It is such loopholes that have made it possible for deliberate vote-plantings with false addresses or unintentional mistakes in registrations with misspelled names and wrong addresses, so much so that many voting notices have become permanently undeliverable - or "dead" - letters. Such loopholes must be plugged up.

Having got to the root of the problem, therefore, it must be followed up and tackled from three approaches. One is to deal with vote riggers in accordance with the law. The second is that voters are duty-bound to provide correct addresses, though registration with a mistaken address may not be necessarily meant for vote rigging. The third is that, fundamentally speaking, the current voter registration system must be further improved, including demanding a register to provide proof of his address.

In fact, Hong Kong's voter registration system has always remained not so strict. For, in the past, citizens were not keen on casting their votes. Before Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, registered voters only made up about 10% of all citizens legitimate to vote. Under the circumstance, if one were to be asked to present some poof for registration, the number of registered voters would have become even less. As a result, up to date, a voter registration is considered done as long as a citizen as long as a citizen fills the registration form and submits it. No verification is required. This practice has its historical and practical reasons, which thus is not altogether inexcusable.

After Hong Kong returned to the Motherland in 1997, "one country two systems" and "Hong Kong people running Hong Kong" with high-degree autonomy have become increasingly rooted in the hearts of the people. Citizens have become more enthusiastic to register for voting. Taking the just-concluded district council elections for example, the number of registered voters totaled 3.2 million, accounting for half of the citizens legitimate to vote.

Therefore, facing up to the continuous development of party politics and electoral culture in Hong Kong, particularly in consideration of the commitment

in the Basic Law to attaining the ultimate goal of electing the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council (Legco) on the basis of universal suffrage, according to which the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has already approved the decision that universal suffrage can apply to election of the Chief Executive in 2017 and to formation of the Legislative Council in 2020, there is indeed the necessity to further improve the current voter registration system so as to ensure elections are fair and just.

On this, Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Raymond Tam Chi-yuen disclosed that the government has already worked out a draft which would be submitted to the Legco. It proposes that in future new voters must submit proofs of addresses to support their registrations, and registered voters must also provide proofs when they want to change their addresses. Authorities will also strengthen sample checks on registered voters.

No doubt, such proposals, if adopted, will cause some inconvenience to citizens. Some citizens may not have permanent residential addresses so they may not be able to provide any of the proofs such as receipts of power charges, water charges or property management fees. A few citizens may also feel inconvenient or unwilling to let their families know about their registrations for voting. Nevertheless, in order to plug up the loophole for some people to register with fake addresses, in order to make the electoral system more perfect, in order to ensure that future elections will be serious and just, citizens must give tolerance to the inconvenience caused.

What is laughable is that the opposition camp, which suffered a landslide defeat in the district council elections, is making use of the long-existing flaws or shortcomings in the voter registration system, without forethought, to accuse the pro-establishment camp of vote-planting and even insinuate that there may be behind-the-scenes manipulations. This really exposes the "heart of a petty man" who shows himself up as utterly ridiculous.

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WORDS AND USAGE

- 1 In respect of (idiom) - Concerning; in regard to. (關於, 有關)
Examples: 1. In respect of financial standing, this firm is reliable. 2. Large increases now can be expected in respect of fuel prices.
2 In evidence (idiom) - Plainly visible; to be seen. (明顯的, 顯眼的)
Examples: 1. It was early, and few pedestrians were in evidence on the city streets. 2. These guys were much in evidence during the fighting.
3 Plug sth up (phrasal verb) - To stop or fill up a hole, crack, or gap. (堵塞)
Examples: 1. Please plug up the leak. 2. You have to plug up the cracks to keep out the cold.
4 Get to the root of sth (idiom) - Be able to see or do something about the main cause (of a problem, etc.). (追根溯源, 窮本究源)
Examples: 1. If we want to fix this system we have to get to the root of the problem. 2. We must get to the root of the drug problem.
5 Show sb up as sth (phrasal verb) - To show what someone is really like. (暴露)
Examples: 1. The investigation showed her up as a fraud. 2. The test showed up the candidate as unqualified.

創造條件進一步完善選民登記

民建聯昨日再揭發一百四十八宗懷疑區議會選舉「種票」個案, 並為此約見政制及內地事務局局長譚志源, 要求嚴肅處理, 以維護本港選舉制度的公平及公正。

與此同時, 廉政公署負責人透露, 迄今為止已接獲四百多宗涉及區選的投訴, 為此已成立專責小組, 就其二十七宗懷疑涉及舞弊行為即「種票」的投訴展開調查。

就本次區議會選舉結束後出現的涉嫌「種票」投訴, 特區政府有關部門正本着依法辦事的精神跟進調查; 而從初步情況看來, 事情可能涉及三個不同層面, 一是如昨日民建聯所投訴的, 反對派有人涉嫌以虛假地址「種票」; 二是六萬份「投票通知書」被退回, 原因包括地址不詳、門牌或層數有誤, 或收信人已經搬離卻未有申報, 這些顯然多屬無心之失, 與「種票」無關; 第三則是選民登記制度的確存在一些粗疏以至漏洞, 有待堵塞和改善, 包括蓄意虛報地址的「種票」, 以及錯報、漏報正確姓名、地址資料, 以至投票通知書成了永遠無法投遞的「死信」。

因此, 追本究源, 問題亦應循三個方面跟進和處理, 一是確為「種票」者應依法嚴肅處理; 二是地址有誤未必就是「種票」, 選民有責任提供正確地址; 三是從根本上進一步完善選民登記制度, 包括要求登記者提供地址證明。

事實是, 本港的選民登記制度一向都是「從寬處理」, 因為過去市民的選舉意欲不高, 回歸前登記選民只有百分之十左右, 如果還要提供這樣那樣的證明文件, 登記的人只會更少, 所以歷來的選民登記都是個人自行填表遞交, 不需任何查核。這一做法, 是有其



▲港府提出五項措施, 完善選民登記制度

歷史和現實原因的, 也無可厚非。九七回歸, 「一國兩制」、 「港人治港」、高度自治的方針深入人心, 市民登記為選民的意欲才有了較大幅度的提高。即以剛結束的區選為例, 登記選民三百二十萬, 佔合資格市民的百分之五十左右。

因此, 面對本港政黨政治和選舉文化的不斷發展, 特別是基本法明確承諾特首和立法會最終達致由普選產生的目標, 全國人大亦已作出二〇一七年可以普選特首、二〇二〇年可以普選立法會的「決定」, 未來對選民登記制度的確有進一步完善和嚴密的必要, 以確保選舉的公平和公正性。

對此, 政制及內地事務局局長譚志源透露, 政府已擬訂文件, 下周提交立法會, 建議未來新登記選民必須提供住址證明, 選民搬遷地址也必須提供證明; 對已登記選民則將會加強抽查。

毫無疑問, 這些建議, 將會令市民感到不便, 個別市民可能並無固定地址, 無法提供以其名字登記的電費單、水費單、大廈管理費收據等證明, 也有個別人可能不方便或不願意讓家人知道已登記為選民, 但為了堵塞虛報地址的漏洞, 為了令選舉制度更完善, 為了確保未來選舉的嚴肅性和公正性, 市民蒙受一些不便也是要予以體諒的了。

可笑的是, 對選民登記制度上存在由來已久的一些紕漏或不足, 在本次區選中大敗的反對派, 卻不問三七二十一, 就一口咬定是建制派在「種票」, 還含沙射影的說什麼有人在背後操控, 真是一副「小人之心」, 醜態畢現。

2011/12/09 大公報社評

中文基本功

操粵語時蒂字有邊讀邊違反語言規律脫離實際

十一月十九日, 有人打電話來告知: 連日電台、電視提到意大利新總理蒙蒂, 都把蒂字有邊讀邊, 讀成帝王之蒂, 是誰人教壞後輩的? 他們指出: 廣府話常有「並蒂蓮」、「瓜熟蒂落」等詞語, 一向都把蒂字讀成替, 毫無例外。

廣府話、廣州話, 即大多數香港居民日常用語——粵語。按照古韻, 去聲帶部有噠、噠、抵等字。其中抵字, 曾改寫成蒂, 再改寫成蒂。在讀音上, 古時都是不送氣的, 讀成帝王之蒂。自從進入粵語, 按語言規律, 早已由不送氣變成送氣, 不讀蒂而讀替了。噠正的噠, 噴嚏(俗稱打乞噠)的噠, 結蒂(抵, 下同)、並蒂蓮、瓜熟蒂落的蒂都讀成替, 都是如此來由。何以如今傳媒又再讀成蒂呢?

原來, 上世紀三十年代在廣州研究粵語的黃錫凌, 為了順從南京當局「統一國語」

政策, 編纂《粵音韻彙》時, 就依照「復古音兼跟國語」的原則改變粵語讀音。但此書一九四一年出版後, 問津者少。到一九七一年, 麥理浩任香港總督, 當局極力營造「本土意識」, 在語音方面, 要創造一種有別於廣府話的香港話(亦稱香港粵語), 搞所謂「正音」, 完全奉行黃錫凌的標準, 大肆更改粵語的現行也是實際的讀法, 蒂改讀替, 只是其中一例。依照古音和國語(普通話), 蒂確是讀帝王之蒂。但在粵語系統, 這就違反語言發展規律、脫離實際了。

其實, 關於蒂字「復古音兼跟國語」一類港式「正音」, 過去我已泛泛談過, 未有挖掘本質。從今起, 遇上這一類的例子一定從這方面着眼。由於三四十年来, 奉承港英這項政策的, 一直盤踞着香港的文化教育新聞出版領域, 這類例子, 每天不乏其例。 容若

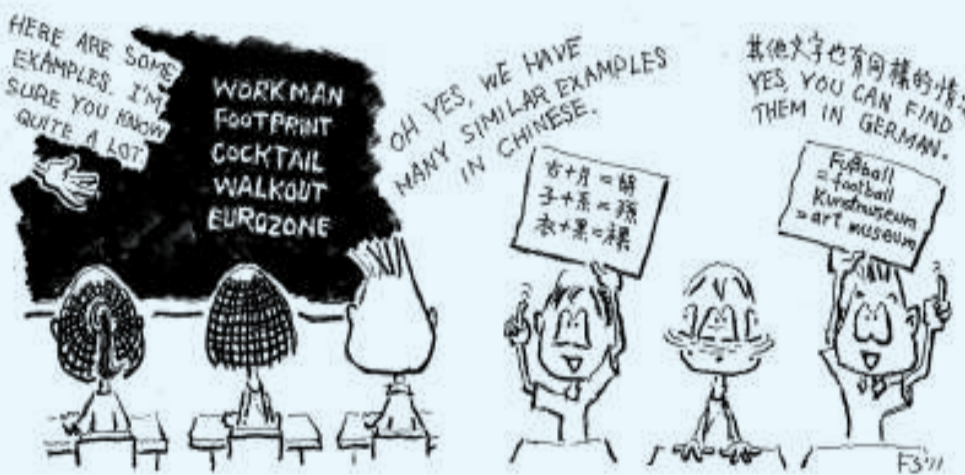
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SOHO DIARY



From Words to Sentences

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The word "eurozone" (歐元區) is now a common word and it appears nearly in every newspaper these days because of the eurozone crisis. The word is coined by combining "euro" and "zone". It is not an old word and was not in the dictionary when I was young.

At the time when I was a secondary school student - more than three decades ago, I only knew the term "war zone" (戰區).

I like the word "zone" because it starts with the letter "z". Not many words start with the letter "z". Another word is "zoo", which is also, to me, a beautiful word.

Perhaps because I started with Chinese characters, when I look at English words, I tend to break them up into parts - the way I look at Chinese characters.

With sentences, sometimes I can do the same thing - breaking them up into parts.

Let's start with a simple sentence: A bird sings on the tree. The sentence has a special "look" as nearly all the words are short and simple.

But when we write in English, we seldom use only simple sentences. It is difficult to do so. Why? It's because what we want to say in a sentence usually has several elements and they interact with each other to form a meaning.

While doing translation, I always try hard to transplant the beauty one usually find in Chinese sentences into the English language because I believe there are things in common between the two languages. However, it is necessary to do it carefully, taking care of the sound of the words and the structure of the sentences.

通識記憶體

選民登記創回歸後新高

今年選民人數達356萬!!!

「登記做選民, 投票選賢能」, 香港自上世紀80年代推行代議政制以來, 一直鼓勵市民自願登記做選民。回歸後, 登記選民大致趨升, 由2002年的290萬遞增至今年的356萬, 相當於全港合資格(年滿18歲的永久市民)人數的一半, 創歷史新高。

在全港五大地區選區中, 新界西(葵青至荃灣屯門元朗)登記選民超過100萬, 新界東(沙田西貢大埔粉嶺)為88萬, 最少的九龍西(深水埗大角咀長沙灣)為45萬。全港300多萬選民, 女性佔

178萬, 男性為177萬。

政制及內地事務局統籌選舉事宜, 具體由選舉事務處負責選民登記和資格核實, 包括受理對登記選民資格的反對提請, 跟進選民地址和資料更新。

新登記或改住址須提證明!!!

自願登記自願申報的選民登記制度, 存在漏報或隱瞞等漏洞, 今年區議會選舉更出現多宗涉嫌「種票」事件。為堵塞漏洞, 政制及內地事務局提出, 計劃要求新登記或需更改住址資料的選民提交住址證明, 如水電煤費單或銀行信件, 以及加強抽查選民等。