



EDITORIAL

大公社評

Leung determined to stop influx of pregnant Mainland women

Next year (2013), babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland mothers whose husbands are not Hong Kong permanent residents will not be given the right of abode.

This was declared by Chief Executive-elect Leung Chun-ying yesterday. Although he did not directly use such words as "will not be given", his manner of speaking made his intention very clear.

With such "no guarantee" pledge by the Chief Executive-elect, the future of the issue is basically settled, leaving no chance to be taken.

The statement made by Leung Chun-ying yesterday is his relatively direct comment on a specific administrative affair of the SAR before he is sworn in. This is just the first small display of his leadership which however is enough to show his style.

More importantly, the fact that Leung can resolutely and unequivocally work out a solution of the problem is not because he is an extraordinary "genius", but because he is able to identify the root cause of the problem through its complicate and confusing appearances.

Following this interpretation of the Basic Law, therefore, babies born in Hong Kong to parents who are both not Hong Kong permanent residents should not have the right of abode.

This is the truth of the matter. Had the NPC interpretation of the Basic Law been strictly followed, pregnant Mainland women coming to give birth in Hong Kong would have posed no threat at all. But some "pro-democracy barristers", who later formed the Civic Party, launched a "protest in black" against the NPC interpretation of the Basic Law, asserting it as an "intervention in Hong Kong" and marked the "death of the rule of law".

find out its origin and get to its root cause. Hence according to the NPC interpretation of the Basic Law, after he is sworn in, he will "not guarantee" that babies born in Hong Kong to non-Hong Kong-resident parents will have the right of abode.

Why is the problem of pregnant Mainland women coming to give birth in Hong Kong picked up by Leung Chun-ying to make the first display of his leadership? This also deserves attention. First of all, some recent opinion poll shows citizens hope Leung would tackle this problem first after he takes office.

The pledge, that there is no guarantee for children born in Hong Kong to non-Hong Kong-resident parents to have the right of abode, may make most pregnant Mainland women give up their plans to come to give birth in Hong Kong. However, it cannot be ruled out that some would still decide to come and deliver their babies in Hong Kong because of Hong Kong's good medical services.

17 April 2012

WORDS AND USAGE

- 1 Speak out (phrasal verb) - To say what you think clearly and publically. (毫無保留地說出; 公開表白)
Examples: 1. You must speak out. People need to know what you think. 2. She spoke out against the regime.
2 Take a chance (on sth) (idiom) - Do something without being sure of success. (冒一冒險; 碰碰運氣)
Examples: 1. Come on, take a chance. You may lose, but it's worth trying. 2. I'll take a chance that he'll be on the next plane.
3 Swear sb in (phrasal verb, often used in the passive) - When someone is sworn in, they make a formal promise to be honest or loyal, either because they are in a law court or because they are starting a new official job. (使某人宣誓就職或忠誠)
Examples: 1. Barack Obama was sworn in as US President. 2. The next witness was sworn in.
4 Focus sth on sb/sth (phrasal verb) - to give all attention, effort, etc. to one particular person, subject or thing. (把注意力, 精力等) 集中於.....
Examples: 1. You must focus your efforts on boosting sales. 2. The programme was intended to focus attention on global warming.
5 Get out of hand (idiom) - Become difficult or impossible to control. (難以控制; 失控)
Examples: 1. As soon as the teacher exited the classroom the students got out of hand. 2. Things got a little out of hand at the party and three windows were broken.

中文基本功

我國古代口才好的政治領袖可由蘇秦張儀王莽數到孔明

三月廿一日晚上,香港電台《講東講西》講政治領袖口才,主持人推崇西方重視戲劇,謂西人從小接觸戲劇,而戲劇的對白,可以訓練口才,所以西方政治領袖,無不能言善道。

我就由戰國說起。當時的說客,不少成為政治領袖。蘇秦、張儀、范雎,可謂表表者。蘇秦做到「縱約長」,也就是南北六國同盟秘書長;用粵劇的話,叫「六國大封相」。相六國,還不是政治領袖?張儀自從以「連橫」之術破解蘇秦的「合縱」,即做了秦國丞相。後來,范雎也是以

說客身份,一躍而為秦國的丞相。以三人同今天的彭定康比,相當於派彭來港的馬卓安(內地譯梅杰),是比彭更高級的政治領袖了。

我讀蘇、張、范的口才,不等於肯定其為人,尤其後兩人。張儀一次代表秦國同楚國談判,以讓出六百里土地同楚國有所交換;後來爽約,竟說他「只聞六里,不聞六百里」,言而無信。范雎做了丞相,大權在握,「一飯之恩不忘,睡毗之怨必報」,是個假公濟私的傢伙。

歷史上,口才最佳的政治領袖,要算漢朝的王莽,他的口才,令全國有四十八萬人上書朝廷,要求由他管理國家(當時中國人口五千萬)。王莽做了皇帝後,引起全民反對,義兵四起,終於推翻他的統治,他的舌頭也被人割下來。

口才好而道德高尚的政治領袖也不少,最著名的是蜀漢丞相諸葛亮(字孔明)。講古至此,要想講今,已無篇幅了,謹此致歉! 容若

觸景立畫

花卉特寫



耀中國際學校小學部 3年級 趙允妍

梁振英果斷有效堵「雙非」

明年(二〇一三)來港產子的內地「雙非」孕婦,其在港產下的子女將不會獲得香港永久居民身份。

候任行政長官梁振英昨日在作出這一宣示時,雖然並未直接使用「不會獲得」一語,但其語氣和用意都已十分清晰。梁振英的原話是這樣說的:「我亦趁這個機會,通過媒體向內地準備來港產子的雙非父母提一點意見,就是如果他們準備在二〇一三年來港產子的話,我不能夠保證他在香港出生的子女有香港永久居民身份,香港亦沒有人、沒有任何代理人,或者醫院可以向他們保證,或者應該向他們保證,他們的子女在香港可以有永久居民身份。所以這個問題應該有言在先,應該講清楚。」

作為候任行政長官,一句「不能夠保證」,則整個事態的基本取向已沒有什麼可再懷疑和心存僥倖的了。

梁振英昨日的這一表述,是他在履新前對政府施政問題較為具體直接的觸及,但「牛刀小試」,已足見「大將之風」;在各種行政措施、法律程序以至「釋法」、「修法」等意見紛陳、擾擾攘攘之際,梁振英「一錘定音」,把解決問題的方法聚焦到不會獲得香港永久居民身份上。

而更重要的是,梁振英能夠果斷、明確給出解決問題之道,並不是他有什麼過人「天才」,而是因為他在複雜混亂的現象中抓住了根本,那就是全國人大常委會一九九九年就女童吳嘉玲案作出的「釋法」決定:基本法第二十四條,內地居民在港出生的子女可獲居留權,是指其出生前父或母一方必須已經是香港永久性居民。

如此「雙非」孕婦在港出生子女,明顯不符「釋法」決定,不應獲得香港永久性居民身份。



▲「雙非」問題困擾香港多時,候任行政長官梁振英提出新政策銳意解決這個社會問題

事實就是如此,本來,只要嚴格按照全國人大「釋法」辦事,「雙非」對港人社會是不會構成什麼威脅的;但是,「公民黨」前身的一夥「民主大狀」,黑衣遊行反對全國人大「釋法」,指為「干預香港」、「法治已死」,擾攘經年之後,二〇〇一年,「雙非」男孖莊豐源案上訴終院得直,「雙非」孕婦來港產子才變成一個不可收拾的局面。因此,在經過充分了解及諮詢法律界專業人士意見後,梁振英不再在什麼司法程序和行政措施上繞圈子,而是回到問題的「起點」上,正本清源,根據人大「釋法」,在他上任後,「不保證」「雙非」孕婦來港產子可獲永久性居民身份。

「雙非」問題為什麼會成為梁振英「小試牛刀」的首選?看來也是值得關注的。一來,日前有「民調」顯示,市民被問及希望梁振英上任首先解決什麼問題?答案是「雙非」;二來,「雙非」問題拖沓經年,已經在本港市民及內地居民中造成對立情緒以至「撕裂」,及時提出解決之道,對緩解兩地居民之間的「怨氣」十分有必要,也可說是梁振英當選後各方實現「大和解」的一個重要內容。

不過,「不保證」「雙非」子女可獲永久居民身份,可以令大部分內地「雙非」孕婦打消來港產子的念頭,但不排除仍會有基於本港醫療服務水平而來港產子的抉擇。對這一部分「雙非」孕婦,私營醫院應仍有或可以預留一定的服務空間,梁振英昨日提出私院二〇一三年的「雙非」名額應為「零」,應只屬「暫緩」性質,日後待各種資料數據進一步澄清明確後,私院仍維持接收一定數量的內地「雙非」孕婦也非絕不可為。

2012/04/17 大公報社評

通識記憶體

「雙非」嬰十年升逾30倍

從2001年起,「雙非」父母來港產子的百分比從1.3%飆升至2010年的36.9%,所佔用醫院、社會、教育等資源惹起多數港人不忿。過去,社交網站上反對內地孕婦來港產子的群組人數已超過10萬,亦有醫院護士及不少本港媽媽就內地孕婦「衝急症」、「晚催生」等問題在網上吐苦水,更有網民於討論區發言,認為醫院不應發出世紙予「雙非」嬰兒。

另外,學額緊張及不足的情況尤以北區小學及幼稚園最嚴重,整體學額仍缺約3000個。今年1月教育局罕有地去信跨境學童家長,建議讓子女跨區到大埔、元朗或天水圍等地區讀小學;但有內地家長「懶理」。有雙非父母表明絕不會放棄讓子女來港讀書,但又認為跨區到大埔等地區太遠,故仍只會填報北區小學,即使未獲派

位亦會「叩門」。

梁不保證雙非要可獲港人身份

梁振英在特首選舉的政綱中表明,2013年起公立醫院停收雙非孕婦。他上周以候任行政長官身份發言:「我不能夠保證雙非父母在香港出生的子女有香港永久居民身份,香港亦沒有人、沒有任何代理人,或者醫院可以向他們保證,或者應該向他們保證,他們的子女在香港可以有永久居民身份。」他又以「雙非零配額」落實解決「雙非」問題。此舉不但能分別獲93%及82%受訪市民贊成,又能保障本地孕婦、紓緩社會資源分配及福利的沉重負擔;新論壇理事余繼泉亦認為,解決雙非已成為社會的共識。

SOHO DIARY



A Matter of Willpower

Hark Yeung (yeung@harkyeung.com)

Who do you think will get better examination results at school: a student with stronger willpower or a student with weaker willpower? What is your answer?

If your answer is the one with stronger willpower, then this story might be interesting for you.

Roy Baumeister, a psychologist (心理學家), has written a book called Willpower: Rediscovering our Greatest Strength, with a journalist, John Tierney. I have not read his book yet but read his story ("How to strengthen your willpower" by Stephanie Hegarty) on the BBC website.

There are many methods and the point I want to highlight is, according to Baumeister, that getting people to speak in full sentences and to avoid swearing seem to have an impact on people's willpower.

The way one speaks certainly shows

one's personality. It is not easy to change the way one speaks in a short time, unless one goes through a training programme.

I have said earlier in this column that some people in Hong Kong do not have the habit of speaking in full sentences. One of the reasons is that the Cantonese spoken in Hong Kong is a lively dialect (方言) with a lot of room for word play and imagination. What's more, we have the habit of keeping the old usage. For example, the well-known saying 有志者事竟成 (a saying close to "where there's a will, there's a way") is both a full sentence and not a full sentence. The saying is a classical Chinese proverb (諺語). To say it in the modern way, the full sentence should be: 有意志者做事畢竟會成功. However, we don't say it this way. Instead, we keep the old usage as it sounds more elegant.