



中英社評

反對空言誤事 支持實幹興港



▲梁振英（左二）、曾俊華（左一）、曾德成（左三）及黃錦星（左四）出席首席地區諮詢會

特首梁振英聯同財政司司長曾俊華，昨晚出席在九龍灣會展中心舉行的地區諮詢會，就明年一、二月發表的「施政報告」及「財政預算案」徵求市民意見。會上，梁振英概括之前已經舉行過的多場諮詢會，總結出當前市民普遍最關心的四方面問題：貧窮、住屋、老人、環境；如何緩解這些問題，將會成為其首份「施政報告」的重點。

毫無疑問，對當前港人社會普遍關心的經濟民生問題，梁振英不僅早在其參選政綱中已經有所論述，而且上任以來即以「爭分奪秒」的精神，推出了一系列的政策措施，包括：

住屋方面，放寬二手居屋白表免補地價、提高「置安心」及居屋入息上限、推出額外印花稅加碼的連環「辣招」；

扶貧及安老方面，兌現參選承諾，首先推出惠及四十萬清貧長者之二千二百元「長者生活津貼」，並復設扶貧委員會，吸納「關愛基金」服務恆常化。

然而，事實擺在眼前，梁振英提出的一些利民紓困措施，不僅沒有得到迅速落實，相反，在立法會內還遭到反對派議員的百般阻撓與抨擊，令新一屆政府施政一開始就步履艱難，而特首本人和個別官員一些生活上的問題也被反對派和亂港傳媒無限放大、窮追猛打，以致特首和官員要疲於奔命「解畫」，甚至在一些應對上亂了方寸。如此特首和新班子的正面能力、抱負根本來不及實踐和無從發揮，市民也陷入了頗大的矛盾與無奈之中，就如眼前的「長者生活津貼」，市民一方面不滿「長毛」的「拉布」所為，但同時又覺得特首和官員的表現也未能盡如人意，有處在夾縫中又無能為力之感。

因此，面對首份「施政報告」及新一屆政府首份「財政預算案」的諮詢和制訂已提上議事日程，特首梁振英及主要官員目前亟須要的是重整步伐、提升信心，以最大的誠意和努力，化被動為主動，眼前市民尚有疑團的事情要爭取「一次過」說清，個人確有疏忽的要認真道歉，對為政者而言，向市民請求寬恕，甚至受點委屈也不是什麼丟臉之事。而更重要的是，要爭取一切機會，把短、中期內一些施政目標、方針和政策向市民講清楚，並且坐言起行、立竿見影，開創一個多做少說話、多行動少爭辯的施政新局面。

事實是，以梁振英的識見、能力和新班子的確有服務港人社會之心，要扭轉形勢、擺脫桎梏，並非什麼難事。事實是梁振英宣布參選曾令市民眼前一亮，上任之初即宣布內地雙非孕婦「零配額」、叫停深圳非戶籍居民來港「自由行」，都具見其果斷及魄力，也得到市民的好評，只是這股幹實事的勁頭和氣勢後來被一些瑣事所纏擾，以至未能進一步發揮及延續。

因此，可以相信，只要及時廓清前一階段的一些干擾，重整軍心、重振士氣，以新一份「施政報告」及「財政預算案」為契機、以發展經濟特別是加強與內地經濟融合為動力，確確實實為市民做一些事情，加上反對派內部青黃不接、內訌不已，「拉布」浪費公帑令人反感，市民對他們早已不存什麼好感，梁振英及新班子只要學習習近平總書記日前重申的鄧公名言，反對空言誤事、力倡實幹興港，定可以重開齊心建港一片新天地。

大公社評 04/12/2012

Support rejuvenating Hong Kong with down-to-earth efforts

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying and Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah yesterday held a forum at Kowloon Bay International Trade and Exhibition Centre to gauge public views on the 2013 Policy Address and 2013-14 Budget, to be delivered respectively in coming January and February.

At the forum, on the basis of previous public consultations, Leung summarized four issues that concerned citizens the most: poverty, housing, caring for elderly people, and environment, saying these problems would be a major focus of his first Policy Address.

No doubt, in regard to economic and people's livelihood issues popularly concerned in Hong Kong society, Leung not only explained his position in his election platform, but *has also raced against time*, after he was sworn in, to launch a series of policies and measures including:

On housing, allowing "white form" applicants to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) secondary market without paying the premium, raising income limits for My Home Purchase Scheme and HOS applicants, and enforcing "drastic measures" such as introducing the Buyer's Stamp Duty;

On alleviating poverty and caring for the elderly, honouring his election promise to first launch a \$2,200 monthly Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) for 400,000 needy elderly people, and re-establishing the Commission on Poverty (CP) and integrating the Community Care Fund (CCF) into CP to provide constant services.

However, facts are before our eyes. Some of the measures to alleviate people's hardships proposed by Leung cannot be promptly implemented, but are obstructed and attacked by opposition lawmakers at the Legislative Council (Legco). This makes it difficult for the operation of the SAR Government from the very beginning. Some problems in their private lives of the Chief Executive and a few officials have been infinitely exaggerated and pursued by the opposition and trouble-making media outlets, so much so that the CE and officials concerned *have been weighed down* with "making explanations". Under such a circumstance, there has been no time for the new CE and his team to *bring their positive energies into play* and put their ambition into practice. Citizens have also felt being trapped in contradiction and helplessness. Taking the OALA for examples, people have not been happy with the "filibustering" by "Long Hair" Leung Kwok-hung, but at the same time also not satisfied by the performance of the CE and officials concerned. As such they have felt frustrated for unable to do anything about it.

Therefore, now when the consultation and drafting of the CE's first Policy Address and new administration's first Budget are on the agenda, what CE Leung Chun-ying and principal officials need the most right now is to regroup for battle with refreshed morale so as to regain the initiative. Those problems still perplexing citizens must be clarified "*once and for all*". Apologies must be made sincerely if there are personal negligence and carelessness. For a person in governance, no face is lost to ask people's forgiveness or even to be somehow wronged. What is more important is to seize every opportunity to explain clearly to citizens the short- and medium-term goals of administration, and to act promptly as is promised to produce an immediate effect, so as to *bring about* a new situation in governance with more deeds than words and more actions than disputes.

As a matter of fact, with Leung's knowledge, insight and capability and his new team's genuine intention to serve Hong Kong society, it should not

be so difficult for them to reverse the current situation and break the shackles.

In fact, citizens had felt it scintillating when Leung announced to run the race for CE. Right upon taking his office, Leung immediately announced to set a "zero quota" for Mainland pregnant women to give birth in Hong Kong, and stopped "individual travel" to Hong Kong by non-permanent residents of Shenzhen. This showed his determination and decisiveness, which also won citizens' praise. Unfortunately, troubled by some trivial matters, he has failed to continue this momentum of doing things in a down-to-earth manner.

Therefore, it may be believed that, as long as Leung Chun-ying and his team could eliminate in time the interferences hitherto and re-boost morale, taking the new Policy Address and Budget as a new opportunity and economic development especially economic integration with the Mainland as a driving force to do certain practical things for citizens, as long as they would sincerely learn from the words of Deng Xiaoping as quoted by General Secretary Xi Jinping recently to oppose empty talks that would lead thing astray and advocate to rejuvenate Hong Kong with down-to-earth efforts, they surely could open a new horizon for reconstruction of Hong Kong with one heart.

Especially right now, the opposition camp is short of new blood while suffering internal conflicts. Disgusted by the "filibustering" activity that wastes public funds, citizens now no longer hold them in esteem.

04 December 2012

Words and Usage

Race against time (idiom) – *To hurry to beat a deadline.*
(爭分奪秒，與時間賽跑)

Examples: 1. *The natural urge when running a distance is to push harder and finish sooner – to race against time.*

2. *You don't need to race against time. Take all the time you want.*

Weigh sb/sth down (phrasal verb) – *To burden someone or something so that it is difficult for them to move easily.* (壓垮，深受拖累)

Examples: 1. *Financial problems have been weighing down our entire family.*

2. *The load of bricks weighed down the truck.*

Bring sth into play (idiom) – *To make something begin to work or operate.* (發揮)

Examples: 1. *Even bringing into play all the resources available would not resolve the immediate shortfall in production.*

2. *Now, this recent development brings some other factors into play.*

Once and for all (idiom) – *As a settled matter; finally and permanently.* (一次了結地，一勞永逸地)

Examples: 1. *We've settled that question once and for all.*

2. *He will explain it fully once and for all.*

Bring sth about (phrasal verb) – *To cause something to happen, occur or exist.* (導致，引起，開創)

Examples: 1. *The only way they can bring about political change is by putting pressure on the government.*

What has brought about this change?

Gifted Education



▲ Dr Stephen Tommis was invited to No 8 Middle School to see how they deal with gifted students

No 8 Middle School in Beijing is well known throughout mainland China as an exceptional school.

I was privileged to be invited to this school in September 2012 to see how they deal with gifted students. This article is the first of two that looks at the work of No 8 Middle School, what works best for gifted students in Beijing, and asks if there are any lessons that we could learn in Hong Kong.

In 1985 Beijing No. 8 Middle School established an experimental class for gifted children, admitting students with an average age of 10 years but with an educational attainment at least 4 years higher (ie that of a P5 student in Hong Kong terms). These students take an accelerated 4-year programme which equates to an 8-year programme for a non-gifted student, so that by the age of 14 they reach the academic level of a high school graduate.

The curriculum has to be based on the

Elementary Education Curriculum stipulated by the State and so lesson time is strictly regulated. In the first academic year, there are 35 lessons each week, 36 in the second year, 37 in the third year and 36 in the fourth year.

Within each teaching unit there is careful planning to ensure that as much information content is added that can be realistically learned in the time available. The planning sets high expectations on the capacity of young minds to absorb a lot of information.

Students are encouraged to participate in competitions but the School does not provide any training programme for them. The pedagogy sets great store by teaching at a fast pace without sacrificing the quality of learning.

A further novel element of the School curriculum is its Physical Education programme. This programme aims to ensure that all gifted students are physically strong and fitter than non-gifted students and they achieve this by adding 5 PE sessions to the weekly curriculum (more sessions than in the regular curriculum) and a whole afternoon each week to PE in Nature where students are free to enjoy outdoor sports activities like hiking, mountain climbing, swimming, diving, skating, unicycle riding and bicycle travel.

Teachers not only guide students to do the activities but they also add nature-related lessons to take advantage of different and diverse environments.

An analysis of the physical strength of Gifted Children Class students showed that when they first



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joined the class, their bodily functions, physical qualities, growth, development, were not "supernormal", some were even below normal standard. When they graduated, the indicators, especially fitness, improved substantially. An illustration of their stamina is that between late June and early July this year, the hottest days of the year, the students launched a bicycle adventure to Shanhai Pass, covering a distance of 750km. All completed the journey without feeling ill!

Next week we will reflect on the work of No 8 Middle School and see if there are lessons to be learned for schools in Hong Kong.

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時人名句

我們十分重視民意，亦知道在民間有很多民間智慧。過去兩個月，我本人出席了大約十七次諮詢會。總的來說，社會希望政府能處理好的問題包括貧窮、房屋、老年、環境。我們要有比較高而又持續的增長速度。我相信這就是社會和政府共同關心的五個大的政策範疇的題目。

特首梁振英

梁振英：我們十分重視民意

內地經濟的較快增長一直為香港的持續發展提供重要動力，特別是現時先進經濟體復蘇乏力，內地經濟對香港的支持作用尤其明顯。特別由於內地對現代服務的巨大需求，香港抓住機遇並成功轉型成為國際金融、航運和商貿服務中心。「內地市場對香港經濟的重要性在不斷上升，搭乘內地經濟增長的快車，可為香港未來經濟發展提供動力」，預計香港今年經濟將以1%-2%的步伐增長，通脹可能仍有上行風險。

港府經濟顧問陳李藹倫

時事英語

從「尼特族」說起

在香港，「雙失」（失業、失學）青年問題日益引起社會的關注。最近有立法會議員動議，促請政府制定全面的（comprehensive）青年政策，幫助青年解決學業、就業、住屋、創業等各方面的問題。

「雙失」青年即外國所稱的「尼特族」（NEET），該詞源自於20世紀90年代末的英國，是英語Not in education, employment or training的首字母縮略語，原意是「不在學、不在職，也不在訓」的「三無」人員。「尼特族」是今天世界上許多國家普遍面對的社會問題，並非香港獨有。

英文是拼音文字，許多詞組常常可以用縮略語（abbreviation）來表示。一些易讀易拼的縮略語甚至被當作單詞來使用，原來的詞組反而遭人忽略。下面是一些例子。

優皮族 Yuppie 是 young urban professional 或 young upwardly-mobile professional 的縮略語，指都市中青春煥發、有所作為的專業人才。

丁客族 Dink 是「Double Income No Kids」的縮略語，代表「雙薪水、無子女」的家庭。「丁客」作為一種生活形態，於1950年代起源於歐美、在1980年代傳入亞洲。丁客族常被認為處於社會的中上階層。

一個丁客家庭如果有了孩子，就「榮升」為「杜克族」（Dewk），即「雙職工、有子女」的家庭，Dually Employed With Kid(s)。

2003年初，「沙士」疫症曾肆虐香港，人人談Sars色變。今天提起「沙士」，無人不知，可有誰記得該疫症的全名：Severe acute respiratory syndrome 或「嚴重急性呼吸系統綜合症」呢？

諸如此類的英語縮略語按其發音譯成漢語，頗為傳神。如果按其意思來翻譯，反而顯得囉嗦。

同樣，一些國際組織的全名很長，更多人記住的是它們的縮寫。如Apec（亞太經濟合作組織）、Asean（東南亞國家協會，簡稱「東協」）或Unesco（聯合國教科文組織），等。它們的全稱相應是：Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Association of Southeast Asian Nations 和 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization。但這類縮略語大多不從音譯。亦然