



英文

政治穩定是發展經濟、改善民生的前提

Political stability is a prerequisite for developing the economy and improving people's livelihood

任何一個負責任的中央政府，都不可能容忍地方管治權一直亂下去。全國人大正在審議有關完善香港選舉制度的決定，這是全面落實「一國兩制」的應有之義，也是「被迫出來的」。事實證明，只有落實愛國者治港，香港才能走出政治內耗的泥潭，回歸發展經濟、改善民生的正確道路上來。

香港回歸以來，幾乎沒有過上幾天安寧的日子。反中亂港勢力利用選舉制度的漏洞，進入立法會等政權機關，搞風搞雨。03年反對基本法23條立法，12年反對國民教育，14年非法「佔中」，19年製造修例風波，去年更圖窮匕見，企圖實現「35+」計劃奪取特區管治權。政治風波不斷，整個社會被綁架，特區政府動輒得咎，寸步難行，導致社會空轉，蹉跎歲月，香港的固有優勢不斷喪失，新的經濟增長點無法培育，房屋、就業等問題成為老大難，全港市民都是輸家，基層是最大受害者。

運輸及房屋局局長陳帆近日接受《大公報》訪問，狠批攪炒派癱瘓立法會運作，阻撓政府施政。高鐵西九站「一地兩檢」本是一個利民安排，但被攪炒派妖魔化，立法會拖足八個月時間才完成審議。機場「三跑」也是基建項目，攪炒派「戾橫折曲」，將之轉為對警方的攻擊，這樣的「討論」根本就是浪費時間。

房屋問題積重難返，也是因為攪炒派處心積慮搞破壞。這些人一方面批評政府建屋不力，一方面阻撓政府拓土，發展新界東北被指「毀人家園」；開發部分保育價值不高的郊野公園被指「破壞自然」；東大嶼填海造城計劃可以滿足百萬人居住，攪炒派又抹黑為所謂「耗盡公帑」。香港人居住面積狹小，更有二十多萬人棲身於連轉身都困難的劏房、天台屋，也與反中亂港勢力破壞經濟民生有關。

反中亂港勢力只有破壞，沒有建設，更將一切問題歸咎於香港沒有符合「國際標準」的普選，挑撥離間，分化社會，嫁禍特區政府及中央，前年更利用修例風波勾連外力發動顏色革命，公開「真攪炒十步」路線圖，企圖將香港推入萬劫不復的深淵。

中央果斷出手處理香港問題，可謂形勢所迫，不得不為。為香港制定國安法，旨在止暴制亂；完善香港選舉制度，是為「愛國者治港」提供法治保障。建立一套符合香港實際的新的選舉制度，既能杜絕反中亂港勢力染指管治權，也有助打破既得利益結構，使特區政府施政更加暢順，更符合基層的利益。我們有理由相信，在「愛國者治港」的原則下，香港將搭上全面建設中國特色社會主義現代化的高速列車，困擾香港社會的各種深層次矛盾也將迎刃而解。

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No responsible central government could possibly tolerate incessant chaos in a region's governance. The National People's Congress (NPC) now is deliberating a decision on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong SAR. This is a necessity implied in the comprehensive implementation of "one country two systems," and also an outcome of "being forced." As proven by facts, only by implementing patriots governing Hong Kong, can Hong Kong pull itself out of the mire of political internal friction and come back to the right track of developing the economy and improving people's livelihood.

Since Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, there have hardly been any peaceful days. Anti-China and trouble-making elements have made use of loopholes in the electoral system to enter the Legislative Council (Legco) and other organs of government and create troubles. They stirred up opposition against legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law in 2003; instigated opposition against national education in 2012; launched unlawful "Occupy Central" in 2014. In 2019 they provoked the anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill incident. And last year they eventually revealed their real intention in an attempt to carry out their "35+" plot to seize the power of governance in the SAR. With political turmoil going on endlessly and incessantly, the society as a whole has been kidnapped and the SAR Government has been taken to task at every turn, hardly able to do anything. As a result, the society has been treading water, letting time slip by without accomplishing anything. Hong Kong keeps losing its inherent advantages. No new growth area in the economy can be fostered, problems such as housing and employment become long-standing and difficult to tackle. All Hong Kong citizens are losers with the grass-root people being the biggest victim.

In a recent interview with *Ta Kung Pao*, Secretary for Transport and Housing Frank Chan Fan slammed the mutual-destruction camp for paralyzing the operation of Legco to obstruct government administration. The co-location arrangement [for Hong Kong and Mainland customs, immigration and quarantine clearance procedures] at the West Kowloon Station (WKS) of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) in nature was an arrangement for the convenience and benefit of travelers. It however was demonised by the mutual destruction camp and it took eight months for the Legco to complete its deliberation of the proposal. The Airport's third-runway project is also an infrastructure project. But the mutual-destruction camp twisted the truth to turn it against the police force. Any

"discussion" as such simply is a waste of time.

The fact that housing becomes such a problem accumulated over the years that now cannot be resolved overnight is also due to the deliberate disruption by the mutual-destruction camp. They have, on the one hand criticised the government for not doing its best in housing construction, but on the other hand **thrown a wrench into the works** whenever the government made an effort to find more land supply. Development of North East New Territories has been accused of "destroying others' homes;" development of land on the periphery of country parks with relatively low ecological values been slammed for "destroying nature." Reclamation at East Lantau could supply land for the living of one million people, but they have smeared it as "exhausting the public coffers." Hong Kong people's residential space is very small, with over 200,000 even living in partitioned flats or rooftop flats. This has a lot to do with anti-China and trouble-making elements thwarting economic growth and improvement of people's livelihood.

Everything done by anti-China and trouble-making elements is not constructive but destructive. Yet they blame all problems on Hong Kong's lack of universal suffrage that meets "international standards," sowing discord to divide society and shift the blame onto the SAR and Central Governments. In 2019, they even took the opportunity of the anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill incident to launch a colour revolution in collusion with external forces, unveiling their roadmap of "10 steps toward genuine mutual-destruction" with an attempt to push Hong Kong into the eternal abyss.

It could be said that the Central Government was compelled and had no choice but to resolutely take moves to tackle the problem with Hong Kong. The legislation of the Hong Kong National Security Law is aimed at stop violence and curb disorder; improving Hong Kong's electoral system is to provide legal backing for "patriots governing Hong Kong". Establishing a new electoral system in accord with Hong Kong's reality not only can prevent anti-China and trouble-making elements from **poking their noses into** the power of governance but also is of help to break the existing vested interest structure, so much so that the SAR Government could operate more smoothly in administration to better serve the interests of grass-root people. We have reasons to believe that, under the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong", the SAR will board the high-speed train on a journey to fully build a modern socialist China, and all kinds of deep-rooted

contradictions troubling Hong Kong will be readily solved.

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WORDS AND USAGE

• Take sb to task (idiom) –

To strongly criticize someone or hold someone accountable. (責備, 指責)

Examples:

- I don't blame the teacher for taking him to task about his handwriting, you can hardly read it.
- It's not entirely fair that the bankers are the only ones being taken to task for the economic collapse, when a great many politicians are to blame as well.

• At every turn (idiom) –

Wherever or whenever someone tries to do something. (動輒, 時時處處)

Examples:

- Although the government has had a sensible economic plan, parliament has set out to block it at every turn.
- Small companies such as mine are hampered at every turn by big business.

• Tread water (idiom) –

If you tread water, you fail to make progress, but instead just continue to do the same things (原地踏步, 裹足不前)

Examples:

- Without any hope of promotion, I feel I'm just treading water.
- For now we're just treading water, but we hope negotiations will begin soon.

• Throw a (monkey) wrench in the works (idiom) –

To sabotage an operation or plan. (阻撓, 從中搗亂)

Examples:

- I don't want to throw a monkey wrench in the works, but have you checked your plans with a lawyer?
- We were going to renew our lease, but the landlord threw a wrench into the works by increasing the rent.

• Poke one's nose in (to) (sth) (idiom) –

To involve or insert oneself in an intrusive or nosy manner into something that is not one's business or responsibility. (干涉, 染指)

Examples:

- I wish our neighbors would quit poking their noses in and just leave us alone!
- He has no right to go poking his nose into my affairs.



What is your poem of the day?

My teaching career with YMCA (YMCA of Hong Kong) always reminds me of some good old days when students always enjoy writing whatever they are tasked – whatever I find interesting and fun. Of course, the definition of "fun" varies, especially among my students.

I try to avoid all plain boredom in my classes. I hope that my teaching can stimulate students' curiosity and help them learn. 😊

That is why I like teaching poetry – those little writing about rhythm, stringing words together with a beat helps the understanding of words and where they fit. Appreciating and writing poetry can also be a valuable component of knowledge development.

Many English learners underestimate the importance of poetry in modern culture. It allows us to infuse life with beauty and

purpose; teaches us the art of creative expression, which most found highly lacking in the contemporary classroom teaching.

I like to add poetry writing as a part of the in-class activity. Getting students to write their own poem of the day can be a good stress buster these days. Students write funny poems of their lives, their excitement, frustrations, and joyful moments. Here is a little poem I composed, I hope it brings my readers some fun and hope.

A lovely day

Whose day is that? I think I know.
Its owner is quite happy though.
Full of joy like a vivid rainbow,
I watch her laugh. I cry hello.

She gives her day a shake,
And laughs until her belly aches.
The only other sound's the break,

Of distant waves and birds awake.

The day is lovely, blissful and deep,
But she has promises to keep,
After cookies and lots of sleep.
Sweet dreams come to her cheap.

She rises from her gentle bed,
With thoughts of kittens in her head,
She eats her jam with lots of bread.
Ready for the day ahead.

I hope it also demonstrates how easy it is to express yourself in the form of poetry.

What have you done to relieve stress during the pandemic period? Feel free to email me, maybe with your poem.

Miss Carol

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