

英文

# 社會穩定是解決房屋問題的基本前提

## Social stability is the fundamental pre-condition for solving the housing problem

房協昨日表示，正面臨有史以來的建屋高峰期，未來已規劃25個項目，將興建4.5萬伙房屋單位，未來十年將建3.5萬伙。這一好消息令人欣喜。在「愛國者治港」的今天，特區政府將滿足市民對美好生活的需求當成施政目標，擔當作為，切實改進工作作风，實現讓市民「住得更寬敞一些」、早日「告別劏房」的目標，不再是夢！

香港累積不少社會深層次問題，房屋問題是其中最棘手的。香港置業和租金負擔已持續多年位居全球第一位，公屋平均輪候時間一度超過6年，現時雖降至5.5年，但與政府承諾的「3年上樓」目標仍然有相當大的距離。另外，香港還有20多萬人住在轉身都困難且充滿安全隱患的劏房，這類港式「貧民窟」與周邊鱗次櫛比的摩天大廈構成鮮明的反差。劏房的存在，是社會貧富懸殊的縮影，也是香港作為發達經濟體的恥辱，更埋下社會不安的種子，香港在這方面有着深刻的教訓。

中央高度重視香港房屋問題，中央領導人的心與香港民心是相通的。國家主席習近平在去年七一香港慶祝回歸二十五周年典禮上發表重要講話，提到「當前，香港最大的民心，就是盼望生活變得更好，盼望房子住得更寬敞一些」，他要求特區政府務實為有，不負人民。港澳辦主任夏寶龍兩年前為香港解決房屋問題訂出時間表，表示香港要在國家實現第二個百年奮鬥目標、亦即2049年前「告別劏房、籠屋」。昨日，正在香港視察的夏寶龍到九龍灣一間茶樓飲早茶，與市民近距離接觸，席間再有議員反映，香港市民最關注的是房屋短缺。

解決房屋問題任重道遠，如何解決？事在人為，關鍵還是拿出決心和魄力。香港並不缺少土地，大量閒置「養蚊子」的棕地、農地固然要開發，保育價值不高的郊野公園邊陲地也不應該是「禁區」，加上推進北部都會區、東大嶼規劃，多管齊下，拓土可望迎刃而解。建屋方面，通過簡化程序，可以將整個流程縮短一半，大大增加供應量。如果使用新的建造方法，建屋速度還可以進一步加快。

最重要的是，隨着落實香港國安法和完善香港選舉制度，長期阻撓、破壞特區政府施政的重重阻力已被破解，香港實現了由亂到治的根本性轉變，開啟了由治及興的新篇章。在愛國者治港原則下，香港踐行基本法規定的行政主導，行政和立法相互配合，施政效率顯著提升，這從根本上為加快房屋建設提供保障。房協的建屋量在未來十年將創新高，這絕對不是偶然的，而是新形勢、新階段的生動體現。如果說，「安得廣廈千萬間」曾經是疑問和遺憾，那麼現在正在逐步變成看得見、摸得着、感受得到的現實。

社會穩定是發展經濟改善民生的前提。事實證明，祖國是香港最堅定的靠山，中央在香港所做的一切都是為了香港好，為了給香港市民謀福祉。夏寶龍到香港視察6天，廣泛接觸各界，深入基層調研，也體現了中央對香港的重視和對香港市民的關愛。

今天，香港迎來國安法落實後的第三個全民國家安全教育日，以此為契機，加上長效的教育宣傳機制，社會各界可以進一步認識國安才能家安的道理，更加珍惜來之不易的社會穩定，更加自覺維護國家安全。

Hong Kong Housing Society yesterday said it was facing the production peak in its history. It has 25 projects in the planning phase or under construction and more than 45,000 flats will be built, of which 35,000 will be built within the next 10 years. This good news is inspiring and delightful. Today as Hong Kong is governed by patriots, the SAR Government sets it as its governance goal to satisfy citizens' aspirations to live a better life, acts with courage and determination and earnestly improves its work style. It is no longer a dream to achieve the goal of letting citizens "live in bigger places" and "say goodbye to partitioned flats"!

Hong Kong has accumulated quite many deep-seated social problems, the housing problem being the thorniest one. In Hong Kong, the burden to purchase or rent a home has remained the heaviest in the world. The average waiting time for a public rental housing flat once exceeded six years. It now drops to 5.5 years, but still far away from the "three-year" target set by the government. Moreover, there are more than 200,000 people in Hong Kong still living in partitioned flats laden with potential safety hazards, which are so small that one can hardly turn around inside one. Such Hong Kong-style "slums" exhibit a striking contrast to **row upon row** of skyscrapers on every side. The existence of partitioned flats is an epitome of the wealth gap in society and a shame of Hong Kong as an advanced economy. It also **sows the seeds of** social instability. In this regard, Hong Kong has suffered bitter experiences.

The Central Government attaches great importance to Hong Kong's housing problem. Central Government leaders think what Hong Kong people think. In his important speech delivered last year at the meeting marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, President Xi Jinping mentioned that "Currently, the biggest aspiration of Hong Kong people is to lead a better life, in which they will have more decent housing", and instructed that "The newly inaugurated HKSAR government should be pragmatic, live up to what the people expect of it". Two years ago, Xia Baolong, Director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs, set a timetable for Hong Kong to solve the housing problem, saying that Hong Kong should "say goodbye to partitioned flats and cage homes" by 2049, when the country is to achieve the Second Centenary Goal [of comprehensively building a modern socialist country]. During his ongoing inspection tour in Hong Kong, Xia Baolong yesterday went to yum jou cha in a restaurant in Kowloon Bay so he could make close contact with citizens. Chatting during the meal, some Legislative Council member told him what concerned Hong Kong citizens the most was housing shortage.

Solving the housing problem is an arduous task and the road is long. How to tackle it? **Where there's a will there is a way.** The crux of the matter is to have courage and determination. Hong Kong is not short of land. Surely many sites of brown land and farmland, left idle for mosquitoes to reside in and breed, should be used for development, but land on the periphery of country parks with little conservation value should not be regarded as the "restricted area [for development]" either. In addition, there are development plans for the Northern Metropolis and East Lantau Metropolis. With such a multi-pronged approach, the problem of expanding land resources could be neatly solved. Regarding housing construction, through simplifying procedures, the whole process could be shortened by half to greatly increase supply. By using new construction technology, the pace of housing construction could become even faster.

Most importantly, with the Hong Kong national security law implemented and the electoral system enhanced, obstructions to blocking and jeopardising the SAR Government's governance for a long period of time have already been removed one after the other, and Hong Kong has achieved the transition from chaos to order and

unveiled a new chapter of advancing from stability to prosperity. Under the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong", Hong Kong practices an executive-led system as stipulated by the Basic Law with the executive authorities and the legislature cooperating with each other, which greatly improves the efficiency of policy implementation. This provides the fundamental guarantee for the pace of housing construction to accelerate. It is not **by chance** that the Housing Society's production will set a record high in next 10 years. Instead it is a vivid reflection of the new situation and new stage. If it used to be a question and regret "when thousands and thousands of homes could be built", then it is now gradually becoming a reality that can be seen, touched and felt.

Social stability is a pre-condition for developing the economy and improving people's livelihood. As shown by facts, the Motherland gives Hong Kong the strongest backing. Everything the Central Government does in Hong Kong is for the betterment of Hong Kong and for the benefit of Hong Kong citizens. Xia Baolong pays a six-day inspection tour in Hong Kong to make contact with various sectors and conduct fact-finding investigations and studies at the grassroots level. This also shows that the Central Government pays attention to Hong Kong and cares about Hong Kong citizens.

Today, Hong Kong ushers in the third National Security Education Day after the implementation of the Hong Kong national security law. In addition to long-lasting education and publicity in this regard, this is a good opportunity for Hong Kong society to further understand the reason that the safety of our home is premised on the security of our country, thus to further cherish social stability that is not easy to **come by** and to safeguard national security with a greater awareness.

### WORDS AND USAGE

● **Row upon row** (idiom) – many rows. ( 鱗次櫛比，一排列 )

**Examples:**

- 1.The bookstore has row upon row of computer science books.
- 2.She could see row upon row of people waiting to be served.

● **Sow the seeds of sth** (idiom) –

To do something that will cause something to happen in the future. ( 播下……的種子 )

**Examples:**

- 1.He is sowing the seeds of his own downfall.
- 2.Rich industrialised countries have sown the seeds of global warming.

● **Where there's a will there's a way** (proverb) –

If someone is determined to do something, he or she will find a way to accomplish it regardless of obstacles. ( 事在人為，有志者事竟成 )

**Examples:**

- 1.Don't tell me it's impossible. Where there's a will, there's a way. And we're going to find that way.
- 2.Overcoming this economic recession won't be easy, but where there's a will, there's a way.

● **By chance** (idiom) –

By luck; without planning or intent. ( 碰巧，偶然 )

**Examples:**

- 1.I found this book by chance at a book sale.
- 2.We met by chance in a class in college.

● **Come by sth** (phrasal verb) –

To manage to get something that is rare or difficult to get. ( 獲取，得到 )

**Examples:**

- 1.When you live in a hot, dry place, water may not be easy to come by.
- 2.At that time, teaching jobs abroad were hard to come by.

## Dash after it! Sorry I meant hyphen.

學生一般也懂得分辨破折號 (dash) 及連字號 (hyphen) 的用法；兩者有時會有一點混淆，因為看來很相似，但用法完全不同，不要忽略這兩組小小的標點符號，他們在句子及文章的功能也相當大。

**連字號 (-) Hyphen**

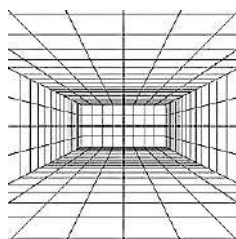
連字符號把兩個或多個單詞連接在一起。一般將複合名詞 (compound noun) 及動名詞 (Gerund) 連接到一個單詞中。功能上是筆者希望可以提升可讀性，亦讓讀者比較容易明白。She's a 99-year-old lady.

連字符常見的用法：

- 把單詞連起成為形容詞：state-of-art, well-known
- 成為某些字的 prefixes: ex-employee, self-awareness
- 把數字連合：forty-seven, twenty-five
- 連接單個字母到根詞：(root words) e-learning, T-shirt
- 把一些容易混淆的詞變得清晰：re-creation, re-mark

破折號分為比較長的em dash (—) 及比較短的en dash (–)。

破折號將單詞或是單詞組在語句中分隔。功能上不外乎是分隔之前的句子或是筆者界定某個範圍。



**長破折號 (—) Em Dash**

主要用來連結不同的句子或是句中的不同部分，特別用在表示想法的延伸或轉變。

Em dash常見的用法：

在句子中可以代替括號，也可以強調部分的寫作。例如：

I spoke to Mr Chan — my student's father — about the IELTS exam.

讓讀者容易明白列舉的項目。例如：

Peter wants it all — excitement, fame, health and fortune.

Em dash可代替逗號 (commas)、冒號 (colon) 及括號 (parentheses)

但要留意長破折號本身是比較非正式 (informal)，避免在考試題目被扣分，或是在商業書信上被抨擊，建議避免使用。

**短破折號 (–) En Dash**

很多時候我們用En dash (–) 連合文字及數字，例如：

David was enrolled in the 2018–2021 class.

在履歷表上我們撰寫年份：2013–2023

也可以在時間使用：1600–1800

書本頁數：Pages 10–18

格式上，短及長破折號前後也可以有一個空格分開，只需要留意上下文格式一致。

如果你可以變成一個標點符號，你喜歡變成哪一個？

Miss Carol

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