

Unity needed so we can deal with pressing livelihood issues

The Hong Kong Civic Association considers it a matter of much regret that the government's political reform proposal for the chief executive to be elected by universal suffrage, one person one vote, in 2017, was voted down by the 27 pan-democratic lawmakers and the medical functional constituency member, in the Legislative Council, on June 18.

Even if the 31 pro-establishment lawmakers who walked out of the chamber had not done so and had voted, the proposal would not have got the required two-thirds majority to enable it to be passed by Legco.

Why did all this happen? First, the pan-democratic camp claimed the government's political proposals were "fake democracy" as they were concerned their candidate (or candidates) could be filtered out by the nominating committee process from becoming an official election candidate.

Second, ever since 1997 to the present, there has not been regular and satisfactory communication, or mutual trust, between the pan-democratic camp and the central government.

Our association believes mutual trust in particular will have to be a critical element to be developed in reviving further negotiations on future constitutional changes.

So like it or not, Hong Kong's chief executive election in 2017 will have to follow the existing 1,200 election committee system.

We also believe it is in the best interests of our city and community to support the chief executive's call for all parties to cast aside political differences. They need to focus on renewed efforts to solve our people's livelihood issues and promote more economic development for future prosperity.

Livelihood issues include building more affordable homes for families in need, creating more quality education and job opportunities for our younger generation, better health care for those who are ill, expanded care services for the elderly, an improved Mandatory Provident Fund system and a practicable retirement protection scheme for all who need it.

To afford all this, our citizens will have to keep on striving for Hong Kong to be more competitive and economically viable as China's pre-eminent international city that is governed under the Basic Law and the "one country, two systems" principle.

Our association urges all members of the public to avoid political squabbling and give priority to supporting the chief executive and his government to move forward in this pragmatic direction.

Hilton Cheong-Leen, president, Frederick Lynn, chairman,
Hong Kong Civic Association

團結一致解困厄 民生問題迫眉睫

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香港公民協會認為，政府提出有關行政長官於 2017 年以一人一票普選方式選出的政改方案，被立法會 27 位泛民主派議員加上一位醫學界功能組別議員投票否決，是一件非常遺憾的事。

就算走出議事廳的 31 位建制派議員沒有這樣做，而且投了票，方案也因得不到通過方案所需的立法會三份之二大多數票而被否決。

為甚麼會發生這些事情？第一，泛民陣營宣稱政府的建議是「假民主」，因為擔心他們的參選人會被提名委員會篩走，無法成為正式候選人。

第二，自 1997 至今，泛民陣營和中央政府之間根本沒有正常和恰當的溝通或者互信。

本協會認為，若要就未來政制改變恢復進一步的商談，互信是尤其亟需發展的關鍵元素。

故此喜不喜歡也好，2017 年的香港行政長官選舉將按現時的 1,200 人選舉委員會制度進行。

我們也認為，為了我們的城市和社會著想，各政黨應響應行政長官的呼籲放下政治分歧。他們應該專注重新整合力量，解決市民的民生問題，為未來的繁榮而加倍促進經濟發展。

民生問題包括為有需要家庭興建更多可負擔的房屋；為年輕一代提供更多優質教育和就業機會；為有病的人提供更好的醫療；擴展安老服務；改善強積金制度，以及向所有有需要的人推行可行的退休保障計劃。

要做到以上所述，我們必須繼續努力，使香港這個中國的傑出國際城市在《基本法》和一國兩針之下更有競爭力和更有經濟活力。

本協會籲請所有公眾人士避開政治爭拗，當前要務是支持行政長官和他的政府，朝這個務實的方向前進。

香港公民協會會長張有興、主席林國華