

Let's have change for the better

Hilton Cheong-Leen hopes the 'pan-democrats' will stop their obstructionist tactics and make the legislature a more effective institution through closer cooperation with the government

Much has transpired during the two decades under three Chief Executives — Tung Chee-hwa, Donald Tsang Yam-kuen and Leung Chun-ying. We are now at the beginning of 2017 and on March 26 the new Election Committee of 1,194 members will elect the SAR's fourth Chief Executive for a five-year term.

Sad to say, Hong Kong people missed a chance to elect their Chief Executive this year by all its 4 million voters, one-man-one-vote style, in accordance with Article 45 of the Basic Law. This was due to the lack of political vision by the "pan-democratic" camp in vetoing the government's political reform package in the Legislative Council in mid-June 2015.

The next opportunity to make amends will be in 2022. Perhaps this may be a blessing in disguise for Hong Kong's political development. The anti-mainland groups in the "pan-democratic" camp may then have a more inclusive vision of positive changes on the mainland. It may transpire that by then, too, most Hong Kong politicians will have a more pragmatic attitude to political reform.

Leung Chun-ying's plan in economic and livelihood policies was thwarted by antagonism against him, provoked partly by his no-nonsense political style when dealing with the "pan-democratic" camp. In spite of his achievements improving livelihood issues for most people, the "pan-democratic" camp launched a bitter anti-Leung campaign.

A reason for his decision not to run for a second term was to spend more time with his family. He has instead decided to devote more efforts to the final six months of his five-year term to fulfill promises made in his election manifesto. This is most commendable.

From the beginning of his term of office in 2012, the "pan-democratic" camp had accused Leung of being too subservient to the central government, not respecting their views and being divisive. Yet it is because of his efforts in fighting for livelihood issues that people can look forward to a 10-year public housing development plan of about 480,000 units. There is also an ongoing poverty reduction plan for low-income families.

Judging from the tributes he received from the central government — from President Xi Jinping down to the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council — Leung is clearly held in high esteem.

In the remaining six months of his term, he will have to work on other important commitments in his election manifesto. These include a 15-year free education plan, improved healthcare services together with a medical insurance plan, a plan for standard working hours, a pen-



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sion plan or retirement protection scheme, and better care of elderly people.

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At the same time, it is an opportunity for the central government to make Home Return Permits more available to Hong Kong citizens, including antagonistic LegCo members who have been critical of the establishment, with the exception of those who advocated secessionist or independence agendas.

It is to be hoped too that the LegCo will change and become a more effective political institution through closer cooperation with the government. This is necessary to expedite budgetary approval and other issues in LegCo. This can be done by stopping obstructionist tactics, bad behavior and time-wasting filibustering. This hinges on the LegCo president exercising his authority fairly and firmly when the need arises.

Meanwhile, people who want to have a better-performing LegCo should write to their representatives expressing their views of their conduct in the chamber.

讓我們有更好的改變

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張有興希望“泛民”停止他們的刁難阻撓策略，令立法會透過與政府緊密協調而更有效運作。

張有興

作者曾任立法局（今稱立法會）議員，是首位出任市政局主席的華人，現為香港公民協會永遠會長。

特區政府現按中央政府的要求，採取堅定措施控制香港尤其是立法會內的分裂國家和港獨活動，對本港長遠的安定和繁榮非常重要。

這二十年來在董建華、曾蔭權和梁振英三位行政長官任內發生了很多事。2017 年剛開始，到 3 月 26 日，1,194 位委員組成的新一屆選舉委員會將會選出特區第 4 位任期 5 年的行政長官。

按《基本法》第 24 條，今年香港全部 4 百萬選民可以用一人一票的方式選出他們的行政長官，可惜香港人錯失了這個機會。因為“泛民”陣營缺乏政治眼光，於 2015 年 6 月中在立法會否決了政府的政改方案。

2022 年將會有第二個機會作出修正。對香港的政治發展來說，說不定是塞翁失馬，焉知非福。到時“泛民”陣營的反中組織可能對中國大陸的正面改變有更全面的看法。而且香港的從政人士到時大多數亦可能對政治改革有更務實的態度。

梁振英的經濟和民生政策被凡梁必反者攔阻了，部分原因是他的實事求是作風觸怒了“泛民”陣營。儘管他的民生政策改善了很多人的生活，“泛民”陣營仍然展開尖刻的反梁行動。

他不競逐連任的原因是希望有多點時間陪伴家人。他已決定在 5 年任期餘下的 6 個月盡力兌現競選時的政綱。這是值得稱讚的。

自 2012 年他上任開始，“泛民”陣營即指控責他對中央政府太過俯首貼耳，而且不尊重他們的意見和搞分化。其實一切皆源於他竭力為民生議題打拼，推行一個提供 480,000 個單位的 10 年公共房屋發展計劃。此外還有為低收入家

庭而設的扶貧計劃。

中央政府—習近平主席以至國務院港澳辦公室—對他都讚譽有加，可見梁振英是受敬重的。

在他餘下的 6 個月任期內，他必須為競選政綱所作的重要承諾努力。這包括一個 15 年免費教育計劃、連同醫療保險計劃一起改善醫保服務、標準工時計劃、退休保障計劃，以及改善安老服務。

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與此同時，中央政府也可利用這個機會讓更多香港人取得回鄉證，包括經常批評建制的立法會反對派議員，至於鼓吹分裂國家和港獨者則例外。

也希望立法會有所改變，透過與政府緊密合作而更有效運作。這對立法會順利通過撥款和其他議題是少不得的。要做到這點，必須停止刁難阻撓策略、惡劣的行為和浪費時間的拉布。這有賴立法會主席在適當時候公正及堅定地行使他的權力。

希望立法會有更好表現者這時候應向代表他們的議員表達意見，請議員在議會內注意言行。