

Pro-establishment lawmakers must curb filibustering in Legco

Since Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying took office in mid-2012, for the first time, it seemed that a chief executive and his financial secretary were speaking in tandem on livelihood issues, such as public housing and alleviating the poverty gap. They also are in accord over economic issues, including the HK\$19.60 billion extra funding required to complete the Hong Kong-Guangdong express rail line and funding for the airport's third runway.

At meetings of the National People's Congress and during discussions regarding Hong Kong's role in the five-year plan, it was clear our city's status as a global financial, shipping and trading hub was highly important to China's continued development.

What a pity so many opposition legislators negatively focused on filibustering against the government's request for the urgently needed extra funding enabling the MTR to complete what could be one of the world's most modern rail hubs connecting with the mainland's vast rail network.

During the ink-throwing melee started by the opposition camp, the Finance Committee chair rightly called a snap vote on the funding request, which was passed by pro-establishment legislators, to the consternation of the opposition.

To ensure Hong Kong's global economic role in support of the country's development, our association hopes pro-establishment Legco parties will do their utmost, following the rules of procedure, to reduce unnecessary filibustering. This can ensure that remaining government agenda, covering over 70 projects involving HK\$100 billion, will be decided on by the Finance Committee by the end of the Legco session in July.

The government has spent the last two decades reviewing the setting up of a pension scheme for Hong Kong but without success. The elderly population is growing, and our association believes it is time for the C. Y. Leung administration, after the current consultation period on the latest proposals end in June, to come up with a tenable and valid elderly retirement protection plan for all.

Such a plan, suited to Hong Kong conditions, needs to be based on self-reliance through continuous employment and savings.

Mutual support among family members should also be encouraged and a comprehensive social safety net provided for all retired citizens in need.

The plan must be sustainable and capable of providing every citizen in need with a basic and decent quality of living in retirement.

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

建制派議員 應制止拉布

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自從行政長官梁振英於 2012 年年中上任以來，似乎是第一次有一位行政長官和他的財政司在公共房屋與扶貧這些民生議題上先後發言。他們在經濟議題上亦保持一致，這包括完成廣深港高速鐵路所需的 196 億元額外款項，以及興建機場第三條跑道的撥款。

從人大會議上，以及關於香港在五年計劃內的角色的討論會上，可以清楚看到，香港作為全球的金融、航運和貿易中心的地位，對中國的持續發展非常重要。

很可惜，不少立法會的反對派議員非常負面，只顧拉布，企圖阻撓政府的額外撥款申請。獲得這筆急需的項款，港鐵便能夠完成工程，建造全球其中一個最現代化而且連接大陸龐大鐵路網絡的鐵路中心。

反對派陣營在財務委員會會議上擲墨汁，引起混亂，委員會主席當機立斷，將議案快速表決，在反對派一片驚愕中由建制派議員通過。

為確保香港的環球經濟角色能支援國家發展，本協會希望立法會的建制派議員能按議事規則盡力減少不必要的拉布。這可確保立法會在七月休會前，財務委員會能夠就政府餘下涉及一千億港元的七十多項計劃作出決定。

政府在過去二十年不斷檢討在香港成立退休計劃，但一直未有結果。本港人口正老化，政府所推出的最新建議亦正進行諮詢，本協會相信，諮詢於六月底完結時，便是梁振英政府制定出合情合理而有效的全民退休保障計劃的時候。

這個切合香港情況的計劃必須以自力更生為基礎，而以持續工作及儲蓄達致。

此外，亦應鼓勵家庭成員互相支持，以及向有需要的退休公民提供全面的社會安全網。

計劃必須可持續和能夠為每位有需要的公民在退休後提供合理的基本生活。

香港公民協會永遠會長張有興、主席林國華