

Top official reinforced the importance of 'one country, two systems'

Zhang Dejiang (張德江), chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC), in his landmark speech at the banquet given in his honour last week, said that the "one country, two systems" concept could resolve Hong Kong's historic issues and maintain our city's social and economic systems and way of life.

This was the way forward, he said, to develop a high degree of autonomy for Hongkongers because it was a national policy that would not be changed.

He noted that only a tiny minority here wanted to defy "one country" and the central government, even to the extent of advocating independence. But he believed most Hong Kong people could judge for themselves whether this was a blessing or a curse for our city's future.

Zhang emphasised the rule of law was one of the core values of Hong Kong, and the cornerstone of social stability. Everyone was equal before the law and no one could act above the law.

He hoped the SAR government and the judiciary would fulfil their duty of maintaining the rule of law and enforcing laws to ensure fair administration of justice.

He highlighted development as Hong Kong's top priority since our city's international status was determined by the state of its economy. Opportunities once lost were lost for good and we would risk falling behind.

He urged Hongkongers to focus more on economic development and livelihood issues with a sense of urgency. We should strive to strengthen our city's competitiveness and not waste time on internal disputes that would do the city no good.

The NPCSC chairman asked Hong Kong people to be patient and have confidence in the future because the "one country, two systems" principle can be refined and evolved to meet new situations and challenges.

As a former legislator, I hope Zhang's joint meeting with 10 legislators from the pro-government and opposition camps will lead to more exchanges of views to seek common ground in resolving political and social issues and to further cooperation on economic development.

I also hope these 10 lawmakers who had an exchange of views with Zhang would be inspired in the broader public interest to put their political differences aside to support the Legislative Council president and other committee chairmen to eliminate excessive filibustering. This will enable the government's remaining finance and policy-related Legco business to be expeditiously dealt with before the Legco session ends in June/July.

Hilton Cheong-Leen, To Kwa Wan

國家領導人重申 一國兩制之重要

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全國人大委員長張德江在上星期歡迎他的晚宴上致辭時說，“一國兩制”的構思解決了歷史遺留的香港問題，而且保留了香港的社會和濟制度以及生活方式。

他說，這個構思是基本國策，不會改變，香港亦賴此而向前發展，達致高度自治。

他指出本地有少數人排斥一國，抗拒中央，甚至公然打出“港獨”的旗號。不過他相信，這種主張對香港前途是禍是福，大部份香港人都心中有數。

張德江強調，法治是香港社會的核心價值之一，是社會穩定的基石。法律之前人人平等，沒有任何人可凌駕法律之上。

他希望特區政府和司法機構切實履行維護法治的職責，嚴明執法，公正司法。

他也強調，發展是硬道理，因為香港的國際地位是由經濟地位決定的。我們要有不進則退和機不可失的意識。

他呼籲香港各界把注意力聚焦到發展經濟、改善民生和提升競爭力上，內部紛爭對香港沒有任何好處。

這位人大委員長覺得香港人應對未來有耐性和信心，因為“一國兩制”的原則仍可完善及發展，以迎接未來的形勢和挑戰。

作為前任立法局議員，我期望張德江和 10 位建制與泛民議員的會面能夠交流多點意見，尋求共識，以解決政治和社會議題，亦在經濟發展的合作上更進一步。

我也期望與張德江會面溝通的 10 位議員能夠為公眾利益而放下政治歧見，支持立法會主席和其他委員會主席制止拉布。這樣，立法會在 6、7 月休會前便可以順利處理政府提交審議的餘下財政和政策事項。

土瓜灣張有興