

Hoping for new era in Legco that is free of disorderly behaviour

Since the government's political reform proposals were rejected by the pan-democratic camp last year, many of us have been wondering as to the best way forward for Hong Kong's continued political and social stability, as well as economic development and prosperity, under the Basic Law and "one country, two systems" principle.

President Xi Jinping (习近平) met with Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying on November 20 at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Lima, Peru.

China Daily reported that the president told the chief executive Beijing hoped the SAR government would press ahead with building a "broad social consensus to promote economic development, improve people's quality of life, safeguard national unity, and maintain social and economic stability in Hong Kong".

A wide cross-section of Hong Kong people hope the previous disorderly behaviour in the Legislative Council will be replaced by a more efficient flow of business, leading to an improved public image of our legislature. At the various Legco committee, sub-committee and panel meetings taking place, many legislators, including new ones, are speaking succinctly, on livelihood and other issues, which is much to their credit.

In the coming weeks, we could see other candidates throwing their hat into the ring to seek election in March to become Hong Kong's chief executive for a five-year term.

At the same time, it will be imperative for the current administration to work closely with the legislature to expeditiously and effectively tackle all outstanding government agenda, by eliminating blatant filibustering and other obstruction-type tactics coming from errant lawmakers.

The great majority of Hong Kong people are deeply concerned about livelihood issues, such as more affordable public housing, poverty reduction and the introduction of a 15-year free education plan. They also want improved elderly care and old-age protection, better health-care services and a brighter future for our younger generation, by way of better education leading to higher-paying jobs.

Hongkongers hope the chief executive's policy address next month and the financial secretary's budget will meet their expectations for a better quality of life for all.

In implementing the five-point approach, which President Xi disclosed to the chief executive in Lima, the Hong Kong government will be enhancing mutual understanding and closer cooperation between mainland and Hong Kong residents, under the Basic Law and the "one country, two systems" framework. This framework is continuously adapting to whatever new challenges and changes that may arise.

立會正本清源 但願亂象不再

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自去年泛民陣營否決政府的政制改革方案後，不少人都想知道香港在《基本法》及“一國兩制”之下將何去何從 — 政治和社會能否持續穩定、經濟能否維持繁榮，大家都不無懸念。

習近平主席於 11 月 20 日在亞洲經濟合作會議在秘魯利馬召開的年度峰會上與行政長官梁振英見面。

據《中國日報》報道，習主席對特首說，北京希望特區政府管治團隊“繼續綜合施策，廣泛凝聚社會共識，着力推動經濟發展和民生改善，堅決維護國家統一，以及保持社會政治穩定。”

香港各界人士之中，很多都希望立法會可以匡正之前的混亂情況，有效運作，改善形象。在各立法會委員會、小組委員會和事務委員會的會議上，很多議員，包括新任者，都就民生及其他議題簡潔發言，值得讚許。

在未來幾星期，我們應該可以看到其他有意參與明年三月特首選舉者現身，角逐這個任期五年的香港行政長官之職。

同時，現屆政府必須與立法會緊密合作，迅速而有效地消除出位議員肆無忌憚的拉布行為和製造障礙式的策略，以處理餘下的項目。

大多數香港人都非常關心民生議題，例如更多公屋、減貧和 15 年的免費教育計劃。大家亦希望對長者的照顧和老年保障得到改善，有更好的醫療保健服務，而且為我們年輕一代提供優質教育，使他們就業時可以得到更好的薪酬，從而令他們有更光明的前途。

香港人希望，下個月行政長官的施政報告和財政司司長的財政預算案能夠符合大家都想生活質素會更好的期盼。

要貫徹習主席在利馬對行政長官所說的五點，特區政府應在《基本法》及“一國兩制”的框架之內加強中港兩地人民的互信與合作。這個框架會不斷調整以面對挑戰及未來可能出現的轉變。

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