

Hong Kong is going through a period of traumatic transition

After unexpectedly getting 66,000 votes at the February 28 Legislative Council by-election, 24-year-old Edward Leung Tin-kei, a member of the Hong Kong Indigenous pro-independence radical group, started to create political waves by publicly airing his pro-independence aspirations.

During March, another group comprising mostly university students and graduates formed the Hong Kong National Party led by Chan Ho-tin, with the declared aim of building a Hong Kong Republic and abolishing the Basic Law.

The group's application for official registration with the Companies Registry has so far not been approved.

On March 29, the Department of Justice, in its statement regarding this application, cited the Basic Law and said Hong Kong was an inalienable part of China.

"Any suggestion that Hong Kong should be independent or any movement to advocate such independence would not be consistent with the legal status of Hong Kong...or the Basic Law. Nor would such suggestion or movement be conducive to the overall interests of [Hong Kong].

"As in all cases where Basic Law issues or potential criminal liabilities may arise, the Department of Justice will maintain close liaison with the relevant law enforcement agencies, and will take such action as may be necessary."

The Hong Kong Civic Association recognises this statement conforms to the rule of law in Hong Kong. All political parties or groups of a political nature applying for registration under the Companies Ordinance should therefore be in accordance with the relative conditions and procedures as required by the government.

Hong Kong this year is going through a traumatic transition period where all of us who are committed to the city's continued development and prosperity should in the Lion Rock spirit be united together to:

- Work towards reviving the current weak economy and gear up to meet the new challenges and opportunities that should offer more quality jobs for our young people;
- Work closely with district councils, kaifong associations and other NGOs to expedite the government's public housing programmes and provide better education, welfare, poverty alleviation, health care and other initiatives to improve the living standards of our people; and,
- Strengthen Hong Kong's role as China's preeminent global city of finance, logistics, trading and super connectivity.

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

香港正經歷 痛苦過渡期

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在 2 月 28 日的立法會補選中，24 歲的梁天琦出乎意料之外取得 66,000 票，他是激進組織本土民主前線成員，現正宣揚他的獨立主張，掀起政治波浪。

到 3 月，另一班主要是大學生和大學畢業生的人組成香港民族黨，以陳浩天為首，公開宣稱要建立香港共和國和廢除基本法。

這個組織向公司註冊處申請正式社團註冊，仍未獲批。

律政司於 3 月 29 日就這個申請發表聲明，指出按《基本法》，香港是中國不可分割的一部分。

“鼓吹港獨違反《基本法》，亦不符合香港特別行政區的法律地位，或其整體利益”。

“一如所有涉及違反《基本法》或可能構成刑事罪行的行為，律政司會密切關注事件，並與相關執法部門保持緊密聯繫，在有需要時採取合適的行動”。

香港公民協會認為這項聲明符合香港的法治。所有政治團體或有政治性質的組織，在公司條例下申請註冊，都必須依循政府要求的有關條件和程序。

香港現正經歷一個痛苦的過渡期，所有矢志於香港的發展和繁榮者都應該以獅子山精神團結一起：

- 努力振興疲弱的經濟，為新挑戰和機會作好準備，向我們的年輕人供更多優質工作；
- 更好配合區議會、街坊團體和其他非政府組織，促進落實政府的公共房屋計劃，以及提供更好的教育、福利、扶貧、醫療衛生和其他服務，以提升香港人的生活水平；以及
- 加強香港作為中國一個最傑出國際金融、物流、貿易和超級聯繫城市的地位。

香港公民協會永遠會長張有興、主席林國華