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9 March 2009

The Hon Tsang Yok-sing  
President  
Hong Kong Legislative Council  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr President:

Since the commencement of the current Legco session, councillors from the League of Social Democrats have adopted a style during Legco proceedings marked by the use of abusive language, the throwing of objects towards speakers, and behaving in a threatening or disorderly manner towards top government officials during the proceedings.

On several such occasions, the president of Legco had to order the offending legislators to leave the House in violation of Legco rules and procedures.

The League of Social Democrats councillors no doubt believe that their abusive language and hostile actions during Legco proceedings have the backing of many of their voting constituents, and this may well be so.

On the other hand, the majority of Legco voters prefer that Legco councillors maintain good order, public discipline and personal self-restraint to an adequate level that would uphold the dignity and authority of Legco as the highest legislative institution in Hong Kong.

As a former Legco member, I sincerely hope that the dignity and authority of Legco will not go down the slippery slope whereby speakers, whether they be government officials, Legco councillors or others, would feel constrained or afraid to speak their minds, for fear of any unruly or violent disruption taking place during proceedings.

May I suggest that the rules and procedures panel members, together with other councillors not on the panel, work together with you, Mr. President, to ensure that during the current session all Legco proceedings will uphold high standards of dignity and authority, bearing in mind that such represents the wishes of the majority of Hong Kong people.

Failing to do so could only obstruct and delay progress towards democracy and the achievement of universal suffrage.

Sincerely,



Hilton Cheong-Leen

cc: All Legco councillors  
cc: All Exco councillors  
cc: Chief Executive, HKSAR  
Chief Secretary for Administration  
Financial Secretary