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Universal Suffrage – a two-bladed sword?!

The more I read, the more I find that universal suffrage is like a sword with two blades and need to handle with care and skills.

Though I am always disturbed by distorted public opinions, I used to remain firm to support universal suffrage. The reason is simply that this is a good way to experience human right. Everybody should have the freedom to choose the type of government. But now I begin to question.

Chinese has been struggling for democracy for a century. During the last century, there was the revolution overthrowing the monarchy to demonstrate individual's rights and value. Since then, China passed through Dr. Sun's idea of democracy based on three principles, Mao's tragic communism and Deng's socialism Chinese style (with many rooms for capitalism and private enterprises). All these are the efforts pursuant to ensure common people's ruling.

Why common people want to be the ruler? I figure that this is for eliminating exploitation and persecution and to maximize individuals' rights.

When this idea is being practiced in Hong Kong, it brings Hong Kong into a state of incessant disputes. The pace of development is dragged or even desisted. Hong Kong is like a spin in the wind; it turns round and round due to the different internal and external forces. It keeps on turning without any direction, it cannot help but to waste its efforts and resources and getting no where. Why such pathetic scenario happens in this so-called international cosmopolitan, talents-loaded, dynamic renowned city? I think the reason is that Hong Kong people are too smart to take the best for their own sake and at the same time inherited the Chinese tradition to fight among their own people. So many egos come together will never reach nirvana. It will only make simple things complicated, confused and open opportunities to those who take advantages.

Under such circumstances, I am really not optimistic about the outcome of universal suffrage. The selected one is utmost a happy-go-lucky opportunist, or worse still

(there are ample supply in Hong Kong) to select a non-sublimated highly skilled thick-skinned, dark-hearted practitioner (thick but not noticeable, dark but invisible) who gave you poison but in return you need to express your deep gratitude. Since the selection involves a substantial amount of investment on money, material and manpower, the process can intensify the conflicts between rich and poor. To take a look at what has happened to the US, this democratic forerunner, and to sigh along the unendurable democratic process of our neighbour Taiwan makes me shiver.

The reason to write this opinion is not because of any other person's influence; it is something deep in my heart and cannot help to express it. It is for Hong Kong people's sake to stop for a while and to give this a thought. There is a need to purify and intensify the way of thinking. It is necessary to place a foundation to form a set of healthy, sustainable core values and to groom a number of potential leaders who are really equipped with capability, vision, accountability and international perspective.

Healthy, sustainable core value cannot be achieved by merely throwing in people's opinion: Egos in and egos out does not help the matter. The pre-requisite is to make the public understand which values are more precious than merely earning ones money and making one known. For example, to increase competitiveness, Hong Kong has already missed the hit to develop technology; similar happenings to the effort of transforming Hong Kong into knowledge-based society which has remained a slogan. Most Hong Kong people still indulged in making quick money by speculations. Without recognizing the importance of core values, good policy such as granting learning subsidies has turned into a golden opportunity for unscrupulous education providers; MPF becomes extra income for banks, fund houses by keeping high management fees. On the other hand, the government frequently mismatches resources, placed unnecessary red tapes to kill growth and innovations.

In view of the above, I find that universal suffrage is not the most imminent solution for the present Hong Kong society; it should be a properly structured monitoring system that is required. It is necessary to make Hong Kong's matter more transparent. People are easily misled – Even when the society is sliding, falling down, they do not realize, they are still yelling at the high pitch for something that they do not understand but seems lucrative.

As for constructing a proper monitoring system, one of the critical parts is to re-tune the accountability-fading media. They have to catch up their role, instead of focus

on pushing their sales by exaggerating, distorting, making farce or tragedy; they have to dig out and present the truth. Something has to be done on the professionalism of the media. The media may argue that this is a chicken and egg problem which is quite true and also reflects the general substandard of taste, rational thinking and discernment in Hong Kong. But why can't the media and/or concerned entities to take the lead to change the mentality?

The road is long and winding as it requires actually a fundamental change. Do you really think that you know how to handle it right?! Who knows what kind of Pandora's box it will be when opened in the wrong time and wrong hand!!

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