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CE's statement on the decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (with photos / video)

Following is the statement by the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, on the decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress today (December 29):

Fellow citizens,

Earlier today, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress made a Decision regarding my report on constitutional development. The HKSAR Government and I welcome this Decision, which has set a clear timetable for electing the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by universal suffrage. This is a most important step for Hong Kong's constitutional development.

The Decision of the Standing Committee makes it clear that the election of the HKSAR Chief Executive in 2017 may be by universal suffrage. The Decision also makes it clear that after the Chief Executive has been elected by universal suffrage, the election of all members of the Legislative Council may also be by universal suffrage. In other words, all Legislative Council members may also be elected by universal suffrage in 2020.

The Basic Law prescribes that universal suffrage is the ultimate goal of our constitutional development. In my report on constitutional development, I faithfully reflected the community's aspiration to implement universal suffrage as early as possible. In coming to its decision, the Standing Committee demonstrated clearly that the Central Government had attached great importance to the wishes of Hong Kong people.

The timetable for attaining universal suffrage has been set. Hong Kong is entering a most important chapter in its constitutional history. We should all try to apply fresh thinking to secure implementation of universal suffrage for the Chief Executive first, in 2017, to be followed by that for the Legislative Council in 2020. We must treasure this hard-earned opportunity.

In handling the issue of constitutional development, I once thought that it would be easier to forge a consensus on a roadmap and the models for universal suffrage first, and then set a timetable for implementation. After working on this matter for two years, I have encountered enormous difficulties in reaching the desired consensus, and views within the community remain diverse. Holding fast to the idea of agreeing on a roadmap for universal suffrage before setting a timetable might effectively hold back the pace of constitutional development. Instead, we have to be pragmatic, flexible and accommodating; resolving difficulties and looking after the community's interests must come first. Consequently, I have stated in the report on constitutional development that I now believe setting a timetable as soon as possible first can help forge a consensus on the roadmap leading to universal suffrage.

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Universal suffrage has been a contentious issue among different political camps in Hong Kong since 1980s, with diverse views among political parties and within the community. If emotional debate and conflict between political parties drags on over this matter, Hong Kong's stability and development will be severely hampered. I urge everyone, with utmost sincerity, to bring an end to such unnecessary contention, and to move towards reconciliation and consensus. The Standing Committee has taken the most important step for implementing universal suffrage. Now, it is up to the people of Hong Kong to take matters forward.

Implementing universal suffrage for the Chief Executive in 2017, and then for the Legislative Council in 2020, will require momentous follow-up work. First, we need to work out how to amend the electoral methods for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council in 2012. In this regard, after discussions in the Executive Council this morning, I will ask the Commission on Strategic Development to consider the most appropriate electoral methods for the elections of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council in 2012. A task group on constitutional development under the Commission on Strategic Development will be set up as soon as possible to study this issue.

I hope the task group can convene its first meeting after the 2008 Lunar New Year to discuss the two electoral methods for 2012 within the framework set out by the Decision of the Standing Committee. After the Commission on Strategic Development has completed discussions around mid-2008, I hope that by the fourth quarter of 2008 the HKSAR Government will have formulated options for the two elections in 2012. We will then consult the public on these options as soon as possible.

Our aim is to settle the two electoral methods for 2012 within the tenure of the third-term HKSAR Government. We hope that this will lay a solid foundation for attaining universal suffrage for the Chief Executive in 2017, and for the Legislative Council in 2020.

I pledged during my electoral campaign to resolve the issue of universal suffrage within my current term as Chief Executive. I will continue to apply myself fully to pursuing this goal. But, I cannot deliver universal suffrage on my own. We should all cherish this opportunity and forge a consensus together in a rational, pragmatic and inclusive manner so that the Chief Executive can be elected by universal suffrage in 2017, and the Legislative Council can be elected by universal suffrage in 2020. Only by so doing, can we fulfill the aspirations of our citizens, accomplish the mission entrusted to us by our nation, and play our responsible part in history.

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新聞公報

簡體版 | English | 寄給朋友 | 政府新聞網

行政長官就人大常委會決定會見新聞界答問全文

以下為行政長官曾蔭權今日（十二月二十九日）在政府總部新翼會議廳就人大常委會決定會見新聞界的答問全文：（中文部分）

記者：剛才你提到，曾數次談到要放下爭拗，但今次二〇一二年雙普選被否決了，未來泛民都會有一些遊行，你將會如何去面對這些反對聲音呢？

行政長官：我很相信香港所有參政人士、香港市民都會明白到現時我們的普選工程中，最大的問題已經克服了，現時真真正正要放下我們的分歧，要爭取諒解，凝聚共識的時間。當然，我會尊重個別人士對這件事所表達的意見，亦明白到有些人對於二〇一二年不能夠達到普選覺到失望，但我們亦明白到他們的意見，已經在我的報告中向中央全面忠誠地作出交代，而中央亦作出很真誠的回應，亦訂下了清楚的普選時間表，不單止是為行政長官的普選，亦是為了立法會的普選。我相信這個安排是得到大多數香港人接受的，我們現時一定要以務實、理性、包容的態度來處理這個問題。我很相信全港市民都會這樣做，我們所有參政人士都希望循着這個軌道來做。

記者：早前在立法會有九票的民主黨提一個超出今次人大決議框架的政改方案，但主席何俊仁說這已是他們的底線，想問曾生打算怎樣爭取這班泛民議員支持你未來提出的政改方案而不用重蹈〇五年的覆轍？

行政長官：我相信全香港市民，包括我們所有的立法會議員，都不想我們重蹈二〇〇五年的覆轍。當然，我知道，每一個個別議員在人大未宣佈決定之前有其個別的立場，但我亦很相信我們所有的議員都是理性處理這些問題，會研究人大是否全面回應到香港市民的訴求，然後做出這個明確普選的時間表，我極相信他們循這方面來想，會參與我的呼籲，放下成見，盡量凝聚共識，令到我們一定能夠落實二〇一七年普選行政長官，二〇二〇年普選立法會。

記者：曾先生，為何過半數市民是支持二〇一二雙普選，但是人大常委會都會否決二〇一二雙普選呢？

行政長官：這個問題在我們提交人大的報告已經交代了，在民調裏面的確有過半數的香港市民支持二〇一二年的普選，但民意的代表透過我們立法會裏面又表達了另一個信息，覺得我們不遲於二〇一七年要普選行政長官。另外在區議會裏面，有大多數超過三分之二的區議會裏面，亦都覺得是不遲於二〇一二普選行政長官。基於這個理由，我們覺得，我們認為二〇一二年是應該要中央審慎考慮香港人的意見，進行普選。但我自己總是覺得，在現時的政治環境分析之下，從民意、從民調方面表達，加上我們民衆的代表對我們表達在二〇一七年是最容易達到共識的日子。

記者：曾先生，你好。剛才你說到普選工程中最大的問題已經克服了，跟着你是否認為二〇一七普選特首的最大障礙其實是數十位民主派？同時你

相關連結

- 行政長官就人大常委會決定發表聲明（附圖／短片）
- CE's statement on the decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (with photos / video)

覺得明年三月後希望策發會關於普選的小組會正式開始第一次會議，你希望普選方案何時會正式提出來呢？以及是否期望二〇一七可以順利解決這個問題呢？

行政長官：我很相信任何大型的工程都有挑戰的。策發會最主力所做的就是二〇一二年的選舉安排，這方面我們會盡量使到它能奠下一個很好的基礎，可以令二〇一七年順利地普選行政長官，以及二〇二〇年普選我們所有的立法會議員。對於二〇一七年實際立法的工夫，當然要下一任行政長官來做，我一定要盡量做一個好的基礎，而我們現時正如我剛才所說，我們的普選旅程最大的障礙——關於日期方面、時間表方面，已經克服了。現時的情況我很相信我們香港人，我們的能力，我們有這樣的決心，真正可以在二〇一七年進行普選。現時面對所有的其他問題是細節上的問題，我很相信在有了日期後，是可以解決的，只要我們大家有誠意，我們用包容的態度，理性地討論，一定可凝聚共識的。現時離開二〇一七年還有一段充分的時間，我很相信現時的分歧可以化解的。

（請同時參閱答問全文的英文部分）

完

2007年12月29日（星期六）
香港時間13時23分

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- 行政長官就人大常委會決定發表聲明 (附圖/短片)

Following is the transcript (English portion) of the questions and answers of a meet-the-media session by the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, on the decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress today (December 29):

Reporter: There is no change in the ratio for the direct elected seats and also the functional seats in the Legislative Council seats in 2012. But then you said universal suffrage for Legislative Council was possible for 2020. How is that going to work if there is no progress made in 2012?

Chief Executive: There will be progress. Within the framework of the decision by the NPC Standing Committee we are able to move forward and introduce more democratic elements in our electoral arrangements, both for the election of the Chief Executive and for the legislature. As far as the legislature election is concerned, there will be a further election taking place in 2016. I am sure further progress will be made. For our own purpose, it should be our aim and our goal to ensure that universal suffrage will take place for the Chief Executive in 2017 and for the legislature in 2020. This would be our goal. Meanwhile, we should work on the best electoral arrangement for 2012. This is the best way to handle the situation. This is what Hong Kong people hope that we should do and it is, as I said, a responsible way of dealing with our own status as Legislative Councillors or as members of the Executive as far as the Hong Kong constitutional history is concerned.

Reporter: You have stressed several times that you won't have universal suffrage for CE and Legco (Legislative Council), but will you ensure the right to people to be elected, whether it's for the CE or in the Legislative Chambers. You know that everyone gets one man, one vote, that everyone has the right to be elected as well.

Chief Executive: Any electoral arrangement for universal suffrage is not the dictate of any person. It will have to be agreed to by the Hong Kong people. It will be done in a most transparent manner. Such an arrangement will have to pass the Legislative Council itself and requires the endorsement of two-thirds of our Legislative Council membership. And I am sure that any such arrangement will be a fair and open one, giving everybody a chance to participate, to vote and to be elected.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

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