



Subject: ban on Ivory Trade - Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill

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31/08/2017 16:32

31. August 2017

- By email -

Honorary Mr. Kenneth Leung
Room 918, Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Honorary Mr. Kenneth Leung,

Subject: Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill

I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because I am concerned about the welfare of a number of animals that are threatened with extinction; in particular the Elephant, the Rhinoceros (Rhino) and Sharks.

These animals are being slaughtered for the use of ivory, their horns and their fins. Hong Kong and Mainland China being the main consumer market. Hong Kong being the main trading - entry port into Mainland China!

THIS HAS TO STOP!

I fully support the government's three-step plan to ban the Hong Kong ivory trade and its proposals to increase maximum penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance (Cap 586).

I do not support any proposition to compensate traders or buy out their stocks. My reasons are as stated:

- Providing any form of compensation will signal that Hong Kong is 'buying' ivory, for sure triggering a surge of poaching in Africa, as Hong Kong is not able to control the current trade and has no control on legal – illegal trade. This has been proven in several televised documentaries! Compensation means blood the hands on HKSAR Government!
- Compensation would establish a dangerous global precedent for other countries working to ban the trade. Hong Kong is not some kind of underdeveloped nation. Hong Kong should set global standards.
- The Hong Kong Government is not depriving ivory owners of all use of property.
- Traders and others who have speculated on ivory have done so knowing the risks of a shrinking legal market and most likely have illegal ivory in their possession. The Government of the HKSAR would spend public money on illegal trade!
- The heritage value and traditional skills of carvers are not a reason to continue the trade. Hong Kong has proven to often not to care about heritage and tradition. Look how Hong Kong has approached the property market and demolished almost the complete Chinese and Colonial history.
- Carvers and traders have had over two decades since the international ban time to diversify and/or switch trades. Most have done so. It is common in a changing world to adapt. And it is a three-step plan already! Time is up. Direct enforcement is needed to stop the slaughter of animals for no cause.

Let's make sure future generations can enjoy the beautiful sight of these animals in large number in freedom and not only in captivity in zoo's and breeding stations.

Sincerely Yours,

Rudolf Hollaender
Hong Kong SAR resident since 2001