



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

Evelien Brinkerink to: bc_06_16

31/08/2017 12:50

31 August 2017

Hon Kenneth Leung

Room 918, Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

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

I am Evelien Brinkerink. I am of Dutch nationality and have been living in Hong Kong for almost ten years.

I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because I worry that my children may never be able to enjoy Africa's wild-life as we are still able to now. Elephants are magnificent creatures and hugely important as part of the entire African eco system. To us their tusks are worthless, made of keratin as are our nails and hair. I would like to see these animals thrive in their natural habitat so that we, and our children can continue to enjoy them in the wild. No commercial reason is more important than doing everything we can so safeguard the future of the African Elephant.

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). However, 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, likely triggering a surge of poaching in Africa.

- Compensation would establish a dangerous global precedent for other countries working to ban the trade.
- 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.
- The heritage value and traditional skills of carvers are not a reason to continue the trade.
- Carvers and traders have had over two decades since the international ban, to diversify and/or switch trades. Most have done so.

Sincerely Yours,

Evelien Brinkerink