

----- Original Message -----
From: Howard Yim
To: cklaw@cklaw.org.hk
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2004 3:11 PM
Subject: About Legco's Sars inquiry

Dear Dr Law,

I refer to Legco's on-going Sars inquiry as well as the open letter co-signed by 40 odd doctors at the Prince of Wales Hospital published in today's Mingpao in defence of Prof. Joseph Sung.

As a citizen on HK, I do look forward eagerly to a fair and comprehensive report on Sars by the Legco Sars inquiry committee. Should the committee find anyone to be liable for any error that causes the Sars outbreak or has led to a worsening of the situation, the committee should fearlessly name them as being responsible, notwithstanding the fact that such people may have previously been lauded, whether rightly or wrongly, as "heroes".

I also expect that the committee will not bow to any pressure/demands from any particular sector of society, including those who may have hijacked public sympathy to demand for the exoneration of certain people who they themselves consider to be (or hope to be) guiltless, which, in my view, is apparantly

what
those 40 odd doctors have tried to do by brining the matter to the open
before
the committee has even finalised its report. It really smacks of a sort of
"tactics" to earn public sympathy and to influence the committee's final
decisions.

I also wonder if it is a coincidence that Mingpao is the first newspaper to
leak
the contents of the report. As a long-time reader of Mingpao, I'm aware
that
the newspaper has adopted a distinctly pro-Prince of Wales/CUHK attitude
ever
since the Sars oubreak in March 2003. The newspaper would be very critical
towards any people or view that put these two institutions in a less than
favourable light. On the other hand, they often quote (and unreservedly
believe
in) reports from unnamed sources that seem to be very close to the Prince
of
Wales Hospital and/or CUHK.

Besides, Mingpao and RTHK have co-organised a Sars hero voting last year in
which Prof. Joseph Sung came out first. That was during the time when not
all
of the facts about the outbreak, and in particular the debacle concerning
Ward
8A and the release of the Amoy Gardens index patient, were uncovered. Would
some people in certain media organisations think that their own credibility
would be hurt if Joseph Sung was found to be responsible for major errors?
Is
there some sort of bias involved in the media organisations, which have
sought
to help some people or institutions which they adamantly consider as
"heroes"?

I hope that Legco Sars inquiry can search for the truth behind all these
masks,
misinformation, image-building and disclosures of part-truths and
un-truths.

You may share my humble views with your colleagues in the Legco Sars
committee
if you think appropriate.

Yours sincerely,
Howard Yim
7 May 2004

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