

“2017 Seize the opportunity”? We, Hongkongers, firmly say no. We want true universal suffrage.

I cannot believe HK government, or, the Panel of Constitutional Affair, shamelessly placed this slogan on the first page of the consultation paper. Surely I should not feel surprised, as in recent years HK Government has resolved to blatant lies and counter-intuitive propaganda, to fool HK people into another scam of “changing the method for selecting the Chief Executive”.

The current proposal by HK Government, instead of offering an “improved” method as claimed by the administration, is in fact a toxic one that can have disastrous effect on HK society. This proposal greatly reduced the possibility for members of HK public to stand for Chief Executive election to almost impossible. The nomination committee is still controlled tightly by pro-Beijing groups. In this case it is not possible to have an open and transparent nomination process. Very often there has been rumour that Beijing may allow one pan-democratic member to enter the election. I wonder by what basis Beijing select this pan-democratic candidate (If one pan-democratic candidate will be selected at the end) and why there will be more pro-Beijing candidates than pan-democratic candidate, while a larger percentages of HK public support pan-democratic parties. The current proposal's requirement that only 2-3 candidates will be selected by the nomination committee without stating clearly how it can be achieved or why also seems problematic to me.

What I have just mentioned about were merely the unreasonable part of the current proposal. After the nomination committee cherry-picked the 2-3 candidates approved by Beijing, among them HK voters would pick their preferred Chief Executive, even though they might prefer someone else. While the current Chief Executive CY Leung received 689 votes from the nomination committee, the 2017 Chief Executive might receive millions of votes and seem to obtain legitimate mandate. A candidate that has not gone through an open and transparent nomination process cannot be trusted to work for the public interest. In addition, he/she might abuse this “mandate” and pushing through unpopular policy claiming to have obtained public support.

The Administration and pro-Beijing groups have been saying genuine universal suffrage is against Basic Law and the NPCSC decision must be followed. In fact Basic Law never states clearly how universal suffrage should be. NPCSC seems to have a different interpretation of the Basic Law whenever they please, while the original proposal for universal suffrage should carry out on 2008.

Hong Kong is facing many serious social problems at this moment. Universal suffrage is exactly what Hong Kong needs, to balance different interest groups and makes real changes.

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